

# Delta Fly Fishers

Rx

Flyfishing

## DECEMBER'S MESSAGE FROM THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Herman Spalinger

We have come to the end of another year. I assume you all enjoyed our planned outings during this year, and I trust some of you will participate in our member's night this December 14th by bragging about your favorite outing or trip. As to participation, remember Jan 1st to start out the new year by telling your favorite story under the canopy at Van Assen Park at the end of McIntire Road near the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery.

As always our Bridgeport outing in September comes to mind as one of my most memorable club outing, however my trip to fish the Elk River in Canada with Marty, Ron, Bob and Jean stands alone. You will hear about it on December 14th. I've also heard some of you made yourself open to the Incomplete Angler trophy by your "antics" on the water during the Bridgeport outing, and we'll see which one of you will receive that respected trophy presented by "The Shadow" during our annual dinner Saturday, January 14th, 2012. In addition, your participation in the county's catfish derby and trout bouts during the year was greatly appreciated not only by those of you who participated but by the county as well.

As perhaps this being my last "temporary president's message" in the newsletter, I wish to thank the other officers and all of the board members and chairpersons for their help getting through these past three months. Please give your full support to our new president Marty Kjelson, vice-president John Highsmith, secretary Sallye Rollans and John Keagy our newly elected treasurer. These are challenging times for our club as we dropped in membership this year so the new officers will be looking to some of our newer members as well as you "veterans" to become involved in your club's activities and participation therein. As we always mention, please contact our outings chair Earl Summers and new program chair for ideas or suggestions you may have as to future outings or speakers you would like to hear. This club is for you and your ideas - no matter how trivial they may

sound to you - are always welcomed by the officers, board members and chairpersons of the various committees. I would personally ask you be patient with me as I am attempting to become the newsletter editor and with the help of Doug Ridgway learn the computer program he used to publish the newsletter. He has done a terrific job in preparing the newsletter in the past, and I hope I can at least do as good as he has. At any rate I will need photos or articles you find in your reading you think would make a good news article in our newsletter, please get them to me either by hand delivery or email at [pontuber36@att.net](mailto:pontuber36@att.net).

Our club is now on Facebook and monitored by our new webmaster Jerry Neuburger. We are using Facebook as our "bulletin board" for you members to post where the fishing is good or if you want some companionship on a trip you're planning post it ahead of time and watch for responses from the other club members. Jerry is doing a bang-up job getting our Facebook page up and running so I encourage all of you who are on the computer to just type in "Delta Fly Fishers" in your search box and our page will come up. You can even arrange informal outings with one another.

Here's my bragging rights for December.



## General Membership Meeting December 14 - Members' Bragging Night

December is DFF's annual club member presentation night. Grady Lee will speak on fishing at a pay-to-play park in Southeast Oregon; Melanie Parker and Jean Fujimura will talk on a well-regarded course designed to teach women the fundamentals of fly fishing. (This course is sponsored by Wilderness Unlimited and is held each fall). Joe Balderston will talk on the trout trip he took to Idaho for Cutties, Bows and Browns. Banging banks for big browns. floating the South Snake. hatches in the snow. He is still working on a title. Any of these sound good? Does it really matter? And Dan McDaniel will talk on fishing the Olympic Peninsula area in Washington; And Herman Spalinger will speak on his trip with Bob and Jean Fujimura, Ron Forbes and Marty Kjelson to Fernie, BC, also searching for Cutties on dry flies.

### DFE SPONSORS THE DELTA FLY FISHING CHALLENGE

Delta Fly Fishers has launched its angler recognition program to promote fly fishing for sport fish in the Delta and to foster appreciation of its fisheries and natural resources. Successful applicants must catch, photograph, and release six different sport fish (out of a list of 15 species) from the Delta using fly fishing gear. After receiving a completed application form, supporting photographs, and a \$5 application fee, Delta Fly Fishers will mail a personalized 11" x 14" color certificate suitable for framing.

For more information on this new award program, go to our web site at: [www.deltaflyfishers.com/deltachallenge.html](http://www.deltaflyfishers.com/deltachallenge.html) (web page in progress) or contact Bob Fujimura at: [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com)

### SAVE MART MARKETS – S.H.A.R.E.S

As a reminder, DFF has joined with Save Mart Markets via the S.H.A.R.E.S. program. DFF earns 3% of most purchases made by customers using the card provided to DFF by Save Mart.

Since the last report about our SHARES participation, the membership has responded to the need. The donations from SHARES for the past two quarters totaled approximately \$484.00. Thank you membership. We have an additional 50 SHARES cards coming that will be distributed to new members, family and friends. Continue to shop Save Mart Markets! There is no additional cost to you. It merely gives 3% to DFF that otherwise would go to market profit.

#### FOR SALE

ST. CROIX ULTRA LEGEND 908-3, a 9" 8 wt 3 pc rod in good condition with tube. \$120.00

1 pr. Cabela's Neoprene boot foot chest waders, size 9 Stout, Used once. \$50

1 pr. Patagonia wading boots w/felt soles & cleats, size 8 - \$25

1 pr. Patagonia flats boots, size 10 - \$22

1 pr. Redington wading boots w/felt soles and cleats, size 10 \$18

2 Blanton Rigged 'N Ready Rod bags, VG condition, \$25 ea

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## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

## DFF MENTOR PROGRAM

The Delta Fly Fishers Board of Directors, intent upon enhancing the existing Fishing Buddy Program, is proposing DFF adopt a Mentor Program which is proactive and broadly inclusive. The primary objective is, by sharing fly fishing skills and knowledge of existing DFF members with new members, this will assist new members in getting acquainted with existing members, with club activities and, generally speed the transition from new member to old friend.

The Board of Directors recognizes this will take considerable commitment from the existing membership and does encourage the active participation of current members. The following broad guidelines are thought to be necessary for this program.

- Every existing member willing to serve, as a Mentor will be asked to complete a skills/knowledge list that they will share with new members as requested. The Mentor Program Chairperson will maintain these documents.
- Every new member will be asked to complete a skills/knowledge request form, which the Mentor Program Chair will also maintain.
- The Mentor Program Chair will introduce any and all new members before the General Program begins and will make an effort to introduce the new members to DFF Officers and Board Members.
- Under consideration is the additional incentive for new members of some free raffle tickets.
- The Mentor Program Chair will follow up on matching a Mentor with a new member based on skills/knowledge sought and skills/knowledge available. The mentor and new member will work out a compatible schedule by which to transfer skills/knowledge. The Mentor Program Chair as needed can make reassignments.
- Examples of mentoring include such things as guiding a new member on local waters within a few months of assignment, accompany the new member to a local fly shop to assist with gear purchases, contact the new member a few days before each monthly meeting to remind the new member of the meeting and program, assisting with casting skills, how to tie useful knots and/or fly tying, sharing information regarding fly fishing destinations including basic travel tips and promoting new members to join DFF in its outings

Over time the Mentor Program may be extended to include existing members who want to learn new skills/knowledge.



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**Fishing Mentor Request**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE CONTACTS: (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

The best time to contact me is \_\_\_\_\_

My E-mail address is: \_\_\_\_\_

**I WOULD LIKE A FISHING MENTOR TO HELP ME WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

Casting    Fly Tying    Attending Outings    Equipment

Knot Tying    Float Tubing    Pontoon Boating

Stream Fishing    Lake Fishing    Trout Fishing

Steelhead Fishing    Shad Fishing    Bass Fishing

Striper Fishing    Salt Water Fishing    Private Water Fishing

Rod Building    Selecting a Guide    Travel

Entomology    Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

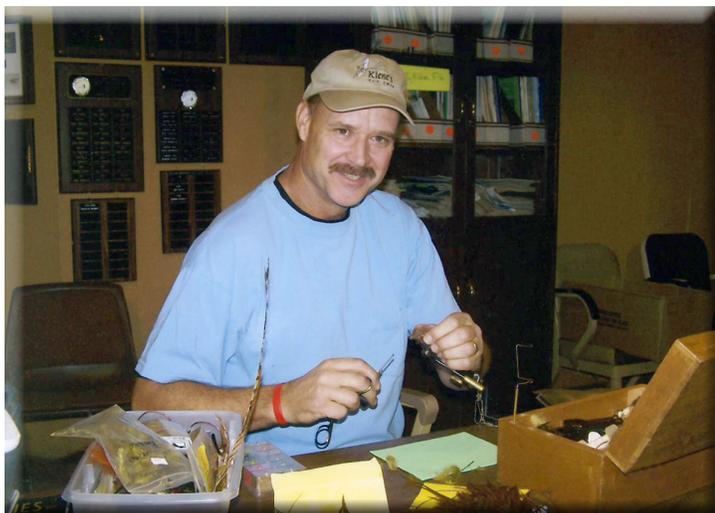
Please describe what you would like help with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you need further information, please contact the Fishing Mentor Chairman:  
Steve Cooper, 956-1032 or e-mail @ [repuoc3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:repuoc3@sbcglobal.net)  
Mail the form to:  
Delta Fly Fishers  
P.O. Box 77862  
Stockton, CA 95207

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT FLY CASTING AND TYING



The weekly Wednesday evening fly casting sessions have ended for the year. But not all is lost. Meet Joe Balderston in the Nature Center, at Oak Grove Park, at 6:30 and do some fly tying. The exception is the 2nd Wednesday night when DFF has its monthly meeting.

Whether you are a novice and want tips on how to tie or an expert that wants an excuse to get out of the house, then come out for the camaraderie of other members. This is an excellent chance improve your fly casting, tying and/or BS abilities. For more information contact Joe Balderston at 649-0291.

### Fly Tying and Casting

During his interesting fly tying demonstration at the September meeting, long-time member, Bud Heintz offered to have any member to contact him if they had any fly tying questions. Bud has been very generous with his time and experiences so don't be afraid to take up his offer. You can contact Bud by phone at (209) 522-8790 or by e-mail at [budheintz@att.net](mailto:budheintz@att.net). Bud gave a very informative program and we thank him for sharing his skills.

Jim Rich also wants to announce that the seasonal fly casting sessions at Oak Grove Park has ended for this year. Please note when handling public inquiry about these sessions.

### Membership Form

Regular membership – \$30 \*

Family membership – \$35\*

Senior (individuals 62 years or older) – \$25.00\*

\*Add \$10 to receive a printed newsletter by U.S. mail

Dues are for one year, from September 1 to August 31. Please fill out then mail to:

Bob Fujimura, Membership Chairman  
PO Box 1562  
Lodi, CA 95241-1562

Check one:

New membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renew membership \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Senior Membership (62+) \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*

\*\*For receiving monthly e-mail attached newsletters and club notices

I would like to be on the \_\_\_\_\_ committee

Please enclose any dues as a check made to Delta Fly Fishers.

If there is any questions or problems please contact: Bob Fujimura at 339-0683 or e-mail at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com).

### MEMBERSHIP

BOB FUJIMURA, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

The winter stream closure is now in effect and most streams will be unavailable until January 1st or late April. There are a few exceptions but most of us have accepted this seasonal bookend and switched their fly fishing activities to other waters or working on their fly tying or trip planning. Ken Kaneko said in his excellent presentation that this year's steelhead outlook sounds like a very promising one if you are into steelhead fishing.

If you are reading this column, you have probably paid your 2012 dues and the club truly appreciated your continued support. If you are the few who haven't paid yet, we urge you to send your dues to Bob Fujimura at PO Box 1562, Lodi, CA 95241-1562 or Treasurer John Keagy at the next club meeting or activity. No renewal form is necessary if your contract information has not change in the last year. If you need any renewal or new membership forms, you can download them from our Internet web site <http://www.deltaflyfishing.com/membership.html> or contact Bob Fujimura by e-mail ([deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com)) or by phone at 339-0683.



# Making Do in Wisconsin

by Marty Kjelson

This story is about a recent experience that I had in the great state of Wisconsin where I grew up. I was invited to meet some old friends there to hunt woodcock and ruffed grouse, two birds that are common to the upper Midwest and New England. Both birds are very challenging to hunt and love to flush in the worst, awful, thick cover and, even when pointed by a dog, one never knows when or where they will attempt to escape. Well, I had a



nice time chasing these birds (actually got a few), sleeping in a nice cabin (along with four dogs) on a Northern Wisconsin lake near Medford, WI, hearing of the rather substantial wolf populations in Wisconsin, upper Michigan and Minnesota and enjoying the beautiful fall colors.



But my tale is really about “making do” with catching Northern pike on a 6 wt. fly rod -yes, the fish that was the scourge of Lake Davis -but it is a great predatory fish that make fly rods bend and reels scream. I hadn’t planned to focus on fishing for Northerns between our daily treks for the birds. My goal was to fish for brook trout and browns in some of the local streams, so I brought flies for trout, i.e. wooly buggers, nymphs and a single clouser minnow just in case the lake was

fishable. To my surprise, I found that the general trout season had closed the end of September, a week before my arrival. Ugh, time to “make do”. I talked one of my friends into fishing on our cabins Stone Lake using a 16’ canoe. He is a very good canoeist and off we went. We quickly found the local panfish population to be cooperative to nymphs and wooly buggers under an indicator. We caught bluegill, yellow perch, crappie and LM bass. No great size but much fun and my friend was interested in using that approach on the Florida chain of Lakes he lives on, along with 1000 alligators. He avoids fishing from a float tube for obvious reasons but does do well on



Peacock bass in the local canals via sight fishing with clousers.

I digress, back to the Northerns. Well, we were just getting the hang of fishing for panfish when I was reaching over the canoe for a fish and before I knew what happened I was feeling cold water from under the canoe. Of course my friend Alex, the expert canoeist was still on board laughing at my great feat (note this does not qualify for an award, Mr. Lee, as it’s out of State, etc. with no DFF witnesses around). Well to “make do” I climbed back in the canoe, shook myself off and decided it was time to try my clouser for bigger fish. I made a few casts as we paddled down the lake among the lily pads and soon the line tightened with a solid tug which signified a good fish. The fish was on for all of a second

**(Wisconsin continued from page 5)**

or two when the line went limp. Checking the 12 lb. leader showed a clean, angled cut that made a sharp knife proud and suggested strongly that we had met our first Northern pike.

My first encounter of Northern as a boy of about 8 years old with my Dad on Lake Wisconsin. We were fishing with minnows under a bobber when the “indicator” went down. I got so excited I ended up throwing the pole down and hand lining it in!

Again, back to the challenge of the Northerns, I just had to “make do” once again. I checked around the local bait shop and found no one had anything close to a streamer fly that I could buy. They had huge Musky lures but it looked like no one in that part of Wisconsin used a fly rod for Northerns, Bass or Muskies. Well my “making do” was to head for the local WALMART and see if they had streamers. They didn’t, but they did have size 1 hooks and yes, wire leaders. Also thread and nail polish. Their feather supply was of no use but a craft store had some Maribou feathers that I was sure would do the trick.

Heading back to the cabin brought up another “make do” as to how to tie the flies without a vise. Yes, I know the old timers in the club undoubtedly tied initially without a vise, etc. but I’m a little clumsy that way. So I asked my friend Gene if the cabin might have a pair of vise grip pliers and it did, actually two of them. That solved the vise problem as one can “make do” by using one grip for the hook and the other for a base. I started tying and had 6 all white streamers about 4” long on wire leaders in no time, ready to hunt for Northerns.

Oh, I almost forgot another goof up that required another “make do” event. The day before this, I had left my fly rod, already strung, out on the deck. “Fearing” wild animals would harm it; I brought it into the cabin. I wasn’t watching and the large door closed on my fly rod tip, cracking it in two! Gag! In Wisconsin they call such a person a “Klutz” i.e. German for what someone doesn’t wish to be called. Again the Klutz “made do” and got the duct tape out and taped the two sections together.

We were ready and got the canoe out and went to see if the Northerns would be open to eating my Maribou streamers. It took a few dozen casts to get the first hit but we landed two the first afternoon, one small at about 15” and the second bigger at about 22”. The last day I went out alone and caught four more on the streamers with the largest about 24”, yet, a fairly heavy, 4 lbs.

That ends my tale of “making do” in the chase for Wis. Northern pike. My lesson to pass on is that if one has a desire to succeed it isn’t always by the book, rather one may have to “make do” with the resources one has available.

Thanks and tight lines.



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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

Grady Lee

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DVD Fishing How To Rentals (3 weeks max)	\$ 2.00



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# Conservation

By Ron Forbes

It is the glory of the art of angling that its disciples never grow old. The muscles may relax and the beloved rod may become a burden, but the fire of enthusiasm kindled in youth is never extinguished.

--- George Dawson

Over the last several years, I have attended meetings of the legislature's Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee chaired by Jared Huffman of the 6th District. Mr. Huffman is a strong supporter of conservation issues. He has received many awards and recognition for his work in this area. Most recently he won the Byron Sher award for his work in conservation and awards from Cal Trout and Trout Unlimited for his work with wild trout, steelhead, salmon and their habitat. He is has shown himself to be pro fisheries and wildlife and a strong supporter of the environment. However, over the last number of months Huffman has openly voiced his anger with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). The reason for his criticism is the political nature of DFG at this point. DFG is charged by the State legislature with a mission. That mission is "to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife and plant resources and the inhabitants upon which they depend, and for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public". To this end, DFG has also developed seven "Strategic Initiatives" to fulfill their charge by the legislature. The third of these Strategic Initiatives is to "develop a strong water resources program". Obviously they have abandoned this responsibility, among others. These are some of the reasons for Huffman's anger with Fish and Game. They are not fulfilling their legislative charge but have become more political instead. Their actions are not based on the best science available for our fisheries but on political expediency.

Case in point: the lawsuit of the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta (CSD) vs. Department of Fish and Game. Interveners with DFG were the California Sportfishing Protective Alliance (CSPA), Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (NCCFFF), California Striped Bass Association (CSBA) and some Delta water agencies. At issue is CSD's alleged assertion that Striped bass predation is causing the loss of our salmon fishery. Those who understand the issues involved strongly disagree. CSD asserts the problem can be cured by removing the Stripers from the Delta by vastly increasing the numbers of fish taken and lower the size of the Stripers taken. Instead, of the current size and number limit of fish taken, (two fish of 18 inches or more) the regulation would change drastically. Under the CSD proposed change the loss of Stripers would be drastic. The new limits proposed by DFG in the settlement are:

- Raising the daily limit from 2 to 6 fish
- Raising the possession limit from 2 to 12 fish
- Lowering the minimum size from 18 inches to 12 inches
- Creating a "hot spot" at Clifton Court Forebay adjacent to the waterways in which the daily take will be 40 fish with no size limit
- Changing the regulations for the Carmel, Pesaro and Salinas Rivers to allow harvest of Stripers in these rivers when they would otherwise be closed

These proposed regulations will basically wipe out Striper fishing as we have known it. The proposed regulations are the result of the settlement between DFG and CSD. Rather than aggressively pursuing the case and presenting the science that would show the CSD's case is not based on fact, the DFG basically cut a political deal and settled out of court. The settlement agreement so angered the NCCFFF, the CSBA, CSPA, and the Delta water agencies that they have refused to sign the settlement agreement. Several weeks before the trial, I spoke with Bill Jennings about the prospects of the litigation and he was anxious to present the science behind claims CSD was making. They, of course, have no facts to back their case. At the Rio Vista meeting, Jennings was quoted as saying that the evidence doesn't support the conclusion that Striper predation has caused the population levels on salmon and smelt. "We feel that the predation that does occur would be pinned down on the state and federal projects facilities on the Delta. These pumps create dining halls that invite fish in. Now the state wants to execute the fish for entering the dining hall they created." An interesting way of looking at the state's problem and their inability to find a way to solve the mess they caused. Rather than DFG protecting the public trust, which is their responsibility, they have folded. Again. And again they have failed in their responsibility to do their job as charged by the legislature. A friend in Restore the Delta has told me that CSD has spent close to \$5 million to reach this settlement. Given their history, it is apparent their concern isn't the protection of the Delta's fisheries. It's more get rid of the fish, and then you'll get rid of the fisherman. Their attempt at a water grab will continue.

In the agreement, the Commissioners of DFG will be asked to accept DFG's new regulation changes for Stripers. To this end they are holding public hearings around the state. The first was held in Rio Vista mid-November. Because of a pre-existing commitment I was not able to participate. However, the meeting was very well attended by over 350 people who have serious problems with DFG's political deal. They let DFG know how furious they are with the Department's lack of support for the Striper fishery in the Delta. The meeting had good coverage from the news media.

Many issues were raised and evidentially DFG's response was poorly received. Stafford Lehr, Chief of DFG Fisheries Branch, gave a presentation showing what DFG proposed to do. According to an article in Dan Blanchard's website, the Striper diet data was from the late 1960's. So much for DFG's use accurate scientific data!

Many issues were discussed. Some of which were:

- DFG's lack of protecting the public trust
- DFG's lack of using the best science available
- Loss of local business if the fisheries are lost
- Moneyed interest (multi-millionaire agribusiness) over local interest
- DFG's lack of discussing the real loss of the Delta's fisheries (over- exporting the Delta's water to South San Joaquin Valley agri-business interests and Southern California urban water users)
- Lack of use of the only real science from UC Davis'

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Wed (except meeting nights)	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	<b>WEDNESDAY EVENING TYING</b> Contact: Joe Balderston 649-0291 or Jim Rich 477-6404
Every 2nd Wed (Except July & Aug) 7:00 PM	John R Williams School Stockton	<b>Membership Meeting</b> Contact Marty Kjelson 477-9618 John Keagy 369-5690
Every 3rd Wed (Except July) 7:00 PM	Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton	<b>Board Meeting</b> All Members Welcome
Wednesday December 14	John R Williams School Stockton	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> Members Bragging Rights Night
Wednesday December 21	Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton	<b>Board Meeting</b>
Sunday January 1, 2012	Van Assen Park McIntire Road, Clements	<b>Annual New Year's Day Outing</b>
Saturday January 14, 2012	Eagles' Lodge Stockton CA	<b>2012 Annual Banquet</b>

Peter Moyle PhD. and William Boyle PhD., rather than the fantasy science of CSD The real cause of predation in the Delta, that being the state and federal facilities on the Delta.

The next meeting was to be held in San Diego. Because of the over-whelming negative public response at the Rio Vista meeting 100% of those in attendance disagreed with DFG. The next public meeting will be in Sacramento sometime in February.

In the next several months it is vitally important that we have thousands of letters pouring into the Fish and Game Commission telling them NOT to adopt DFG's proposals. During the next several months Delta Fly Fishers and other fly fishing clubs will be working to overturn DFG's proposal. We should give thanks to Dan McDaniels and Jerry Neuburger for their comments at last month's DFF meeting on this issue. We are facing a public access closer on the Lower Yuba River and now the loss of Stripers in the Delta. I agree with Dan's comments about the loss of our fisheries and, like Dan, I don't want to lose access to our wild fisheries only to be left with pay-for-play waters.

If the Fish and Game Commission does not accept DFG's recommendations on their striped bass proposal, CSD will be required, by law, to drop their suit. The next several months are critical if we are to protect our Striper fishery in the Delta. During December and January, I will be contacting you online through the newsletter, e-mail, and on our Facebook page to keep you up to date. We can't fail on this one!

Ron Forbes

Conservation Chair

## Some Pictures of Club Members and Outings



At the September's meeting, Jason Stapleton and John Highsmith were also working on their fly tying.



Jean Fujimura fishing a pool on the upper Stanislaus River



Jean Fujimura, John Keagy, and Karen Keagy crossing the Stanislaus River access bridge above New Melones Reservoir



Few club members enjoying float fishing Alpine Lake during the club's trip on October 15th.



Bud Heintz demonstrating some clever fly tying techniques at the September's Members meeting.



Bruce Rollans on the Upper Sac