

January 2011

Delta Fly Fishers

Rx

Flyfishing

President's Message by Stephen Johnson (the top dog in camp)

January 2011

What 2011 all ready? Remember when you were a little rock chucking, worm drowning fishing dude, in other words too young to care or worry about anything. It seems time stood still forever and Christmas seemed to come around only once every five years...and now it was just January 2010 last week wasn't it?

Oh well, no sense worrying about that either...hell of a start to winter and spring runoff, the American, Upper Sac, Rogue all blown out. The Moke is running higher than at any time in the last 5 years and so is the Tuolumne...wasn't there a discussion a couple of months back about a drought year? Guess 'ole Mother Nature got her licks in early, anybody see the snow pack up close ...pretty impressive.

Last Saturday of January...the 29th is our annual club dinner, awards banquet and super-duper raffle get your dinner orders in early please so Steve Copper and Co. can get an accurate count on all he needs for another superb feast, you should have received your reservation and dinner order in the mail by now, if not contact Charlie Reams he's in charge.

Fishing has been slow this month ...I have taken on a new consulting contract with a major oil Co. (no I don't get a discount on gas) ...this is good news for the 'ole bank account but no fishable water to be seen in any direction around corporate headquarters in Oklahoma.

Kate's a might put out these day's ...new addition to the Kennel, 3yr. old Border Collie straight from Scotland, royalty blood and a sheep chasing machine, named "Callie". I'll probably bring her along January 1st for our Chili and Hot Dogs at Van Assen Park on the Mokelumne River...come on out and enjoy New Year's Day on the river.

Please have a safe and Happy New Year.

Stephen Johnson and the little Redhead (Sandi) along with Kate and Callie wish you the best for 2011.

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.

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:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Casting	<input type="checkbox"/> Fly Tying
<input type="checkbox"/> Attending Outings	<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment
<input type="checkbox"/> Knot Tying	<input type="checkbox"/> Float Tubing
<input type="checkbox"/> Pontoon Boating	<input type="checkbox"/> Stream Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Trout Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Steelhead Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Shad Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Bass Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Striper Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Salt Water Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Water Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Rod Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Selecting a Guide
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Entomology
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Mail the form to: Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862 Stockton, CA 95207	

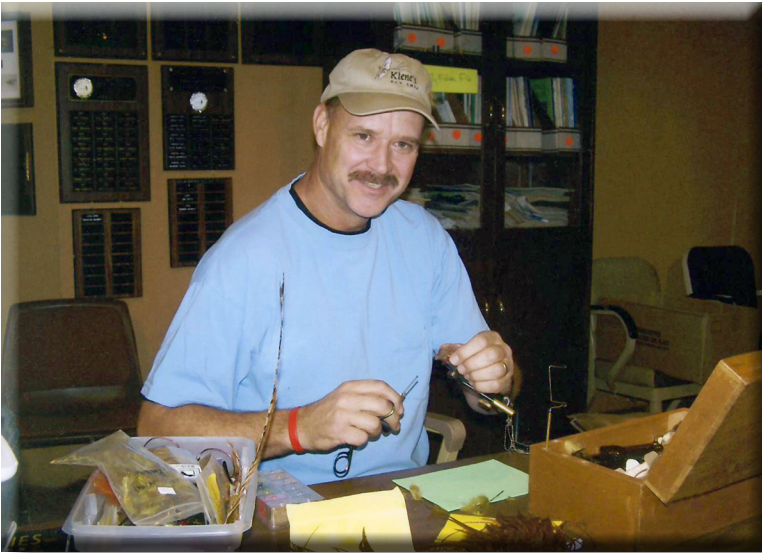


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Wednesday Night Fly Tying



The weekly Wednesday evening fly casting sessions have ended but, will resume next Spring. 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 tying and/or BS abilities. For more information contact Joe Balderston at 649-0291.

Membership Form

Regular membership – \$30
Family membership – \$35
Senior (individuals 62 years or older) – \$25.00

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 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.



Membership

Bob Fujimura, Membership Chair

I want to thank those members who volunteered to switch their mail subscription of the monthly newsletter to email delivery. We were able to reduce our mail subscriptions from 60 to 32 and reduced our mailing and publishing costs proportionally. The email subscribers also enjoy colored and higher resolution version of these newsletters than the mailed version and they can receive them without the delays with printing and mailing.

Kudos to Steve Cooper and Bob Souza who presented a new members' orientation meeting in October. Several new members learned some basic instruction on starting equipment and knot tying.

The shorter day length has caused a seasonal break from our free Wednesday fly casting sessions but new members are welcome to come to fly tying sessions on these evenings. These sessions are also good opportunities to get to know the other club members and get the latest news of member's fishing trips.

Please welcome our newest member, Bill Repinski of Stockton, who joined at the Trout Bout.

We are encouraging all members to receive their newsletters by e-mail attachment or downloading them from our website to speed delivery and reduce circulation costs. If wish to receive your newsletters electronically, please contact Bob Fujimura by e-mail (deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or phone 339-0683.

If you need new or renewing membership forms, please download them from the DFF Membership website page at <http://www.deltaflyfishers.com/membership.html>.

Conservation

by Ron Forbes

Fly fishing is like sex, everyone thinks that there is more than there is, and that everyone is getting more than their share.
Henry Kamemoto

Battle Creek

In September of 1999, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed so the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project would begin. This agreement was between Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries (NOAA) and the California Dept. of Fish and Game (DF&G). However, more than three years ago, a rancher who owns property along Battle Creek filed suit to prevent the project. I wrote a Conservation Newsletter at that time about the rancher's hold-up of the project. He had put screens up and downstream stream on Battle Creek as it flowed through his property. The water was then stocked with trophy fish and he charged to fish these waters. His suit had tied up the restoration of the Battle Creek project but finally the issues have been resolved and the project is starting.

The point of the reopening and restoration project is to open 42 miles of Battle Creek water for winter and spring run Chinook and Steelhead. Battle Creek offers prime spring-fed water from the base of Mount Lassen and excellent geography to support these anadromous fish. In addition to the 42 miles of habitat in Battle Creek, 6 additional miles of tributaries will be opened. The Restoration will cost \$80 million.

The project will remove 5 dams and substructures from the north and south forks of Battle Creek. The first of these dams to be removed is Wildcat Dam and systems which was built in 1912. It's about 13 miles upstream from Coleman National Fish Hatchery. In addition to dam removal additional projects include installation of fish screens and fish ladders on North Battle Creek Feeder and ladders on Eagle Canyon Diversion Dams. Loss of power by PG&E will be from 28 to 20 megawatts from 3 small dams. The loss of the 8 megawatts is enough power to service about 6,000 homes. However PG&E can more that make up the loss from their newer more powerful grid.

There are many objectives for this project. But fishers consider the re-opening of 42 miles of drought resistance spring-fed, cool water of prime importance for restoration of the Steelhead and winter and spring run Chinook salmon. With the help all the agency's involved, this hopefully will restore the self-sustaining populations of the Chinook and Steelhead. Some of the other objectives are:

- Removal of some dams at selected locations where hydroelectric values are marginal
- Installing failsafe fish screens and ladders to increase the probability of restoration
- Structural improvements to give guard against false attractors for anadromous fish
- Establishing an in stream flow releases that will restore self-sustaining fish populations

Over thirty years ago I remember fishing for Steelhead on

Battle Creek with my father and being constantly bumped by Chinook returning for the spawn. The last time I fished the area four years ago I couldn't see any fish. Hopefully with this reopening of 42 mile of prime water, the fisheries will be reestablished and self-sustaining.

He is at it again

In the last two Delta Fly Fishers Newsletters I have had articles about Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and their nefarious technics, half-truths and outright lies. They are the people doing the and Save the Stan billboards. These are the people, along with four other water districts that we beat in court recently on the Steelhead issue, and they are at it again. Steve Knell, the general manager of the District, recently spoke to Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce's Governmental Affairs Committee. Knell's issue is now with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) 844 page biologic opinion (BO). This paper, put out by NOAA scientists, identifies procedures that will help native fish in the Delta to survive. These include the Delta Smelt, Steelhead and Chinook salmon.

Knell and his people hired a "consultant" to examine the problem. The hydrologist hired is Dan Steiner. It should come to no one's surprise that these "consultants" such as Mr. Steiner always find exactly what their employers want them to find. In this case, Mr. Steiner's finding is that the New Melones Reservoir will be bone dry, 18 percent of the time, if NOAA's biological opinion has to be followed. He "projected" the BO out 80 years and claims New Melones will go empty 13 times during that period. It's interesting that no independent scientific studies have shown same results.

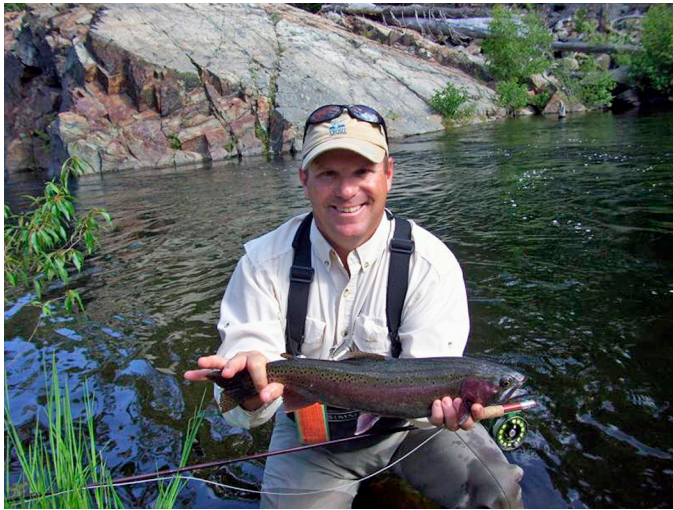
The point to this meeting was to give OID's pseudo-science to elected officials and have them react. These politicians, of course, don't question the pseudo-science spoon fed to them by Knell or others but rather accept it as fact. It has happened again as Tuolumne County Supervisor Dick Pland claimed the biologic opinion, and its effects, were "Draconian". And Knell, of course, then questioned the science behind the biological opinion.

Knell also claimed that the areas trout between New Melones and Oakdale would be wiped out which will hurt tourism in these areas. It's interesting that he only addressed the predation issue briefly during this meeting. Months ago it was their main issue.

The biological opinion does state that it might be changed, in the New Melones area, regarding the changes in the use of ground water, infrastructure improvements and conservation measures. As water continues to be the one of the main issues facing California, there are going to be changes. The Oakdale Irrigation District wants business to continue as it has in the past as does the Chamber of Commerce's across the state. And they will continue to be a main source of misinformation.

Ron Forbes
Conservation

January 12th Members Meeting



Our speaker for the Jan. 12th members meeting at 7pm, in John R. Williams School will be Jay Clark. He will share his experiences guiding on Lake Davis, Middle fork of the Feather, the Lakes Basin and the Sierra Valley area. His talk will provide tips on fishing a number of the diverse waters in Plumas National Forest.

Jay Clark Fly Fishing offers guided fly fishing trips for trout, bass and carp. His trips can vary from trophy stillwaters (Lake Davis) to free flowing rivers (Middle Fork Feather River), to high country lakes (the Lakes Basin) and some out of the way off the beaten path destinations.

Contacts: John Keagy, 369-5690 or Marty Kjelson, 477-9618

New Year's Day Outing January 1, 2011

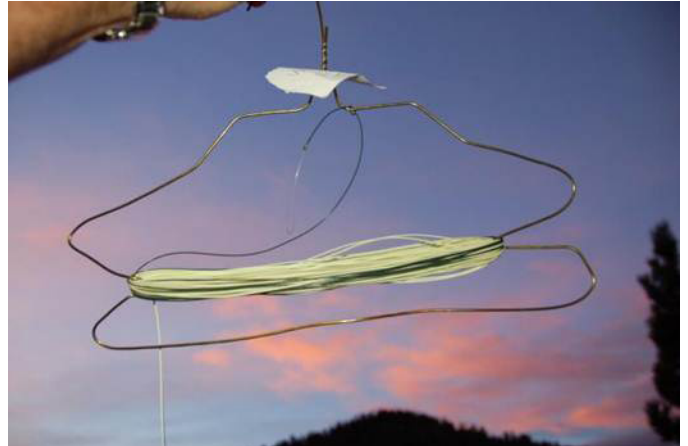


Delta Fly Fishers invites you to join them for their annual New Year's Day outing at Van Assen Park on the Mokelumne River east of Clements. Access is off Highway 12 at McIntyre Road below the Fish Hatchery. If you don't care to fish come, on out for the food and story telling. 2011 marks 34 years for the Delta club so come on out and help us celebrate. Coffee and doughnuts at 8 am, a barbecue lunch of chili, hot dogs, potato salad etc will be served at noon, tall tales and big fish stories all day. Non members welcome. Information Earl Summers 957-6756, Rick Green 298-4003 or Jim Rich 477-6404.

Save Lines, Save Money

by Kirk Deeter

If you're looking for a way to save money on fly tackle replacement, one of the easiest (yet most neglected) things to do is take care of your fly line. Rather than leaving that line of yours spooled on a reel, then stuffed in some drawer or shelf to rot and crack over the winter, take the time to stretch it out, clean it, and store it on a hanger.



My simple system is to pinch in the sides of a plain old metal coat hanger. As I take the line off my reel, I run it through a line cleaning pad to remove the excess grit and grime. I wrap loose coils around the hanger, and I always leave a tag end of both backing and tippet attached to the line so I'm never confused about which end is which. Then I take a piece of paper or a Post-It Note, and I write the line type (in this case 7-weight, 250-grain sink tip), and I skewer the note on the curved tip of the hanger.

Come spring, when I'm ready to spool up again, I find the line I want (clearly labeled), run it back through the cleaning/conditioning pad as I wind it back on the reel, and I'm good to go. I find my lines float higher and cast better right off the bat.

Most importantly, they last longer. I'm going to say the average line lasts 50% longer if you take the time to clean it and store it off the spool when you aren't using it. You do the math...for the average fly line a 50% increase in lifespan is like putting a \$20 bill in your pocket. Multiply that by a few or several lines, and this little exercise in frugality might make perfect sense for the next day you're snowed in and thinking about fishing in spring...

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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

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Fishing Mentor Program

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2011 Delta Fly Fishers Annual Dinner



The Delta Fly Fisher's Annual Dinner will be held Saturday, January 29, 2011 at the Stockton Eagles Lodge, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton. The social hour will be 6pm to 7pm and the Dinner and Raffle will start at 7pm. The menu will be a choice of Tri-Tip, Vegetarian Lasagna or Grilled Chicken. Dinner is being prepared by Steve Cooper and his crew of volunteers. Cost this year will be \$35.00 per person. If you are planning to attend you need to submit your payment (checks should be made out to the Delta Fly Fishers) and food choice, no later than January 23, 2011, to:

Charlie Reames
5547 East Morse Road
Lodi, CA 95240-7308

Making your reservation and paying in advanced, will allow for proper planning for the number of dinners needed. If you have questions or concerns Charlie can be contacted at 209-369-6053 or by email at reacharlie@gmail.com.

A spectacular Raffle and Silent Auction, by Bill Laughlin, will be held. Complete fishing outfits, top name rods, reels, outdoor wear, literature, videos, guided trips, fly selections, tying tools and more will be offered. Raffle tickets will be sold the night of the dinner only. Bring your cash and checkbooks as no credit cards will be accepted for payment for auction items.

The public is invited and a limited number of tickets for the dinner will be available at the door. If you want to insure you get dinner be sure to send in your check to Charlie in advance.

2011 Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave Announcement

It's OFFICIAL! Mark your calendars! The 46th Annual Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave of 2011 will be held in West Yellowstone, MT on August 30th - September 3rd, 2011.

Plan to attend this spectacular event for people of all ages and abilities! The fishing and educational opportunities will be outstanding! More details to come soon! We hope we see you there!

Eastern Sierra Focus



Conway Summit, December 17. Thanks CJ! I don't want to hear any whining about it being too cold here!

From The Page-a-Day Calendar by Workman Publishing

New Mexico's state record Cutthroat Trout was caught in Latir Lakes in 1981 and weighed 10 pounds 2 ounces. The Cutthroat is the only state record to come for Latir Lakes. The most prolific lake in New Mexico is Elephant Butte Lake. Since 1979 five separate species of State record fish have been caught from that lake, including the State's largest record fish, a 78 lb Flathead Catfish.

The New Hampshire state record Brook Trout was caught in Pleasant Lake in 1911 and weighed 9 lbs. The world record Brook Trout, caught by fly, was landed at the Assinica Broadback River, Quebec, Canada, in 1982 and weighed 10 lbs. 7 oz. New Hampshire's record Striped Bass was caught in Great Bay in 1980 and weighed 60 lbs.

Most fishers have heard stories of aquatic life getting tangled in discarded fishing line and plastic six-pack rings, but what about aluminum cans? An angler fishing in the Indian Ocean off South Africa reeled in a small game fish with the ring of a tin can around its neck. The metal necklace had been there so long that the skin had begun to grow around the rusted edges. The angler was able to snip away the deadly chocker and release the fish.

Keep in mind when rivers rise, most fish move upstream and toward the shorelines and when river waters drop the fish move downstream and into deeper water. Now you know where to drift that fly.

Remember the old saying, "Ten percent of the anglers catch ninety percent of the fish." A general tip is varying the speed and patterns of retrieval can have a profound effect on catch ratios. Remember; retrieve flies faster in warm water and slower in cold water.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Wed (except meeting nights)	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	WEDNESDAY EVENING TYING Contact: Joe Balderston 649-0291 or Jim Rich 477-6404
Every 2nd Wed (Except July & Aug) 7:00 PM	John R Williams School Stockton	Membership Meeting Contact Marty Kjelson 477-9618 John Keagy 369-5690
Every 3rd Wed (Except July) 7:00 PM	Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton	Board Meeting All Members Welcome
Saturday January 1	Van Assen Park Comanche Dam	2011 Annual New Year's Day Outing
Wednesday January 12	John R Williams School Stockton	Jay Clark - Lake Davis, Middle Fork of the Feather The Lakes Basin & the Sierra Valley Area.
Wednesday January 19	Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton	Board Meeting All Members Welcome
Thurs - Sunday January 20-23	CalExpo Sacramento	2011 International Sportsmen's Expositions
Saturday January 29	Stockton Eagles Lodge 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton	2011 Delta Fly Fishers Annual Dinner
Friday - Sunday February 25, 26, 27	Alameda County Fairgrounds Pleasanton, CA	2011 Fly Fishing Show



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FLY FISHERMAN



Taper Talk by Ross Purnell

When you were new to fly fishing, your first fly line was likely a cheap, general-purpose floating line—maybe even a level floating line. After you became a proficient caster, you quickly realized that your fly line was at least as important as the rod you use.

To get the most out of your fishing experience you should use the right line weight for the rod (see sidebar), match the taper for the flies and type of fishing, and make sure you use a new or at least a clean fly line. An old, cracked, weathered, or dirty line will not cast, float, or otherwise perform well.

Once you are past the basics—right line weight, and line in good condition—you must address the subtle, technical, yet oh-so-important subject of line tapers.

The core (monofilament or multifilament?), the coating (polyvinylchloride or polyurethane?), the surface design (Airflo Ridge or SA Sharkskin?), and the floating and sinking characteristics are all also critically important questions you should address, but a fly line's taper directly affects the way it shoots, turns over a heavy fly, presents a small fly delicately, or casts efficiently at long or short distances. The line's taper (its outside dimension) is the result of varying thicknesses of the line coating—some parts are thicker and have greater mass, other parts are thin and have less mass. This distribution of mass along the length of the line determines how it performs in a variety of conditions.

For instance, if you want a line to easily cast a large, wind-resistant bass popper, you need one with a great deal of the weight as close to the fly as possible. However, this is not ideal for fishing small trout flies on flat water where you need a long, delicate tip for stealthy presentations.

There are two major groups of fly line tapers weight forward and double taper. Double-taper lines are sufficient for most short- to medium-range fishing situations and although they are economical they have fallen out of favor with most fly fishers because while they do an adequate job at many tasks, they don't excel at anything specific such as distance casting.

Weight-forward lines have asymmetrical tapers and cannot be reversed like double-taper lines. They have a narrow, level-diameter running line at the rear that shoots through the guides easily, allowing for longer casts. The head of the fly line includes the front taper, which starts at the tip and gradually increases in diameter; the belly, where most of the weight is concentrated; and the rear taper, which decreases in diameter as it joins the rear running line.

Weight-forward tapers include nearly every specialty line on the market including those for bass, tarpon, steelhead, salmon,

trout, and pike. If you want to make your casting as easy as possible and enjoy productive fishing, choose the weight-forward specialty line that matches your situation.

If you are fishing for trout, get a line advertised as a trout line. If you plan on fishing for bass, you will be frustrated with a steelhead line. It isn't just a marketing ploy—there are significant differences between the various specialty lines. And this is where the fun starts. Once you decide on the specialty taper you want—a floating trout nymph line for instance—you'll be faced with several different brands of nymph lines, each with subtle taper differences.

Which one is best? When it comes down to a few extra feet of rear taper, or (slightly) thinner diameter running line it's mostly a matter of personal preference. We can't definitively say which taper is best, but we can share with you the ones we've tried and tell you how they perform.

Double Taper

The most frequent fly-line question we field on flyfisherman.com is "Should I buy a double-taper or weight-forward line?" Double-taper lines were once the most popular because they work well at short to medium distances, they are easy to roll cast and mend, and most important because they are economical. Since both ends of a double-taper line are the same, you can wear out one end, then reverse it on your reel and have a "new" fly line. Most double-taper lines are 90 feet long so you have two 45-foot ends to work with. If you cast farther than that, there is some overlap.

Some fly fishers cut their double-taper lines in half right out of the box, and use only a 45-foot line. This reasoning works fine on small streams where you rarely cast more than 40 feet, but as soon as you exceed that, you are limited to where and how you can fish.

Weight Forward

Weight-forward lines include most of the specialty tapers where the line has one rear and one front end. Most of the weight is near the front of the line and the rear of the line is a thin level line called running line.

Weight-forward lines are by far the most popular lines sold today and for good reason—they allow you to cast farther with less effort, defeat wind, and carry larger flies. Their only drawback is that you cannot reverse them. When the line is worn you must replace it.

Do not believe the myth that double-taper lines somehow deliver the fly with more stealth or that they by their nature have a more delicate front taper. A weight-forward line may have a long, delicate front taper for small flies on spring creeks, or a short, severe taper to turn over large flies. The main difference is that weight-forward lines have a running line at the rear, double-taper lines do not.

Delta Fly Fishers

Rx Flyfishing Newsletter

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