Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume L | Number 11 | November 2025 | Randall Baxter, Editor | Stockton, California

Calendar

November 12, General meeting, John R Williams High School. Meadow Ave., Stockton. 6:30 pm (pg 1& 2).

November 19, Board of Directors Meeting, Oak Grove Nature Ctr, Eight Mile Rd., Stockton, ***Temporary New Time:* 7:00 pm** (pg 3).

November 26, Open fly tying Oak Grove Nature Ctr. 6:00 pm. (see pg 3 for details)

December 6, Fly Tying Day. (see pg 12 for details)..

Find DFF online at

https://www.deltaflyfishers.com

And on Face Book at

https://www.facebook.com/Delta-Fly-Fishers-Inc-265097290192284/

Club Announcements

- The club is looking for a volunteers to take over as webmaster and coordinate outings. Interested members please attend the next Board of Director's meeting, November 19 (see Calendar to the left for location details).
- If you have not already done so, please pay annual dues (online or in person) and renew your liability form.
- The Stanislaus Fly Fishers invite DFF members to an upcoming event: November 9, showing of *A River Runs Through It*. Details pg 2
- Fly Tying Day 2025, December 6, featured tier Scott Sugimoto. Details pg 12

Delta Fly Fisher November General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 12th

Location: John R Williams School, 2450 Meadow Ave. Stockton

Time: 6:30—8:00 PM (or thereabouts)

Doors open at 6:30. Club business begins at 7 pm. Presentation at 7:30. All are welcome! Open to the public!

Presentation Information: this month's speaker will be Scott Sugimoto of On The Riffle Guide Service, and the club's connection for lower Sacramento River fishing trips. Scott will provide a wide-ranging presentation/discussion on the tackle and techniques for successful Rainbow Trout fishing on the lower Sac. He will discuss access for wade fishing among many other topics.

Scott will be donating a half-day fishing trip and a selection of flies for our raffle.

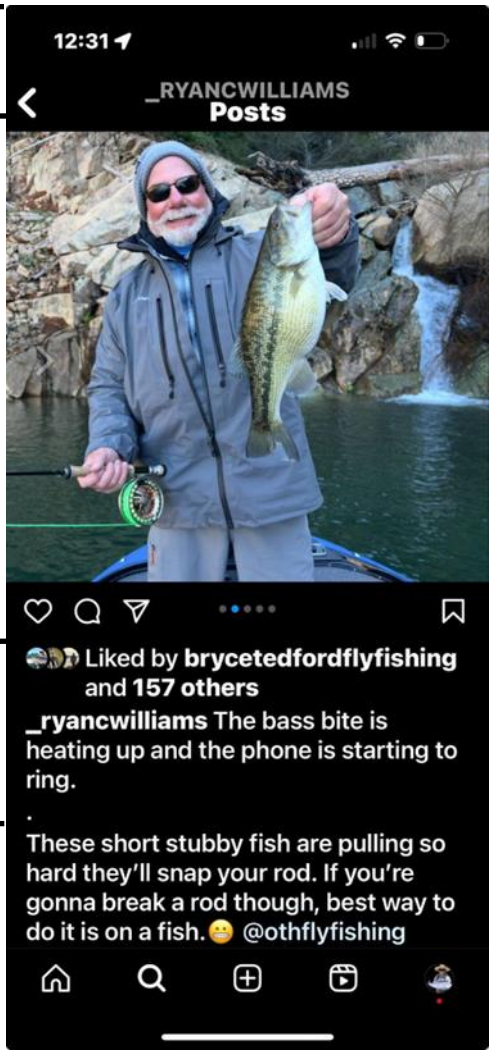
Join Scott and Randy Baxter for a pre-meeting dinner at BJs Restaurant and Brewhouse, 5733 Pacific Ave. Stockton. Please contact Randy if you plan to attend so he can arrange sufficient seating (209 200-9739; randy.baxter23@gmail.com)

Invitation From Stanislaus Fly Fishers

The Stanislaus Fly Fishers extend an invitation to the Delta Fly Fishers to join them for an upcoming event:

Sunday, November 9th, 2 PM at the State Theatre, 1307 J St Modesto, CA. Stanislaus Fly Fishers are sponsoring a showing of "A River Runs Through It". Club members are invited to enjoy a show. There will be a small raffle and information booth. This is not a SFF fundraiser, we're just paying for the movie and inviting everyone to enjoy a show.

Ticket for the State theater: $10.00 in person or $11.00 online.
Website: https://thestate.org/films/a-river-runs-through-it-112025/



Upcoming Events with Delta Fly Fishers

By Bob Fujimura

Free Casting Lessons in SF Park – Saturday November 8: Free casting lessons continue at Golden Gate Casting Ponds at 1232 John F Kennedy Dr. San Francisco, CA 94122. Lessons run from 9:30 to 12:30. Rods available for loan for the lessons. Clinics available for all levels of casting led by the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club of San Francisco. Participants must preregister online via the GGACC website.

A few of the DFF members participate in this monthly GGACC event; contact Amy Terra for more information on these monthly classes.

Theater Showing of "A River Runs Through It" – Sunday November 9: The Stanislaus Fly Fishers are hosting a showing of this fly fishing classic "A River Runs Through It" on the full theater screen. Cost is $10 per person at the State Theater, 1307 J Street, downtown Modesto, on Sunday November 9. Showing begins at 2 pm. It should be a wonderful experience to see this movie again on the big screen with your fellow fly fishing community.

General Membership Meeting – Wednesday November 12: Our guest speaker is Guide Scott Sugimoto who leads our annual Lower Sacramento River float trip and our guest tyer for our next Fly Tying Day in December. Scott will be sharing his tips on how to fish the Lower Sacramento River on your own focusing on tackle, tactics and fishing access. Scott has a wealth of first-hand knowledge to share with our club and is a generous supporter of our club. Members are encouraged to bring a couple of flies to donate to the meeting's drawing. Doors open at 6:30. Club business begins at 7 pm. Presentation at 7:30. Meeting at John R Williams Elementary School located at 2450 Meadow Ave.,

Stockton, CA. All are welcome! Open to the public! Members are also welcome to have dinner with Scott at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, 5733 Pacific Ave., Stockton, CA starting at 5 pm.

Trout Bout – Saturday November 15: Come and assist the County Parks and Recreation Department with their annual Trout Bout on Saturday Nov. 15 at Oak Grove Regional Park. Open to all ages, prizes for youth, teen and adult categories. Gates open at 6:15 a.m. Kids fish FREE; $5 for anglers age 16 and older (& valid CA fishing license required). Five trout limit, parking $6 cash. Delta Fly Fishers' members will be helping provide food services and run the contest.

All DFF members are welcome to volunteer and help with running this popular event. No previous experience is necessary. It is a fun way to serve the club and get to know better your fellow members.

Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday November 19: The executive officers and interested volunteers will meet and discuss club business. It is a good way to get familiar with the business side of the club and its most active members. We have a current need for more Executive volunteers.

All club members are welcome to join us at the Nature Center at Oak Grove Park, Eight Mile Road, Stockton starting at 7:00 pm. All DFF members are welcome to participate. Contact Vice President Dena Mason for more information on this meeting.

Open Fly Tying Session – Wednesday November 26: Join other DFF members as they meet at Nature Center every fourth Wednesday evening for a no-host fly tying session next month. It will be a monthly opportunity to tie with your fellow members, sharing the latest fishing stories, and hang out with new and old friends. This will be a free event and open to club members from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at the Oak Grove Regional Park's Nature Center, Eight-Mile Road, Stockton. Contact Bob Fujimura at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com for more information.

Beginners should not hesitate to attend. Please contact Bob at least 48 hrs ahead of time if you need individual instruction or use of the club's loaner equipment.

Fly Tying Day Clinic – Saturday December 6: We are very excited to continue hosting our club's annual fly tying day with our guest tyer and favorite guide Scott Sugimoto This event provides our guest tyer to share some of his favorite fly patterns and allows participants to tie these patterns with Scott. Host Amy Terra will be organizing another great group tying event includes breakfast, lunch, and raffle. If you know someone who attended last year's event - they will tell you how well-received this event was. This clinic is for intermediate to advanced fly tyers, and admission is open to the public especially our neighboring fly club members. This year's event will be held at Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Lodi, 262 Rocky Ln, Lodi, CA. Click on the flyer below for more information on this event and how to register online.

Help Needed for 2026 DFF Outings

By Bob Fujimura

One of the benefits of joining a fly fishing club is learning fly fishing skills through participating in club outings. New club members can learn or practice basic fly fishing skills by attending club outings. They can fish in a group session and gain information from the fishing experience of others. Club outings are a great way to get to know other members and help new members gain skills to fish on their own.

November is the month that we start developing our 2026 outing schedule and we need members to help by hosting club outings. Outings that new members can learn basic fly fishing skills are especially needed. Being an outing host does not require special skill or equipment – just a willingness to be the contact person and fish with others at a specific time and location. Less experienced members can ask more experienced members to help as 'mentor'. Some outing hosts use paid professional guides successfully to help teach members how to fish at specific locations or help novice members gain basic fly fishing skills.

Being an outing host can be a very rewarding experience – allowing others enjoy the sport that you love can be an excellent way to 'pay forward the rewards that you have received being a member of our club. If you are interested in being an outing host for a club outing, contact Bob Fujimura [email: deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or cell phone: (209) 329-1692] for more information on how to host a club outing and put your event on the 2026 outing calendar. We also can use an Outing Co-Chair who will solicit and promote outings targeted at new and novice fly fishers.

Let's Plan for a Phenomenal 2026!

By Amy Terra

We are looking for input for the 2026 activity calendar for DFF. In recent years we have had several fishmeisters retire and their absence has resulted in us missing their fellowship, their leadership and has resulted in fewer opportunities to get the club together on the water. I remember when I first joined the club, Fishmeister extraordinaire, Jerry Neuburger encouraged me to fishmeister an outing. I fought him tooth and nail. I would tell him that I wasn't a good enough angler to lead anything and that I didn't know the water well enough. He kept encouraging and I finally fishmeistered my first outing and it went just fine! Fishmeistering really involves picking a day and a place that you want to fish and opening it up to the club, If you have picked where you would fish anyway the worst thing that can happen is you fish where you want, when you planned to and the best that can happen is you are joined by some of the amazing members of Delta Fly Fishers!

We will be meeting soon to plan out a full calendar of outings and activities. If you have an idea of a place, want to plan an outing or have any ideas or input for activities, reach out to your club leadership or look for the notice of the planning meeting and join us. Let's make the 2026 club calendar phenomenal!

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Vacant

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Brenda McIntosh

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Nancy Baker
Ron Forbes 209-368-5767
Larry Schmidt 209-482-8742
Randy Baxter 209-200-9739
Bob Fujimura
Charlie Reames
Norm Cassin
Sam Thompson

Committees

Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)
Chair needed

Casting
Amy Terra

Catfish Derby (June)
Chair needed

Conservation/Restore the Delta
Ron Forbes 209-368-5767

Education/Outreach
Dena Mason

Monthly Raffles
Chair needed

NCCFFI Representative
Bob Fujimura

Outings
Bob Fujimura

Programs
Chair needed

Property/Historian
Charlie Reames

Refreshments
Mike Dempewolf

Rx Fly Fishing!
Randy Baxter

Trout Bout (November)
Charlie Reames

Webmaster
Amy Terra

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

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Stockton, CA 95207-7862

FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL

This Month's Fly Box

FLY TYING

Clouser Minnow Streamer

— Photo from Charlie's Fly Box

I was introduced to Bob Clouser's minnow pattern early in my fly fishing career. As a member of Stockton's Delta Fly Fishers, this simple and effective streamer pattern was the first fly that I used on Jim Rich's boat on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. We fished for striped bass then, but variations of this classic pattern can be also used to fish many freshwater and salt game fish. Locally, it is commonly used large- and small-mouth bass, striped bass in the Delta, O'Neil's Forebay, and coastal surf, and even large trout in rivers and reservoirs.

Initially I tied the most common patterns for striped bass when fishing at O'Neil's Forebay or the Delta. A good primer to tying these flies is described well in the video by Charlie Craven on his Charlie's Fly Box channel at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXvyBhkYqB4. Lately, I have greatly simplified my streamers influenced by Alvin Dedeaux's guide flies seen at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMCaSoBR17U and make smaller flies for small striped bass, largemouth bass, or trout.

My recipe for Clouser minnow is:

Hook: TMC 200R, #4-8 or similar hook

Thread: Danville white 6/0 or similar thread

Eyes: Hairline bead chain eyes silver, medium size

Body: White craft fur

Wing (top): bright green or chartreuse or olive craft fur

Flash: Pearl flash fibers, 2-3 strands on each side

Gills (optional): Red permanent marker

Head hardener: Loon UV clear fly finish thin

Bob Fujimura

Mettler

Tasting Room: 7889 East Harney Lane
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Thurs to Mon 11am-5pm(209) 369-3045

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Rx Fly Fishing! Advertising Rates

2 column inches each newsletter issue for the year for $400 or in-kind goods and services, six months $200, quarter $100, one month $40. The ad may include artwork and will link to the advertiser's website.

Additional column inches of ad space may be purchased at $200 for the year, $100 for six months, $50 for a quarter year, $20 per month.

Included:

A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

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

For additional information please e-mail randy.baxter23@gmail.com

Casting Corner —

By Amy Terra

We wrapped up our last Friday night casting and this last event of our local casting season always cues me to look back and reflect and look forward and plan. Our local casting events traditionally begin in April with our Casting Day at Panella Park. This is followed by monthly Friday night open casting sessions. Every year participation grows to a wonderfully busy, almost overwhelming amount. It gives me such joy to see the participants' casting improving within casting nights and throughout the summer. A special thanks to Dena Mason and Tim Costello for coming out and providing instruction and support. It has definitely grown to be more than a one person job and I am grateful for everyone's help and support in making casting instruction a regular part of DFF's offerings.

On a personal note, private lessons have become a regular in my calendar. I have had a club member take me up on the free lesson that every single club member is eligible for. His casting improved greatly in the hour session and I am sure this is going to translate into a more enjoyable fishing experience for him. Feel free to reach out to me to schedule your free one hour casting session by texting or calling me at 209-329-4801.

Looking for something year round to work on your casting? Golden Gate hosts their second Saturday casting day every single month at the casting ponds in Golden Gate Park. Open to the public, free, taught by amazing instructors and serving all levels of casting. It is worth the drive!

Out of the Blue…

By Randy Baxter

Only the slightest Delta breeze stirred the air under a clear blue mid-day sky just east of the Antioch Bridge. I remember adjusting the target of my forward cast to the right and SMACK!! I was slapped hard on the right side of my head and that's all I could think about for a few moments! In retrospect, my error was obvious: the mass of my lead-core line was not going to immediately conform to a new trajectory; inertia caused it to swing right past my head… well not entirely. The end of the line and the 3/0 streamer slapped off my right ear hard!, or so I thought. I had roll cast half my lead core shooting head to get it to the surface then made a back cast and a water hull to clear the rest of my shooting head past the tip. No wind confounded my final back cast or forward cast, but instead of adjusting my back cast to accommodate the change in target, I tried to shift the forward cast (bad move)… and as I looked for my fly on the deck I focused on my 20lb leader hanging from my head. Once this registered, a quick touch of my ear confirmed the presence of one 3/0 rattle Clouser-type fly (tied at last December's tying day). Fortunately, I bent the barb of this fly in the vise and once I determined exactly where it punctured me, we broke out the first aid kit and prepared to remove it. Steady backward pressure separated the hook point from my mid-ear car-

Contribute to the club's welfare

I was asked to put this box in the newsletter so that those club members that live at unreasonable travel times to the club's monthly meetings might have a way to contribute to the club's welfare. At their request, I've set up a group of alternative contribution amounts. Those who participate will receive a tax deductable receipt via email.

$5 $10 $25 $50

Or send a check to:
DFF C/O Brenda McIntosh, DFF Treasurer
5 North California Street
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Make checks payable to DFF, Salmon in the Classroom. Please include your email address. You will receive a receipt online, when the check is received.

Cal State Charity # 131478

tilage with only moderate pain. Lots of gauze and pressure stopped the perfuse bleeding quickly, but not before my buff and shirt got involved; looked worse than it was. Once the bleeding stopped, a quick cleaning and antibiotic completed immediate treatment and we fished out the day. Such injuries happen in a moment - out of the blue. Forethought (bent barb) and preparation (a first aid kit available) addressed hook removal and the immediate first aid needs, and allowed use to fish out the day and finally find some small Stripers during the last couple hours of fishing.

Rainy Day

By Amy Terra

I remember when I used to be able to fish twice a week, without fail. You could find me on the water Wednesday evenings and Sundays. There would be a smile on my face, feet in the water, hopefully a fish smell on my hands. Life shifts. Growing careers, raising my amazing child, family commitments, and non-fishing fly fishing related endeavors have resulted in less time on the water. This makes the days I have on the water so very precious and when I had a Sunday free, I made plans to head to the river. Gear set out, coffee maker programmed for a relatively early start, I climbed into bed eager for morning. Then in the middle of the night I was woken up with the sound of thunder and rain falling. Uggg. It was still raining when I woke up but the thunder had dissipated. I poured a cup of coffee and sat on my porch bench watching the rain fall. It fell and fell. It fell harder and harder. I sipped and waited. Then I waited some more. It was raining really hard.

Why was I waiting? I had rain gear. I went inside and grabbed that raingear, headed to the car and hit the road. It was pouring. I was immediately questioning my decision making. Wipers on high were barely clearing the windshield so I could see. I considered turning around but kept on going. I finally pulled into the parking lot, let out a sigh of relief and opened the car door. I was immediately hit with the sweet smell of the wet ground. Somehow there is something really special about the first real rain of the season. The smell is earthy and wet. Lush and warm. I breathed deeply, so grateful I made the drive.

Quickly grabbing my rain jacket, I donned my waders and boots. I rigged my rod. Normally I would wait to see the water before rigging my rod but I was in my favorite spot and I knew what would work. I felt at peace already and I hadn't even seen the water yet. Slowly walking to the water's edge, my feet crushed mint and coriander. The air filled with the smells of warm, wet earth and fragrant herbs. As I approached the river, I scared a pair of ducks that had been relaxing by the water. They scared me right back as they frantically took to the air.

After I processed that movement, I stepped into the water. Making my way into the river, I started fishing. The rain had turned fish activity on high. The fish were grabbing my fly just about every cast. A smile began to spread across my face as the rain pelted down. Fish after fish put on a show. What rain? Every sense was filled. The weather was perfect for fishing after all.

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Delta Fly Fishers Do Surf Fishing?

By Bob Fujimura

On Saturday October 4th, Delta Fly Fishers were invited to join the Santa Cruz Fly Fishing Club's monthly surf fishing outing. Four DFF members met at a side entrance to Manresa State Beach, Watsonville at 5:45 am in the morning. This wasn't my first time fly fishing the Central Coast. I had been a guest of the SCFF club about three years ago and had fished Pacifica and Crissy Field beaches with the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club since then. However, I still consider myself an eager novice when fishing the surf.

Due to the early start time, we stayed locally before our fishing day. I stayed at a very nice hotel in downtown Santa Cruz and others stayed nearby either in Watsonville or Aptos. It was still dark when we arrived at the free parking lot less than 100 yards from our fishing beach. Our SCFF host Lance Boling greeted us and loaned us extra club stripping baskets for those participants who needed this essential gear. Despite striped bass being a common target species, I focused on the more abundant surf perch and fished a single and simple red sand crab fly stripped using an 8 weight fast sinking striped bass line on single handed 8 weight rod. Although I have good collection of surf fishing flies from SCFF tyers and from the Lost Coast Outfitters, I used the first surf fly that SCFF hosts gave me three years ago.

We fished an incoming tide that morning. The surf conditions were less than optimal for good surf fishing. Surf had 2' or greater swells which reduced time that we could effectively strip our flies without excessive turbulence or drag on our fly lines. I had the best fishing before dawn and caught two surf perch. This was followed by a long period of slow fishing afterwards. Amy Terra also landed one surf perch; Greg Pettis and Paul Wallace said that they got bites or had fish on their lines. Later that morning, our host provided us with freshly brewed coffee along with breakfast pastries.

I was glad not to fall into the surf and that I got a few perch. I worked at not venturing too deep (no more than ankle deep) and watched the wave action closely. Surf perch can be caught in relatively shallow water and long casts are not necessary. Since suitable surf beaches are only a short distance from our homes, fly fishing the surf can expand our fishing season and doesn't require specialized equipment to enjoy this special opportunity.

Amy Terra fishing Manresa State Beach

SCFF and DFF members sharing fishing stories after their morning surf fishing.

Getting Salty — Santa Cruz Surf Fishing Outing 2025

By Amy Terra

We pulled up to the beach parking in the darkness on a Saturday morning with the car window cracked. The salty smell of the ocean was accompanied by the rhythmic crashing of waves. We donned our waders using headlamps, put our rods together, talked about what flies to fish and strapped on our stripping baskets. Our amazing hosts from Santa Cruz Fly Fishing Club briefed us on safety, strategy, technique and location. They also mentioned that the surf sounded particularly powerful this morning.

We carefully made our way down the steps to the beach and walked across the beach to the water. Taking a moment to watch the waves and try and pick up the rhythm of the wave sets before starting to fish, we finally pulled some line off of our reel and began to work the water along the shore.

Surf fishing is surprisingly active. The waves move out and you walk towards them, casting into the water. As the waves move onto the beach, you walk backwards, stripping to maintain a tight line between you and the fly. Walk forward, cast, walk back, strip. Over and over and over. The waves were unpredictable. Some were big and others were bigger. There is a pressure to remain alert and hyperaware of the ocean. Then when you feel a tug on your line, there is a mystery as to what could be on your line. Is it a sea perch? Is it a striper? Is it a sculpin? A sting ray? A shark even? The ocean is filled with life. What found your fly?

We cast and moved up and down the beach, in and out of the surf for hours. Fish were caught. We were tired. Our hosts called it a day and we followed them to the parking lot. They shared coffee and pastries with us and we talked fishing. Surf fishing, other fishing. All fishing. It was a wonderful day. The beach, the company, the ocean all were amazing. Looking forward to next year's surf adventure!

Bringing a Streamer to a Dry Fly Fight

By Amy Terra

Finally I snuck out to the river. It feels like it has been forever. It was cold early in the morning and I only had a little bit of time so I grabbed my tried and true rig. IF you have ever fished with me you know I have a confidence fly, a confidence, line and a confidence fishing technique. It is the Cortland intermediate camo line with my go-to fly, the picky trout nymph. I have used this rig on lakes, rivers, streams and creeks. I have used it on local rivers, in Nevada, Montana, Northern California, mountains, and deserts. It has caught fish everywhere I have fished so I turn to it often. I have become a bit of a one trick pony but I like to cast, I love the tug on the little streamer and the fish love it too making for productive fishing. So I grabbed the rod, line and tied on my fly right out of the car. I didn't wait to get to the water. I didn't wait to see the conditions. I just moved forward with what had worked for me over and over, everywhere I have fished.

I moved into the water and began to fish. I cast, quartering the river, mended and swung the fly. At the dangle, I let the fly soak and stripped it in. I had some grabs and landed some fish. It was good but there was an electrifying show going on in front of me that made my catches dull in comparison. Fish were rising. They were leaping out of the water- full bodies glimmering in the rising sun as they cleared the water in search of food. Fish after fish leapt out of the water. Fish were rising everywhere and I was fishing subsurface streamers. All I had was my intermediate line. I hadn't even grabbed the Tenkara rod I usually carry just for this moment. I had no way to throw a dry fly. I had brought a streamer to a dry fly fight and here I was, watching the hatch of my life, unarmed with the proper gear.

After about 15 minutes, the fish activity died down. I ended up landing more fish than I deserve but the feeling of missed opportunity followed me home. I immediately went into my closet and put a reel with a floating line in my pack and strapped my Tenkara rod onto the bottom of my pack. I was determined to not be caught without what I needed should the opportunity present itself- not again!

Lower Sacramento River Outing Report

By Bob Fujimura

Anglers and guides for the 2025 lower Sacramento River fishing day

On Saturday October 11, we had our largest turnout in our history of hosting this annual float trip to the Lower Sacramento River. We had 14 paid members and their guests for fly fishing downstream of the City of Redding. Despite our record numbers of attendees, the event went very well: we had consistently good weather and fishing, the group drift went smoothly, the BBQ lunch cooked well and there was plenty of food, and everyone got off the water when they needed to. We hosted two group dinners at two local restaurants, and our veteran club member Marty Kjelson brought four of his family and friends. Despite poor returns of adult Chinook salmon in previous years. Both the fishing guides and returning members were very glad to see the higher numbers of spawning salmon during our drift.

Bob—fish-on

Like last year, our guides led by Scott Sugimoto drifted from the Bonnyview Boat Ramp to the Anderson River Park Boat Ramp where Scott's team held a group lunch of grilled ham- or cheeseburgers, grilled onion, toasted buns, fresh fixings, potato and macaroni salad, chips, fresh fruit, and cookies. After our lunch break, we continued our drift and took out at the Balls Ferry Fishing Access and Boat Ramp.

…….continued on next page

Rob Mastretti with one of his numerous trout that he caught that day

We had good fishing in the morning especially when we fished below salmon redds although some members reported better fishing after the lunch break. I fished with Marty's son-in-law Rob Mastretti and was guided by Steve Crosetti of MoJoBella Fly Fishing Service. Despite Rob's limited history fly fishing, Steve had one of the best day's fly fishing the Lower Sacramento I have seen – with over 20 resident trout caught. Part of Steve's success was due to the excellent coaching of Steve Crosetti, who provided ample instruction in a clear and timely manner. Everyone in our group caught fish and seemed to have a great time on the water with their guides.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in this year's event:

- Marty Kjelson and Lynn Mastretti guided by **Gary Whitmire**, The Fly Shop
- Chris and Ronda Morgan guided by **Scott Sugimoto**, On The Riffle Guide Service
- Mike Dempewolf and Jasen Yordy guided by **Neil Amundson**, Big Waters Guide Service
- Larry Schmidt and Robert Broderick guided by **Tom Phillips**, Big Tom's Guide Service
- Sam Thompson and Greg Pettis guided by **Zat Deter**, Get Me Some Fin! Fishing
- Patty Souza and Jean Fujimura guided by **Curtis Cole**, Curt's Fishing Adventures

We had a wonderful group this year and had a good time together and with our guides. Scott and the guides are looking forward to us holding a 2026 outing at about in the same time in October. Preparations for this outing have already begun and we hope that we will have a similar turnout next year.

Marty Kjelson's daughter Lynn Mastretti fishing the bow of their boat

Tying Day 2025: Get Ready for a Great Day!

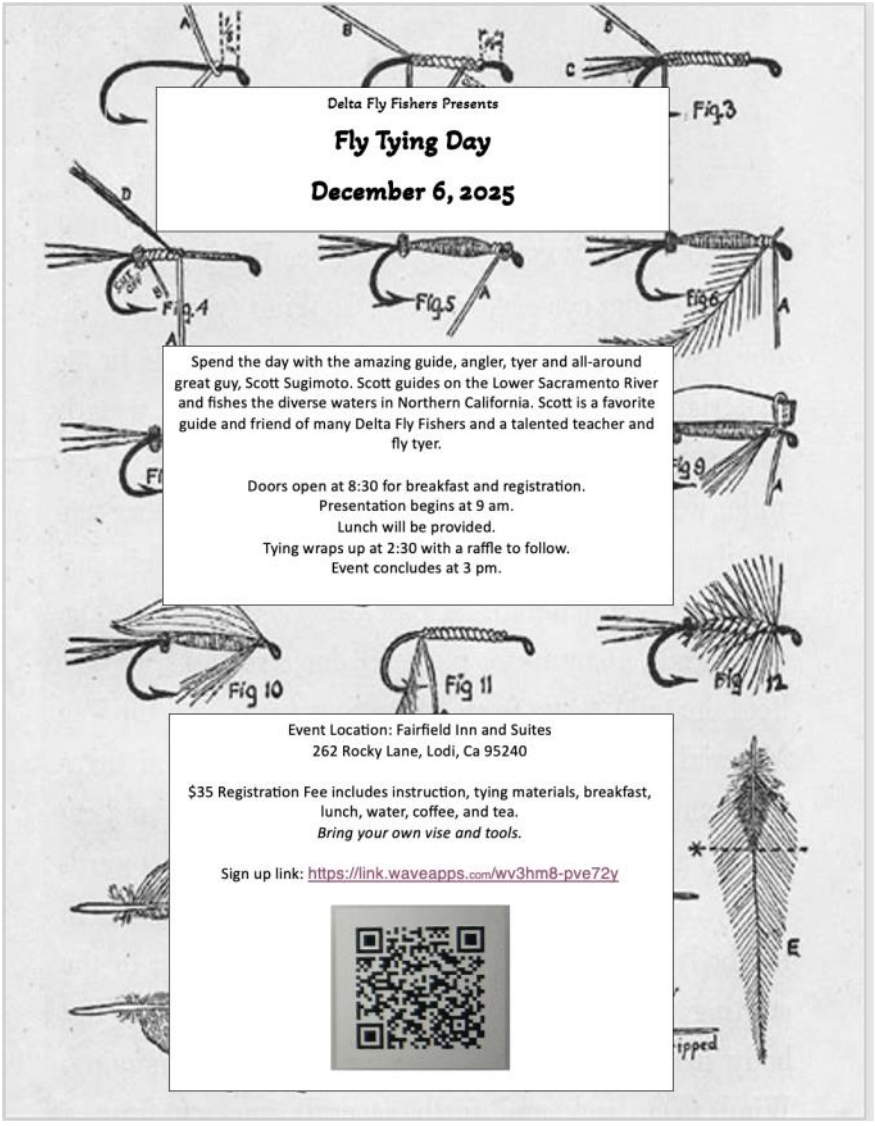
By Amy Terra

Last year, Bob Fujimura and I reminisced about the amazing fly tying events the club had hosted prior to COVID shut downs. Post COVID, reestablishing these traditions had proven a challenge. It has taken us some time to get events like these re-established but we seem to have gained some ground as a club. Our club dinners, BBQ's, casting days have proven to be successful events and last year we were able to hold a successful Fly Tying Day. This is in large part due to the contributions of many. From finding a suitable site, arranging the technology, getting a presenter and arranging the supplies, many hands made light work. All of this work made for a really fun day.

Let's keep the momentum going this December 6th. Join us as our favorite Lower Sacramento Guide, Scott Sugimoto leads an amazing day of fly tying, food, and fun. Scott has formulated his tentative list of highly effective flies. We will have 4 patterns to tie, ranging from nymphs to sculpins. Each participant will get enough supplies to tie each pattern twice. The patterns will be flies that are great trout flies that can be fished in a multitude of waters. As we move through the preparation for the event, we will have the finalized patterns listed in November's newsletter. Just know that all of the patterns we are considering are staples in my fly boxes.

Scott is a highly knowledgeable guide and angler and just one of the nicest and most supportive people you will ever meet. He is a great teacher and we are so looking forward to this day with him. The day will include a light breakfast, coffee and water, lunch and a dessert in addition to all the tying supplies for 2 flies of the 4 patterns. You will receive a small gift to show our appreciation of your participation. We will also have a great raffle. We had a donation of some Loon tools, a guided trip on the Lower Sacramento River and an hour fly casting lesson just to get the list started.

Participants are limited so sign up soon**. We will be at the same place, Fairfield Inn and Suites, 262 Rocky Lane in Lodi. Doors open at 8:30, presentation begins at 9 am and the day will wrap up at 2:30**. Cost is $35. All participants must preregister by November 21st. Contact Amy at 209-329-4801 with any questions. There will be extension cords available for lights. Bring your own vise and basic tools. We will have some resources available with prior notice of need. Sign up using the QR code below. Let's keep our traditions going!



CONSERVATION

By Ron Forbes, Conservation Chair

Fly fishing: the tug's the drug .

Herbert Hoover .

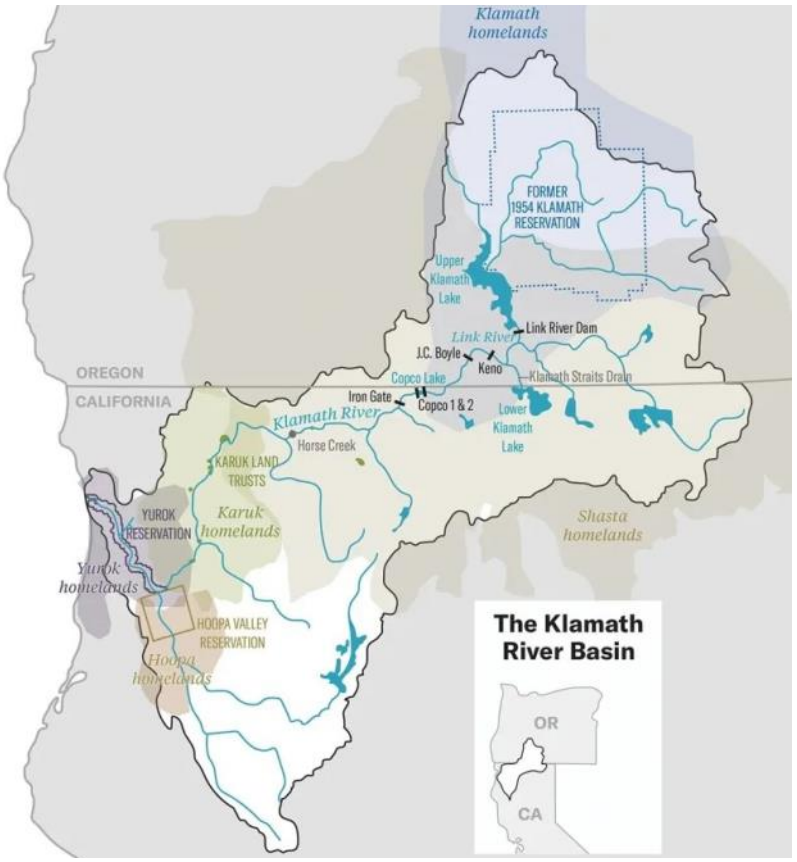
It's Happening: The First Spawning Run of a Free-Flowing Klamath River

After 10 decades of impoundment and a defective environment, the Klamath is finally a free-flowing river again. It has been a long hard-fought battle to get here. Those of us involved in the endeavor watched as the world's biggest dam removal project went through years of hard-fought struggles to finally arrive at this turning point. The groups supporting the removal of all four major dams within the Klamath basin agreed the dam's removals would be the salmonid's only chance to survive extinction. The world has never seen a dam removal project of this magnitude. Despite their enthusiasm and support for the four-dam removal project they knew this was the path to take. They also knew they needed to be guarded with their assessments of success.

Previous dam removal projects were studied and evaluated but none approached the magnitude of this project. Several years ago, our newsletter talked about the removal of both dams on the Elwah River and the project's success. While the Elwah dam removal project only freed about 60 miles of river, the total Klamath project will allow over 400 miles of the river and its tributaries to be free flowing. The topography of the Elwah River in the Olympic Peninsula has very steep inclines and is radically different from the Klamath River basin with its far more gentle and varied inclines. Both projects, however, shared major concerns of the impact of free-flowing sediment that would be moving downstream and into the Pacific Ocean.

Many of the Klamath Basin's systems had to be addressed, predictions assessed and judgements made. How would the project affect the Klamath's water quality in the long term? What would the effect of the toxic algae be downstream? The entire ecosystem will be radically altered. What would be the effect of the muddy sediment water flowing downstream and into the sea? What about toxic chemicals that might be released downstream? All of the issues studied pointed to the conclusions that the dam removals were still the best viable option to restore the basin and to reintroduce salmon.

In less than a month after the last dam was removed, a biologist from the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODWF) spotted a salmon 230 miles



Map of the Klamath River Basin with Tribal Lands and Dam Locations (past and present) Labeled.

inland looking for spawning habitat. The team was amazed and overjoyed. Many thought the salmon would take at least a year to reinhabit the Klamath River and would hopefully start spawning near the Iron Gate Dam site. The salmon are returning far more rapidly than anyone had imag-

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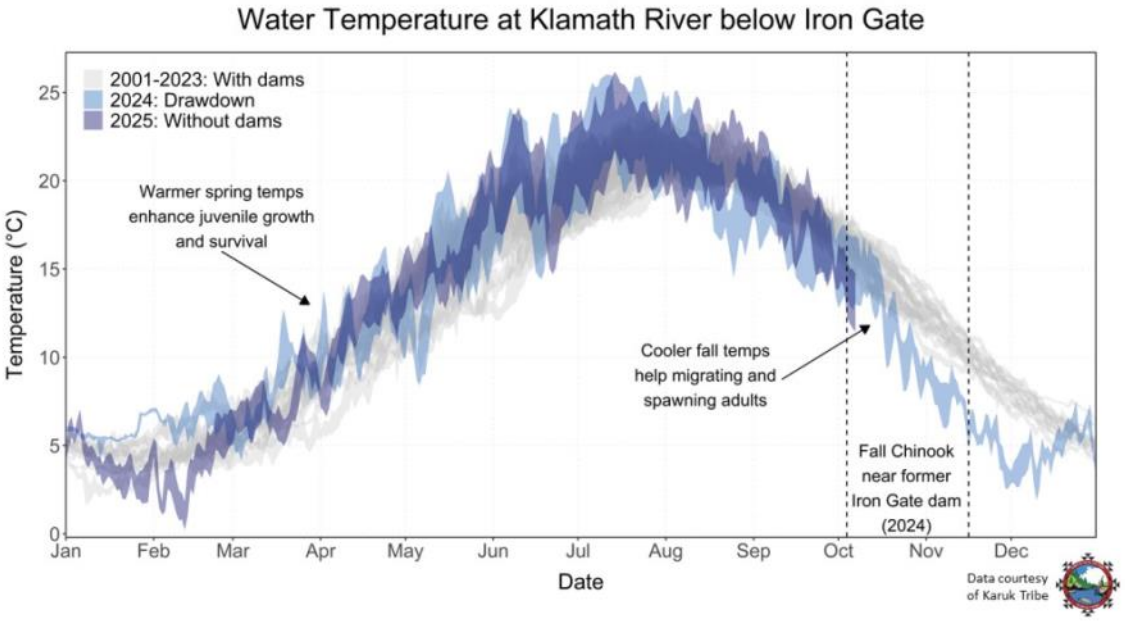
ined possible. In the first week of October this year, Oregon biologists using carcass surveys, observing redd sites, video monitoring, and telemetry, verified over 7,700 salmon have been counted in the Klamath River and its tributaries. During the second week in October, Cal Trout's Damon Goodman said, "The river has almost come alive almost instantly after the dam's removal in greater numbers than I expected, and maybe anyone expected."

Goodman noted that almost immediately after the dam's removals, the river's physical fitness is being regenerated. He has observed, "... salmon swimming upstream, bald eagles flying overhead, and increased bear, beaver, and otter and osprey activity; the ecological shifts are booming thanks to the world's largest dam removal project". Goodman also credited Cal Trout for providing the most intense science and monitoring work ever attempted to quantify the positive effects of a dam removal project.

Those who objected to the dam removal project voiced strong concern that the project would cause irreparable damage not only to the Klamath River but also to the Klamath basin. The wounds the dams left on the landscape were enormous. A major concern of both those who wanted the dams removed and those who did not was the quality of the river's water and the release of the lake's accumulated sediment and toxins. The drawdown of the lakes was planned during the winter to lessen the impact on the environment. The sediment turbidity was initially high but was far less than had been expected. During the removal process the Klamath's dissolved oxygen content was better than California's water quality requirements.

There are obviously great differences between free-flow water and lakes or impounded bodies of water. Lakes, reservoirs, and impounded water are often referred to as being "heat batteries. "Their temperatures are much higher than free-flowing water. When the Klamath's final dam was removed the river's temperature dropped rapidly and sensing this the salmon immediately initiated their first spawning run in a century. Both the lower temperatures and the timing of the dam removals not only allowed the salmon to migrate upstream but also improved their health."

The "heat batteries" lakes also allowed the formation of huge amounts of toxic algae to be generated. The algae generate a group of toxic chemicals known as microcystins. People living near the Klamath lakes had been advised not to swim lakes when algae was blooming. Microcystis aeruginosa, a blue-green algae produces the toxins. Mictocystins also killed cattle and wildlife in the Klamath Basin area. The micro-



Annual water temperature profiles taken below the Iron Gate Dam location: 2001-2023, with dams; 2024 during drawdown; and 2025 without dams.

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cystins are also found in our Delta. Although it is almost impossible to get rid of the toxic microcystins, the algae can be kept in check by colder water temperatures. The now-flowing Klamath River keeps the water's temperature lower and maintains the river within the "safe range".

There are many positives occurring in the Klamath River Basin since the four dams were removed. In researching the effects of removing the two dams of the Elwah River system, it was impressive to read the caliber of research performed. For over 7 years, after the dams were removed, research was performed on the effects of sediment flow into the ocean adjacent to the Elwah's mouth. Major changes occurred and are still happening. Research on the effect of the world's largest dam removal project has been seriously, perhaps irrevocably, damaged by the current federal administration's irresponsible decision to cut all federal funding to fully understand what is occurring in the river and the effects the removal project has accomplished. Goodman noted how the cut in funding already has negatively affected the Klamath River monitoring process. "This funding loss was a major setback for our scientific data collection on the world's biggest restoration project. While we are already seeing the dam removal was a success, we need consistent and accurate data to understand how much of a success this project is."

Last year's amazingly rapid return of salmon to the Klamath River and its tributaries was truly astounding. Another major surprise was the recent discovery of hundreds of finger length salmon swimming in Jenny Creek, a tributary of the Klamath River located near [above] the removal site of Iron Gate Dam. Jenny Creek is slated to be restored as an important tributary habitat for spawning salmon. It is the first tributary that salmon will find [above the lowest damsite] on their journey upstream to spawn. Restoring the creek will require major efforts. Logs and large boulders will have to be moved to enhance fish passage, its channels will be reshaped, and its riparian zones and floodplains need to be revived.

It was a pleasant discovery finding that salmon and steelhead have already started regenerating in the stream. The major upgrading process will require biologists from native American tribes, the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, RES biologist, and Cal Trout to rescue the juvenile salmon and steelhead from their present location upstream in Jenny Creek to a safer location near the confluence of Jenny Creek and the Klamath River.

On the 6th of October a major event occurred in the Klamath River. For the first time in more than 100 years, fall Chinook salmon were seen in the Keno and Link River Dams' fish ladders in Oregon (see map). The ODFW was astonished that the salmon and steelhead had moved upstream so rapidly. The return "represents a powerful step forward in restoring the Basin's ecological integrity." The ODFW documented the salmon using fish ladders to bypass both the Link and Keno dams. These dams are over 230 miles upstream from the Pacific Ocean.

Link Dam Fish Ladder

Currently the salmon are passing through upper Klamath Lake in Oregon and are continuing their search for spawning sites. Upper Klamath Lake has three major tributaries: the Wood, Williamson, and Sprague Rivers. I have had the pleasure of fishing both the Woods and Williamson Rivers for trout. These rivers are prime trout waters and will also provide outstanding spawn-

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ing habitat for the salmon. The salmon have now reached a place on the Klamath where they will not have to face a changing sediment environment. The three rivers are stable and will provide excellent sites for redds.

The reintroduction of salmon to the upper Klamath's ecosystem could not have been better timed. As a species, salmon are facing extinction. Fortunately, at this point the salmon's upstream migration can honestly be described with superlatives. Those working on the restoration project were right-on with their predictions. And they were correct with using guarded forecasts for their estimates. But the salmon's reentry to the upper Klamath basin has amazed everyone. Salmon are a keystone species. They have a huge impact within their ecosystem. Hopefully, the Klamath River regeneration project will be a turning point for the salmon as a species. It's difficult to find a word to describe this species. But if I had to find one word to describe the salmon that word would be *resilient.*

After months of writing negative news letter articles, it has been a joy to finally write a very positive one. Let's hope that this is the start of more encouraging environmental news!

Intro tying Day at Tandem Bikes

By Amy Terra

On November 1st, Delta Fly Fishers teamed with Downtown Lodi merchant Tandem Bikes/Lodi Cyclery to host an Intro to Fly Tying Day. The intention behind this day was to provide fundamental tying skills in preparation for our December 6th Tying Day. The owner of Tandem Bikes/Lodi Cyclery is an avid fly angler and he offered his business as a location for the tying day. Thanks Brian! Tim Costello agreed to share his tying and teaching skills and we set up for the day. The first

hour was dedicated to the Wulffies and we had 7 women show up. We were so happy with the number of participants but not quite prepared to handle the crowd. We squished people in and set up extra vises and got everyone tying.

Open tying began and we had even more participants attend. About half of the participants had never tied before and the other half had. Everyone tied flies. For every fly tied, participants earned a raffle ticket. Prizes included a Reyr Gear telescoping rod donated by Brian, an hour casting lesson, and two fly boxes.

The best part of the day was everyone who gathered to chat, sit on the couches, grab lunch or a drink and socialize. It reminded me of the best part of being part of a fly fishing club—all of you.

Brian has offered to open his business to a regular tying evening. We are planning on replacing our Friday night casting that has now ended due to daylight savings time with a Friday night tying. More info to come as we work out logistics. Thanks to everyone who made this idea a reality!

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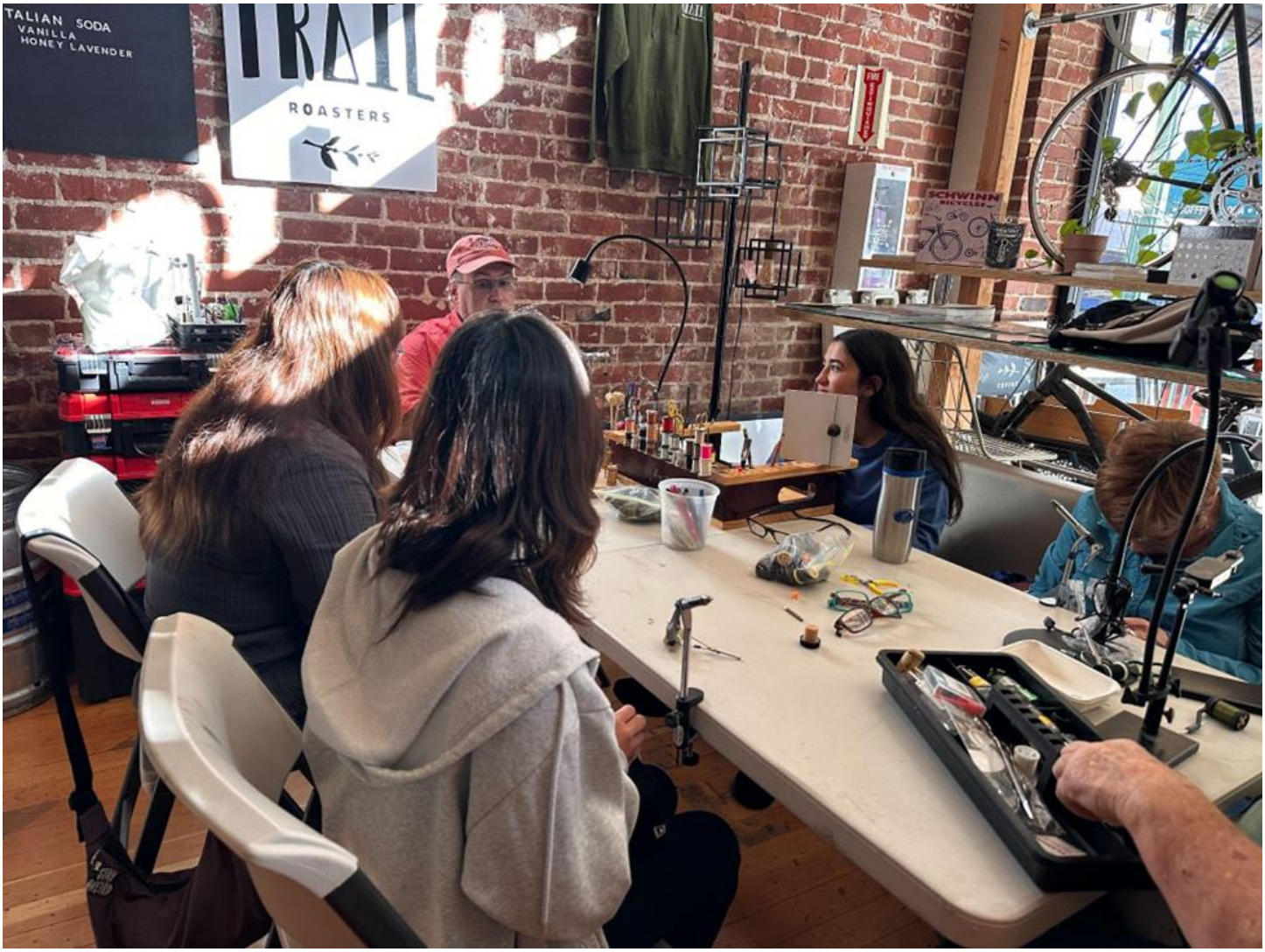

Tim C and some Wulffies. Thanks Tim!