

March 2008

# Delta Fly Fishers

Rx  
Flyfishing

March, 2008

## President's Message by Herman Spalinger

For those of you who were unable to attend the annual dinner, I announced the Federation has chosen Hutchins Street Square in Lodi for the October 10th and 11th conclave. Federation president Roger Miller at that time asked me to be the chairman of the event. After much soul-searching right up until the Federation's Hall of Fame dinner last Saturday night as to whether I could carry on the tradition of past conclaves - and at one point telling them our club board had voted to not to be the host club but would certainly look for volunteers within the club to help whoever the chairpersons of each of the events that take place therein - I was deluged at the dinner with several Federation and various individual club members of nearby clubs offering to help plan and put on the event. As of the date of writing this message, I have decided to be a co-chairman of the event. At this time I am awaiting a phone call from a member of the Tracy club who has placed my request for help from their members before their board. I have stressed I cannot handle the chairman of the whole event by myself and that I am looking for a person from the Tracy club to join with me for this task.

I must admit I was overwhelmed by the support from the various Federation club members. Hereafter when I state "we" in this message, I am speaking for myself and the other as yet-to-be announced co-chairman. The Federation is relying on our two clubs - plus others that also approached me from the Shasta club, Amador club and Modesto club - to make this year's conclave a successful event. We will have direct access to the Federation's president and board member Gene Kaczmaek for their guidance in planning this event. This club should be proud of how the Federation perceives us as a club and I anticipate we won't let them down. I have now jumped in with both feet to do what myself and a co-chairman can do to accomplish a successful conclave.

At this time Jerry Neuberger has stepped forward to be the Registration chair. Dan McDaniel will also be at my tail end guiding me in hopefully in the right direction. They both have chaired conclaves in the past. Steve Cooper, who has handled the Program portion of the conclave, is also stepping forward. Mark Rockwell who was co-chairman of last year's conclave in Redding has volunteered to come down and open his books to guide us in how to plan the event. I have been told by Federation board member Gene Kaczmaek our club should not have to lay out any money from its treasury to arrange for the speakers and the caterer for the Saturday evening dinner as well as other necessities. He has told me the Federation's board is behind us 100 percent. I was told the folks who put on the Friday night chili feed want to do it again this year as well.

I want to state here I don't believe I'm overstepping the board's decision in accepting the co-chairman's position as it was told to me this is strictly a personal decision, and I am not at this time involving the club in any planning or arranging of this event as a club but I will be looking to various individuals to help out once the plans have been laid and the chairpersons have been chosen. I'm sure Jerry Neuberger will also be looking for some of you club members to help in registration on Friday and Saturday. Registration is a paper-intensive and person-intensive part of the conclave and it will certainly take more members than this club and the Tracy club will volunteer to handle the registration desk.

I view this conclave as a means for our club to show the Federation that we deserve their looking at us as a first-class operation, and I hope to be a personal representative deserving of that trust. A lot of you members have supported me in the past and I wish to be deserving of that trust also. Okay, it's now time for me to roll up my sleeves and get this conclave ball rolling as I know several of you will fall in behind me and keep me from stubbing my toes.

In the meantime as president I would like to continue pushing the club for a membership drive locally here this year so we will get newer and younger folks to join our organization so we don't fade into the sunset as a geriatric fly fishing club. Stay tuned to this newsletter and our regular meetings for upcoming-event announcements and updates to outings. Grady has stepped in while Marty has been in Israel this past several days to plan an outing at Salt Springs Reservoir March 22nd. This is a good time of year for some terrific bass action, and I'm told there are no floating crap houses on the reservoir so we all should be safe in our float tubes and pontoon boats.

Tight lines.

Herman

## Membership Form

Regular membership – \$25\*

Family Membership – \$30\*

62 years or older – \$20.00\*

\*New members please add \$5.00 Initiation Fee

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

Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862, Stockton, CA 95207

Check one:

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

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One year \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Two years \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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One year \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Two years \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please renew your membership, if you have not done so. If you are not sure, check the mailing label for your current status. If there is any questions or problems please contact: Bob Souza at 209-607-6604 or e-mail at [suzasbs@clearwire.net](mailto:suzasbs@clearwire.net).

## Fishing Buddy Request

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

- Casting  Fly Tying  Attending Outings  Equipment  
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 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 Buddy Committee:**

Bob Souza at 209-607-6604 or [suzasbs@clearwire.net](mailto:suzasbs@clearwire.net).

Grady Lee at 951-3623 or [gmississippikid@aol.com](mailto:gmississippikid@aol.com)

Mail the form to: Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862, Stockton, CA 95207

## Wading Tips 101

by Trevor Kugler – Taken from the Connecticut Fly Fishers Association Newsletter

For anyone who spends any time wading in and across rivers and streams in search of fish, wading tips are never a bad idea. Tips always help, if for no other reason than a quick refresher. What we're all trying to avoid is taking that wet and wild ride down a river, because of a stupid wading mistake. I've had this happen, and few things ruin a fishing trip like soaking yourself to the bone.

Springtime is upon us and in many parts of the country this means that rivers and streams are running much higher than they normally would. And when the water is running higher and faster than normal, this is the time mistakes are made.

The first tip to remember is if the water looks too high and fast to cross, don't try it. Listen to your instincts. If you feel crossing the river will be a stretch, just sit it out. Better safe than sorry. I'm sure you've heard that piece of advice before. Another great tip in high and fast water (if you feel you must cross) is to use a wading pole. You can buy a wading pole and carry it with you while fishing or you can do what I do and find a nice stick along the bank when I need a wading pole. As long as the stick is sturdy and comes up to your chest, you'll be in good shape. Having a pole to put weight on in high and fast water can literally save you from falling.

Another great wading tip is to always keep your feet in contact with the bottom. This may sound obvious, but it's none the less true. You always want to make a conscious effort to keep your feet in contact with the bottom, especially in high, fast water. The best way to accomplish this is to "slide", rather than step. By sliding your feet, they are always in contact with the bottom. The big problems arise when flowing water gets under your feet. This is obviously when waders get swept off of their feet, and when waders get swept off of their feet and that's when they get wet.

The final wading tip that I have for this article is to keep your eyes on where you want to go, rather than the water. You should be taking your time enough to be able to feel the bottom with your feet, rather than having to look. Keeping your eyes on the place you want to end up eliminates the distortion that a flowing river can cause to persons' eyes. These tips should help you avoid taking that wet and wild ride alluded to earlier. The most important tip is to trust your instincts when it comes to wading across high fast water. If it doesn't feel right, don't try it.

# **Salt Springs Valley Reservoir**

## **Saturday, March 22**



**Saturday, March 22 will be DFF's outing to Salt Springs Valley Reservoir. The Reservoir is approximately 40 miles from Stockton. Take highway 4 approximately 35 miles to the Copperopolis junction. Don't turn left at the NEW Copperopolis sign on the south side of the Highway, which is for a new shopping center. Instead go about a mile past that to the next junction, just past a Highway sign for Salt Springs Valley Res. Just past the sign turn left on Rock Creek Road go 6.5 miles and turn left again on Rock Creek Road. Turn left on Rock Creek Road for about 2.5 miles to the lake.**

**Grady Lee will be there at 8am if you want directions to the best fishing spots on the reservoir. Fishing for bass is strictly catch and release; there are Florida strain Largemouth Black Bass and Sacramento Spotted Bass. There are also southern Redear Perch, Blue Gill, Crappie, and Catfish in the lake. The perch and crappie can be large and scrappy. I fished the reservoir last April and caught all of the above.**

**Be prepared to do some rowing to get to the better fishing spots. The wind can be brisk in the afternoons. Target rock structure and weed beds, last April there were dozens of nice weed beds, each of which had several aggressive bass hanging out plus a nice large perch or two. Salt Springs is a shallow reservoir, shoreline in most places slopes gradually. I did most of my fishing in one to five feet of water. Floating or intermediate lines work well; it is much like fishing Kelsey. All I used last spring was a black Red Ryder size 10 or 8, all species loved it. I even caught my first catfish on a fly there. Debbie Nunes who runs the place with husband Mark will do a barbecue lunch consisting of hotdogs, hamburgers, chips and soda for five bucks, but we need at least 10 anglers to make it worth her while. Walt Kotecki will get a head count at the next meeting. Lunch will be served at 1:30. It costs \$15 per VEHICLE to fish Salt Springs. Walt will have maps of the reservoir at the meeting. Grady plans to fish the lake at least once a week until the outing so he will let you know how he does. He really likes this reservoir, has been kicking himself for not having fished it all these years.**

**Information: Walt Kotecki 466-3402 or Grady Lee 951-3623**

# CONSERVATION

By Ron Forbes

## CONSERVATION

Saturday morning on the 16th of February, eight members of Delta Fly Fishers met at Van Assen Park on the Mokelumne River for a conservation project. The organizer of the project was Dr. Joe Merz of Cramer Fish Science, a project consulting firm. I had talked to Joe when he was with East Bay MUD about what he felt would be of use to the Mokelumne that we, as a group, might be of help. Shortly afterwards Joe has started working for Cramer.

We arrived Saturday morning to a cold, crisp but sunny day. A flock of wild turkeys greeted us on the ridge along with buzzards in the trees stretching their wings to gather warmth from the sun. Several people saw a red fox cross the road. A few minutes after 8:00, Joe arrived and explained the purpose of our project.

He has been working with some land owners on Murphy Creek, which flows into the Mokelumne just below the dam on the north side of the river. The purpose of the project is to re-establish native plants along the creek and remove invasive plants such as blackberry etc. Murphy Creek flows year round. Which given its small size, surprised several of us. Joe explained that the dam leaks year round from an underground source. This leakage provides enough water, flowing over the gravel, for the spawning steelhead and salmon that migrate up to the source. Also the trout are less inclined to travel Murphy Creek given its low volume and would rather stay in the Mokelumne. It's a great semi-protected area for the fish to mature before their trip down river.

The land owners have done a great job cleaning out the blackberry and other non-natives. It was our job to gather and plant the native cottonwood cuttings so that they will grow into trees protecting the stream bank and help re-establish natives. We had a permit to gather about 100 cuttings of the cottonwoods from EBMUD. The sight of 8 of our members with sharp instruments in their hands failing away at the brush is a sight I shall not soon forget. Nor the sight of one of our members bleeding from the legs (because he refuses to wear long pants-but shall be nameless) and insisted on walking through blackberry bushes. Bloody legs and all, it was not a pretty sight! We also managed to break two tools, but did gather three pick-up loads of cottonwood for transport to Liberty Road. Three pick-ups with loads of cottonwood bouncing up and down driving at 35 mph on highways 12 and 88 is an interesting sight. Luck was again with us and there was no evidence of CHP anywhere near.

We broke into three groups on the creek about a mile from the Mokelumne River. Joe gave us brief talk on the geology and biology of the Murphy Creek area before we started the plant and explained why what we were doing will make a difference in the success of the Murphy Creek project. The cottonwood was pruned and planted in good locations and should do well. I'd estimate that probably 150-175 trees were planted. The following members gave up the best part of the day to give their time and much effort on the project: Pat Fitzpatrick, Earl Summers, Larry Schmidt, Dean Watson, Joe Balderston, Herman Spalinger, Bill Laughlin, and I.

Thanks guys for a job very well done. It will be fun to see the trees as they mature.

## A Few Notes on an "Open Forum"

In the last several weeks the San Francisco Chronicle has published several good articles on the problems we are having with the decline of our salmon population. Last Tuesday (Feb 19th) however, the paper published an article in their OPEN FORUM section. In this section people or groups can express their thoughts or opinions on an issue. The Feb. 19th article was entitled "What is behind the salmon decline?" Before you read the OPEN FORUM, I would suggest you might read who the author is so you can get an idea what their point of view is going to be. Case in point: this article's author is Laura King Moon. She is the assistant general manager of the State Water Contractors. It's a group of 27 water contractors from Central and Southern California. That should give one an insight to their point of view right off the bat and Ms Moon's article follows what you would expect.

She is claiming that the salmon run is off because "government scientists believe that changes in the ocean" has occurred, but offers no proof to back this up this claim. Next she blames the recreational and commercial fishing. Another "theory" of hers is the predation of the stripers has caused the problem since they are a non-native fish. Of course stripers are a predator fish but, are no means the cause of the decline of the salmon.

She assures us that the pumps in the Delta are very carefully watched to avoid any problems that they might cause. One wonders just where she has been in the last 50 years. She seems to leave out the pumping has also changed the normal water flow through the delta to a flow that has never existed in the Delta before she also leaves out and mention of judicial intervention recent years.

The fact is that DFG says that there were somewhere between 2 or 3 million steelhead in the early 1900's on 19 streams and rivers in Northern California before water district intervention. Now, according to NMFS all of those fish are extinct due to dams built and total disregard for the environment by the water districts.

Ms. Moon bemoans the fact that attention to "science" isn't being followed. What has happened however is that she and people like her change the results of good science to suit their needs and don't report the actual results honestly. She also claims that there is too much "wasteful litigation" on water issues. Frankly, if it were not for environmental groups like FFF, Cal Trout, Trout Unlimited and others, the water districts would have our fisheries in worse condition that they are in now.

If there is a point to this note it is that when you read anything in the paper on environment issues, ask yourself what axe the author has to grind. The results might surprise you.

Good Fishing,

Ron

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**Bob McMillan Memorial Trout Bout****(February)**

Steve Cooper 209 - 956-1032

**Web Site****David Coon 209 - 239-9936****Fishing Buddy Program**

Grady Lee 209 - 951-3623

Bob Souza 209 - 478-8344

Ron Petitt 209 - 931-2997

Help support your club by buying and using club merchandise.

Polo Shirt w/club logo sale	\$26.00
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Ball Cap	\$11.50
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Club Patch	\$5.00
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Lapel Pin	\$7.00
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Lic. Plate Frames	\$3.00
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Official coffee mug	\$5.00
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Also the club has a video library

Videotape Rentals \$2.00 Per Video

See Jacob Loyko 468-2664 for info on

merchandise and videos at all the meetings.

**March 12**

March Board Meeting

**March 19**

April Newsletter

The deadline for the April issue is March 25th.

## Forget an Arrow to the Heel

by Bruce Rollans

**I was absolutely almost certain I had found Sallye's weak link on our trip to the Trinity River in December. Little did I know how wrong I was.**

**We fished the Delta Valentine's Day, as we have for the past five years. I like this much more than a box of chocolates. The wind was up and stayed up for the entire day. The water temperature was 48° most of the day. I figured with 20 mph winds and bone-chilling water, Sallye did not have a chance.**

**We traveled far and wide; south to Discovery Bay then north to the confluence. Sallye landed her first striper, a 3 pounder, in Discovery Bay at 9 a.m. Not another fish until 5 p.m. A 15 lb. striper in Hog Slough. See adjacent photo.**

**Yeah, right. Not me again.**



# Murphy's Creek Conservation Project



On Sat. Feb 16th at Van Assen Park where we met Joe Merz of S.P. Cramer Fish Sciences to do a tree planting outing along Murphy's Creek that feeds into the Mokelumne River at the west end of the park. Joe had obtained permission from EBMUD to plant these trees and enlisted 8 of us to help with his project. We first cut the saplings down in the overflow channel of Comanche Dam, placed them in a couple of trucks and drove them around to Murphy's Creek on the north side of the Mokelumne River. Joe has been doing some studies along the stream and has found small salmon smolt in the stream. He had previously persuaded a local farmer who had dammed up the stream to take out his dam so the water would flow back into the river. He suspects the water is actually coming from seepage from the reservoir. His tree project is to put enough trees along the stream that the shade they afford after they grow will cool down the stream so the fish can remain in the stream longer. He's done studies on another part of the stream where he's planted trees and found the water temperature in those areas has dropped as much as five degrees. It was a tremendous learning process for all of us and we are looking forward to helping Joe again perhaps in helping catch the smolt so he can implant small metal tracking devices that record on other tracking devices he's planted in the river to record the route and time these smolts move downstream and into the ocean.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Wed (except meeting nights)	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	<b>FLY CASTING</b> Contact: Jim Rich 477-6404 Rick Greene 477-1488
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 March 12	John R Williams School Stockton	<b>Membership Meeting</b> Jerry Neuberger - Flyfishing The Delta
Wednesday March 19	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	<b>Board Meeting</b> All Members Welcome
Saturday March 19	Salt Springs Reservoir Copperopolis, CA	<b>Monthly Outing</b> Walt Kotecki 466-3402 Grady Lee 951-3623
April 5	Kelsey Ranch	<b>Annual Bass Fishing Trip</b> Al Smatsky
April 20 - 22	Pyramid Lake	<b>Pyramid Lake Trip</b> Larry Metler 481-6478
May 10	White Pines Lake	<b>Annual One Fly Contest</b>
May or June	Davis Lake	<b>Monthly Outing</b>

## **Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing April 5, 2008**

It's that time of the year. The days are getting longer, the weather is getting warmer and the bass are hungry! Join the Delta Fly Fishers on their annual trip to the Kelsey Bass Ranch Pond on Saturday April 5th. The fee is \$85 and includes lunch, cooked by Al Smatsky. Al will be having a sign-up list at the March meeting.

Those attending can either meet at Kelsey Ranch or meet Al at Jenny's Restaurant on Hatch Road in Ceres. For more information contact Al at (209) 368-9261. For more information on the Kelsey Bass Ranch, look at Al's Excellent Adventures web site at <http://www.excellentadventures.org/>

## **Jerry Neuburger Delta Fly Fisher's March Speaker**



The Delta Fly Fisher's speaker for March will be one of our own club members, Jerry Neuburger. Jerry will be speaking on, "Do it yourself fishing for Delta Largemouth Bass." The program will cover all four seasons of bass fishing and include suitable delta locations to fish from a float tube, pontoon boat, kayak or canoe. Jerry will cover both top-water and subsurface techniques as well as the equipment necessary as well as a few successful fly patterns and how to tie them.

Jerry has lived in the central valley of California for almost 60 years, fished for over 55 of those years and fly fished for close to 25. He's caught over 50 species of fish on a fly rod in locations ranging from Central America to Alaska. He currently spends his time on his boat, the "No Nonsense" where he can cruise the delta, looking for the ultimate striper.

Jerry is a Past President of the NCCFFF, Past President of the Delta Fly Fishers, past editor of Rx Fly Fishing, has been published in the California Fly Fisher, is co-founder along with Al Smatsky of, "Al and Jerry's Excellent Adventures." and a NCCFFF certified casting instructor. He's earned the USCG OUPV license and has guided on the delta for stripers and largemouth for the past three years.

Program will be presented Wed. March 12, at John R. Williams School, 7pm. Program is free and open to the public.

Information: Marty Kjelson 477-9618 or Earl Summers 957-6756

## **Fly Fishing Only Bass Tournament**

Come be a part of one of the country's first ever major fly fishing for bass only tournament. The dates are April 4th and 5th. It will be held at Lake Pleasant which is northwest of Phoenix, AZ. See listing on FFF's Calendar of Events for more information, <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4513>

## **FFF Conservation Committee Activities**

The FFF Steelhead Committee is offering a steelhead print by Rod Walinchus (while supplies last) with a tax-deductible donation of \$100. If you are interested in making a donation, you will receive a beautiful print and a 1-year subscription to the Osprey, please contact Leah at 406-222-9369 ext 102.

# *Delta Fly Fishers*

**Rx Flyfishing Newsletter**

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