



# Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume XL

Number X

November 2017

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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## Calendar

November 5, Delta Striper Outing

November 8 General Membership Meeting, John R. Williams School

November 15 BOD Meeting, Oak Grove Park

November 18, Trout Bout, Oak Grove Park

December 9, Fly Tying with Bud Heintz

December 13, General Membership Meeting, John R. Williams School

December 20, BOD Meeting, Oak Grove Park



President's message for October

## The best fishing time of the year

While most anglers are excited with the coming of spring and the good fishing it offers, my favorite time of year is the two months and a half months after Labor Day.

In the delta, largemouth are still hitting top water for the first few weeks and with a bonus of picking up more than a few stripers when working the rip-wrap levee walls.

Speaking of stripers, the fall migration gets into full swing about the same time, with the chance to catch 30 pound saltwater species only a few miles from the heart of Stockton. While most of the striper fishing takes place from full sized boats, opportunities do exist for the mosquito fleet of pontoon boats, kayaks and prams to get a shot at these fish if focusing on some of the Delta's skinny water of sloughs and cuts off the main rivers.

A little further up the Sacramento and adjoining sloughs, the smallmouth bite is still red hot for those that want to work the rocks with poppers.

In the hill country and Sierras the trout have been fattening themselves all summer and are eating anything they can to bulk up for winter. In addition to fat rainbows, stream anglers have a shot at some huge

brown trout since these fish migrate up from the depths of lakes into the feeder streams to spawn in late summer and early fall.

Fall also marks the return of the valley's Chinook salmon and while they are not usually targets for fly fishers, their followers, sea run rainbows, STEELHEAD, migrate up with them in an attempt to gobble up as many salmon eggs as possible.

And fall also offers the opportunity to fish Heenan Lake during the months of September and October for the west's oldest species of trout, the Lahontan Cutthroat.

As for club business, at this month's meeting, in addition to our monthly speaker and another great raffle, we'll elect the 2018 Board of Directors. As for directors, we're one short so if you'd like to help the club and help yourself please step up. You'll find it a very rewarding experience. Along with an additional director, we'll need volunteers for vice president and treasurer. Finally, Bob Fujimura would really appreciate it if someone steps up and volunteers to assist him with membership. It takes a crew to man a ship and we have some empty slots, step up and join us.

## Andy Guibord to cover American River for Stripers and Shad

A message from Andy: "Thank you for asking me to speak to your club. I will be giving a presentation on fishing for striped bass and shad. I look forward to sharing my 30 years of fishing knowledge on my local Lower American River here in Sacramento. I was born in Detroit Michigan where I spin fished through my youth catching bass, walleye, yellow perch and pike. I didn't start fly fishing until my mid twenties right out of college where I graduated with a Masters In Fine Arts. I bought

my first fly rod at Kiene's fly shop. There I have had the pleasure of working more than 25 years.

I am a casting instructor of single and two handed techniques, guide manager and head guide and captain at Kiene's. I am an avid, published photographer and a contributor to the Cal FlyFisher magazine. What more can I say, I love to fish. Thanks for inviting me."

7pm. Wednesday November 8th, John R. Williams School. Public invited.

# The monthly raffle is back!

The November meeting on the 8th will feature a return of the monthly raffle. Be sure to bring a few bucks for tickets. Some neat items will be available including some legendary Fenwick glass fly rods. While not "state of the art," these rods are predecessors to the graphite rods

we use today. They are fun to fish with and have a completely different action than today's rigid sticks. Another 14 to 15 items will make up the balance of the auction, all of them well worth the price of a ticket.

The club's Board of Directors will be elected at the November meeting

November is election time for the club. The club elects nine members to the board, and once elected, they elect the four officers.

The members with their names on the ballot are:

- Sam Thompson
- Dena Mason
- Tim Costello

- Gary Tecklenburg
- Larry Schmidt
- Ron Forbes
- Mike Nicholson
- Don Keefover

We are one member short so if you're so inclined, please step up and volunteer.

## November's Outing targets Delta Stripers

Only one day left before the club's striper outing at Paradise Point Marina off 8 Mile Road on Sunday, November 5th. The activities start at 7am with a club sponsored lunch at 12:30pm. The area around the marina, Bishop Cut and Disappointment Slough, generally has a good population of small stripers that respond well to clousers, whistlers and other streamer flies. High tide is a little after 7am so most of the day anglers will be fishing an outgoing tide, the tide that has proven the most productive for catching fish.

Recommended equipment:

Pontoon boat with oars, kayak, pram, full sized fishing skiff (NO FLOAT TUBES OR OTHER KICK POWERED FLOATING DEVICES)

Important: Anchor for your craft

Waders (if in a pontoon boat)

7 or 8 weight rod

Type VI to VIII sinking line or head

#20 leader (4 feet)

An assortment of striper flies

The club-sponsored lunch is scheduled for 12:30, about the time low tide occurs. The marina has a picnic

area at the rear of the office in the grassy area. Paradise Point Marina has a boat ramp and charges \$15 for a regular boat launch, and discounts the launch fee for pontoon boats, kayaks and small prams. This is a rain or shine event with the exception of heavy weather or high winds.

**THIS IS AN RSVP EVENT BECAUSE OF THE CLUB LUNCH. PLEASE CONTACT FISHMEISTER JERRY NEUBURGER BY E-MAIL, preferred (jneuburg@gmail.com) or by phone, 209-369-5752, to add your name to the list of those attending.**



### DDF Officers



President <a href="#">Jerry Neuburger</a>	209-327-5993
Vice President Cliff Hoover	209-642-3809
Secretary Karen Keagy	
Treasurer Jason Stapleton	209-334-9201
Directors Ron Forbes Karen Keagy Larry Schmidt Sam Thompson Gary Tecklenburg Steve VonBerg Dena Mason Tim Costello Mike Nicholson	209-368-5767 209-482-8742 209-327-6161

### Committees

Beginner's Fly Tying Tim Costello	
Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March) John and Karen Keagy	
Catfish Derby (June) Earl Summers	209-957-6756
Conservation/Restore the Delta Ron Forbes	209-368-5767
Education Dena Mason	
Fishing Mentor Program Tim Costello	
Fly of the Month Mike Nicholson	
Membership <a href="#">Bob Fujimura</a>	209-339-0683
Monthly Raffles Jerry Neuburger	
Programs Al Smatsky Bob Sousa	209-368-9261 209-368-2683
Property/Historian John Keagy	
Publicity <a href="#">Steve VonBerg</a>	209-327-6161
Rod Building Bob Fujimura	209-339-0683
Trout Bout (November) Bob and Jean Fujimura	209-339-0683
Webmaster John Keagy	

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Stockton, CA 95207-7862

## Fall Trout Bout is Club's Community Service project for SJP&R

Long time club member Charlie Reams will head up the volunteers for our club's participation in San Joaquin County Parks and Rec Trout Bout to be held November 18th at Oak Grove Park. The event is one of the three fishing derbies the county holds at the park during the year.

The event starts early with Charlie and a few other members showing up at 5:45 in the county park corporation yard and

loading supplies and equipment for the day from the club's storage shed.

The remainder of the volunteers are asked to show up about 7:30 at the boat house to help with the registration of participants, serving of the food, and manning of the food cart.

The event is a rain or shine thing since the county has to order the fish drop well

in advance.

Please put this on your calendar. A good club turn out makes the job easier for everyone. NEW MEMBERS, this is a really good way for you to meet your fellow fly fishers and hook up for a day on the water.

I hope I see you there...

Jerry

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## December 9th's "Outing" is a really special event. A day of fly tying and story telling with Bud Heintz

We're returning to some tradition with this event, a day of fly tying with a nationally recognized expert. Past guest tiers have been well known west coast personalities Andy Burk and J. Fair. This time Bud Heintz, one of our own members and a nationally recognized fly tier, and winner of numerous awards for fly tying will hold a special "fly tying day"

for club members.

Bud has selected some of his favorite trout flies and will instruct how to tie them and tell how to fish them effectively and maybe throw in a few fish tales as well.

The club will furnish the tying materials and even a pizza lunch. Participants are asked to bring their fly tying tools and

pay a fee of \$20 for the cost of materials and the food. Due to the size of the room and the number of how many people Bud can assist, the event is limited to the first 15 people to sign up and pay the fee.

The club has reserved the boat house at Oak Grove park on Saturday, December 9th for the event with a start time of 9am and an ending time of 3pm.

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## Membership Update

By Bob Fujimura

Greetings fellow DFF members; it has been awhile since I wrote in the newsletter so here is a brief update. I greatly appreciated those members who took their time to send in their 2018 membership dues. For those who haven't yet, membership renewal fees were due in September and please send in your dues in soon.

Most members have done so already.

We gain several new members in the last two months. In September, Tom & Jeannie Powell of Acampo joined our club as well as Felix Tametreng of Stockton. This month, Donald Smith of Lodi and Don Keefover of Stockton entered our fishing community. I was glad to see Earl Summer and Jerry Neuburger taking

special efforts to help Don with learning our hobby and making him feel an active part of the club. Other members should follow their examples by helping our many new members who have joined the club this year. It has been a beautiful and productive fall for fly fishing; why not share some of your time helping a new member learn the sport that you love.

Conservation

## The Twin Tunnels Tide Is Starting To Ebb

*"I have many loves and Fly Fishing is among them; it brings peace and harmony to my being, which I can pass on to others."*

... Sue Kreutzer

October has been a momentous month in the ongoing efforts of Gov. Jerry Brown's attempt to build his twin tunnels. Despite Brown's reluctance to be transparent with major issues, the legislature needed specific information about the project. Assemblywoman Susan Eggman and Sen.

Louis Wolk worked hard so the Assembly and Senate would involve California's State Auditor. They were successful. On October 5th, Elaine Howle, State Auditor, wrote a letter to Gov. Brown, President pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the Assembly. The Auditor slammed what has transpired within the twin tunnel project.

The planning has taken 11 years to reach this point. As the Auditor pointed out, we are still with a highly flawed proposed project now called California's WaterFix.

As you recall after 9 years of planning, state water contractors, working with the Dept of Water Resources (DWR), came up with the document referred to as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). Despite its title it was not a conservation plan. It was just part of another attempt at a DWP water grab. Both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corp. of Engineers (ACE) shredded the 40,000 plus page document. In a 44 page critique, the EPA found nothing to recommend the BDCP. To replace the

*(Continued on page 4)*



*Elaine Howle, State Auditor*

BDCP, state water contractors, along with the DWR, have come up with the California WaterFix which has no pretense of being an environmental document. It's just another attempt to divert water from the Delta for southern agribusiness and southern urban use.

The Auditor has found many major flaws within the WaterFix. The real cost of the proposed conveyance has increased significantly from the \$17.1 billion Brown claims to be the cost of the project. Also, the DWR, water contractors, and other planners have no understanding of the unexpected complexity the Delta presents. They also have no viable solutions for the Delta's environmental problems. Howle pointed out that as of June of this year, \$280 million has been spent on a seriously flawed program.

She found the DWR violated state law in finding a replacement for the Program Manager. DWR's replacement, the Hallmark Group (HG), without ascertaining the organization's qualifications. DRW cannot prove they even evaluated Hallmark. It should come as no surprise that Hallmark has been incompetent in their duties. And their fee has risen from its original \$4.1 million to \$13.8 million. DRW seems to have no qualms in spending taxpayers money due to their incompetent ability manage projects.

Finally, the most damning fact the State Auditor found was the DWR has yet to

complete neither an economic nor financial analysis to prove the WaterFix is a viable financial project. In other words, the DWR cannot justify the WaterFix should ever be built. They have no clue on the reality of the true cost. Nor have they maintained important program management documents for the project. It is becoming more and more difficult to give the DWR statement's any credence.

### The GAO Investigating Illegal Delta-Tunnels Funding Fraud

Two months ago, it was reported that the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) illegally spent over \$84 million to help fund the planning of the BDCP and WaterFix programs. This month six House Democrats asked the Government Accounting Office's Inspector General to issue a legal opinion on the USBR's illegally spending millions of taxpayer dollars to subsidize private agribusiness and southern water districts. By law, Westlands Water District, water contractors, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), were required to pay for the planning of the tunnel project. However, the USBR secretly paid the cost with taxpayer funds.

The six legislators who asked for this investigation also explained how this scam worked. Washington is a revolving door. People work for the government, then private industry, then go back to government service. In this situation the key player is David Bernhardt. He is a prime example of the revolving door in Washington. Bernhardt served as a top Interior official under the GW Bush administration, then became a Westlands Water District lobbyist, and is now back as the US Dept. Interior's Deputy Secretary. He is a key player in the current scandal and is how WWD worked this scam.

One would think that Westlands et. al. must repay the funds they received illegally. However, the Inspector General of the GAO said, "There are no plans to recoup these millions of dollars in taxpayer funds that were spent without authorization or rational." Once again, Westlands has successfully scammed us, this time for over \$84 million. And, once again no one is going to prison for fraud or stealing millions of taxpayer dollars. This is a classic example of how we continue to subsidize California's agribusiness.

### Water Agencies Cast Votes On the Future of the Twin Tunnels

Last month, state water agencies cast their votes pro or con for the Delta Twin Tunnels project. As a surprise to no one, the MWD voted to participate in the \$17.1 billion project. Had MWD voted "No" it would have killed the project. It's difficult to understand the water district enthusiastically supporting the project. They will not receive more water than they receive currently. Originally, agribusiness was to pay 20% of the cost and receive 80% of the water, while MWD received 20% of the water and paid 80% of the project's cost. Since the tunnel projects inception, MWD has been a strong supporter of the concept.

A major surprise to many was Westlands Water District (WWD) "No" vote. In the last several years, Wetlands farmers have become more knowledgeable about the increasing probability of less water being available in the immediate future, the certainty that Gov. Brown has vastly understated the tunnels project cost, and the fact that they will realize only \$1 dollar in profit for every \$4 spent. They also did their own estimates of the tunnels cost. Brown's estimate does not include the cost of maintenance or operation which WWD would have to pay. They came up with a construction, maintenance and operation cost in excess of \$60 billion. As they said, "It just doesn't pencil out." Hence the "No" vote.

Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) support for the WaterFix was tepid at best. Some members voted to support the project but for far less money than was requested. Their attitude seems to reflect the fact there is no viable financial plan for the project. They have no clue what will be required of them. Only 48.5% voted full support.

Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) voted tentatively to join the California WaterFix. However, their vote was hardly a ringing endorsement of their support. Although their board of directors voted 7-0 pro WaterFix, the vote came with 7 conditions. Among the most glaring was that their water must never be jeopardized or given to agribusiness. That is a major provision in the district's support. Other major concerns include cost and equity, and they will keep negotiating to achieve the best deal for the district.

(Continued from page 4)

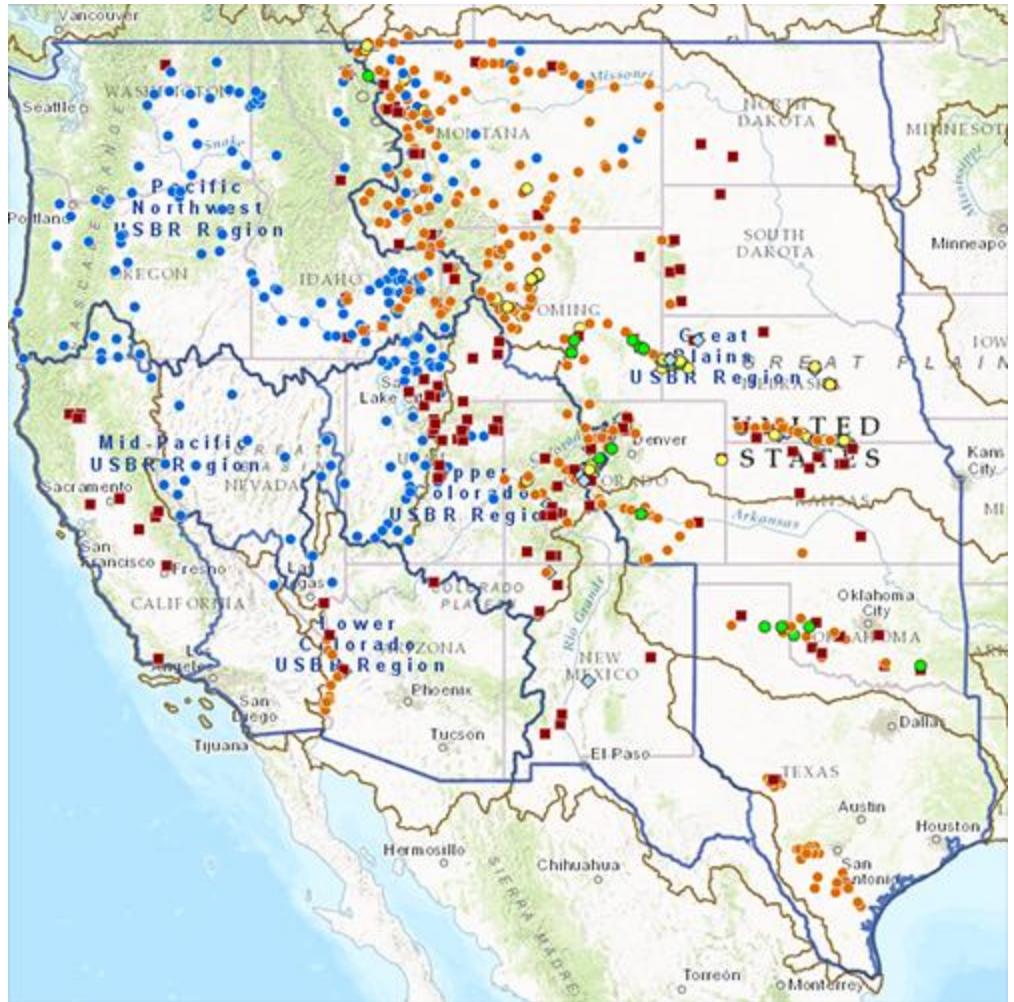
Their vote is not binding unless all 7 of their provisions at met. The probability of that happening is unlikely.

Our Secretary for Natural Resources, John Laird, is a pro-Brown, WaterFix advocate who tried to put a positive spin on the votes saying he commended the SCVWD's board for their support and that he is pleased they see the value in the WaterFix. One wonders how he could come to his conclusions. This vote has caused additional confusion and is not an endorsement of the WaterFix.

A key point to remember is that after the voting, the WaterFix has less than 40% of the \$17 billion needed to begin construction. And despite Brown's promise that only users will pay for the project, he has approached the federal agencies for financial support. However, President Trump has made it clear that he will not support the California's WaterFix.

California's WaterFix is now on life support.

Ron Forbes  
Conservation Chair



*Bureau of Reclamation projects in the west*

## Election of Board of Directors at this month's meeting

And if you haven't already,  
please pay your annual dues!

*"Three candles that illuminate ever darkness: truth, nature, knowledge."*

.. an Irish proverb

While at the club's Bridgeport outing last week, I drove to town to talk with my wife via cell phone. When I opened my cell phone, I found a surprising text from her. Westlands Water District (WWD) Board of Directors had voted against being part of Gov. Brown's California's Water Fix/Twin Tunnels Scheme. Their board voted 7-1 against the project be-

cause they felt their cost to participate does not pencil out economically. Westlands BOD feel they can't afford their \$3 billion portion of the \$17.1 billion project given the probability of future water availability. Historically, WWD has problems "putting their money where their mouth is." Their action has thrown a major wrench into the gears of the project. Has their action killed the Twin Tunnels

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