



Rx Fly Fishing!

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August 2015

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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September's Outing and August's meeting

The date for the outing to Bridgeport is being changed at the request of long time outing leader, Don Gillett. The new dates will be September 23 to September 27. Don says the traditional potluck will be held on Saturday the 26th. More information about the outing will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

With the change to the outing calendar, the Board meeting will be moved back to September 16 from September 23.

Finally, we have general meeting at 7:00 PM at Oak Grove Park on August 12. Larry Schmidt will be discussing water safety, especially in float tubes and pontoons. Hope to see you there.

Membership Report

Hope that all DFF members are enjoying their summer and getting out to do some fly fishing. Just a reminder that August is the last month of the 2014-2015 DFF membership year and that annual membership renewal dues are due by August 31th. Renewal forms and information will be sent to you with your August newsletter. Advance payment is gladly appreciated and early

dues really help the club officers to plan and fund all of the activities and conservation support that our organization has been providing each year. If you have any questions on your membership status or renewal information, please contact Membership Chair Bob Fujimura by either phone (209-339-0683) or email (deltaflyfishers@gmail.com).

The 2015 new member recruitment incentive program is also over at

the end of August. The program awards any current member a \$5 discount credit toward their 2015-2016 renewal dues if they refer a new DFF member. We have five members who earned their \$5 discount and you can too if you help sign up a new member by August 31. Those helpful members are:

Michael Sousa
Larry Mettler
Steve VonBerg
Ron Forbes
Mike Nicholson

Please show your appreciation to these individuals who took time to refer their friends or co-workers.

Calendar

August 12, General Membership Meeting, Oak Grove Park

August 19, BOD Meeting, Oak Grove Park

September 7, Labor Day

September 9, General Membership meeting, John R. Williams School

September 16, DFF Board Meeting

September 23-27 Bridgeport Outing



A Different Visit to Lake Davis

Bob and Jean Fujimura

We have attended the annual DFF outing to Lake Davis for several years now and have enjoyed the company of our fellow members and friends. In the years following the CDFW's final chemical treatment of the lake, we learned the basic techniques of stillwater fly fishing in one of California's beautiful settings. Although the average size of trout in the lake has steadily increased, the recent drought years has made fishing success more difficult for us and others in our club. Due these challenges, we sought out professional help this year.

We participated in a 3-day Lake Davis workshop with local guides Jon Baiocchi and Rob Anderson. We had previous experiences with

both Jon and Rob – they were very knowledgeable and personable instructors and guides. We and about ten others fishers camped together and received group and individual instruction as well as our lunch and dinner meals. They both stressed the less common technique of stalking fish from the shoreline and introduced us to evening fishing for the newly established Hexagena mayfly hatch. Although most of the anglers in this workshop were advanced skilled fishers and returning clients, both Jon and Rob were very generous with their time with Jean who was probably the least experienced fisher and the only woman in the group.

And their time really paid off for Jean's success. Despite the tough

fishing conditions for most anglers in this group and for the DFF members who were fishing at the same time, Jean was the first person in the mornings to land a fish and out fished most of these anglers. We always heard about how fun it was sight-fishing for Lake Davis trout but it was memorable to experience how effective it could be first-hand. Jon and Rob spent most their time between instructions to find where pods of trout were feeding near shore. Rob and his partner made some fantastic meals for us. The evening Hex hatches were very cool and not as difficult to fish compared to other well-known locations. We thoroughly enjoyed our workshop and felt it was outstanding learning event for us.



Jean with one of several fish that she landed... photo by Rob Anderson



Jean Fujimura with a fish on... photo by Jon Baiocchi



Rob Anderson and Jean hold another fish caught by sight-fishing... photo by Bob Fujimura



Lake Davis from base camp at Grasshopper Flat campground... photo by Bob Fujimura

Conservation: DFF has been there when it counted

"Nothing makes a fish larger than almost being caught."

Anonymous

What's wrong with this picture?

Late last month I got a call from Barbara Barrigan Parella of Restore the Delta (RTD) asking for help with the state's upcoming Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) /California Water Fix (CWF) meeting in Sacramento. The meeting was in a format in which neither presentations nor testimony were allowed. It was the state's attempt to gather support for Gov. Brown's Twin Tunnels Project after the failure of the original BDCP. RTD wanted to make its opposition public and had bus loads people from Stockton and Discovery Bay, representing the Delta, at both meetings in Sacramento and Walnut Grove.

Restore the Delta was asking a number to people to express their opposition the Twin Tunnels on video from a variety of different views. These people expressed their economic, agricultural, and environmental concerns. The state, federal government, and other groups will be presented with the video to show their opposition to the Tunnel Plan. I was asked to talk about the current devastation of our fisheries and the possible extinction of our fish if BDCP/ CWF happens.

What's wrong with this picture? I had to be asked to explain what's going on with our fisheries. Why? Restore the Delta is getting little help from those with the most to lose from the loss of our fish. The Northern California Council Fed-

eration of Fly Fishers (NCCFFF), striper fishing clubs, Trout Unlimited, CalTrout, and fly fishing clubs are not doing enough to prevent the loss of our fisheries. As we face the possible extinction of much of our salmon fisheries, we hear little from our commercial salmon groups. Over ten years ago, Dan McDaniel asked me to join him as director in NCCFFF. Dan had been president for several years and asked Rob Ferroggiaro to be his conservation chair. Ferroggiaro did an outstanding job and established NCCFFF as a positive force in the protection of our fisheries. Rob was followed by Mark Rockwell. I had the pleasure of working with Mark for over 7 years and was astounded with the outstanding work he did both statewide and nationally. What's happened? Today we see no support from those with the most to lose. After our last Board of Directors meeting, comments were made that we should just be a "fishing club" and not do anything proactive in protection of our fish. Obviously, I disagree. Jerry Neuburger wrote an outstanding letter to the Board explaining what we did and who we are as a club to prevent East Bay Municipal Utility

District's actions that would have destroyed the fisheries in the Mokelumne River. This is a portion of Jerry's letter:

As to the Delta Fly Fishers just being a fishing club, I believe history will show otherwise. Up until recently, the Delta Fly Fishers have been at the forefront of conservation efforts when compared to the other 40 plus fly fishing clubs in Northern California. Going back to the mid 80's, Bill Jennings, a club member and owner of The Tobacco Leaf, a fly and cigar shop in Stockton, became upset about the conditions of our fisheries, especially the Mokelumne, where salmon numbers had crashed to as few as a dozen fish returning. He and Bob Biaocchi, formed the California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) and offered themselves to the Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers, (NCCFFF) a regional non-government organization (NGO) made up of the 40 plus NorCal clubs belonging to the Federation of Fly Fishers, a national organization. Of course, DFF was one

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of these clubs. To combat the decline of the fishery and at the same time preserve their 501c3 status, DFF formed the Committee to-Save the Mokelumne. The Committee raised the funds and CSPA took on EBMUD, Woodbridge Irrigation and DFG. Yes, the Department of Fish and Game. They had done NOTHING to bring back the fishery. CSPA dragged them to the table and after six years, a Joint Settlement Agreement was negotiated between CSPA, DFG, WID and EBMUD. the JSA has been responsible for the revival of the fishery with over 16,000 salmon returning in good years. NOTE: It was DFF, the Committee to Save the Mokelumne and CSPA that brought the changes about, not DFG, who were pretty much AWOL during the whole show.

It can be said, that because of the JSA, EBMUD has turned into one of the very few water agencies who has demonstrated a real care for the fisheries on the river and has gone far beyond the minimums of the JSA in restoring the river's fisheries.

DFF has continued to support CSPA annually and has on many occasions, endorsed and approved actions taken by CSPA. In addition, until about three years ago, DFF was an active member of the NCCFFF in its efforts to preserve and restore fisheries throughout the state.

Four years ago, The Coalition for a Sustainable Delta, (actually a group of west San Joaquin water districts including Westlands and Kern County Irrigation) in an attempt to divert attention from

greatly increased pumping from the delta and it's effect on delta fisheries, tried to increase limits and decrease the size of take-able striped bass, in some cases, asking for limits of 25 fish and a reduced size of 12 inches. They blamed the decline on the delta smelt and the chinook salmon on the predation of stripers. Again, CSPA, along with DFF, the NCCFFF and other fishing clubs, took up the defense of the striped bass, even though DFG had rolled over on the issue and did not attempt to block the change in regulations either through negotiation or at the California Fish and Game Commission hearings. In fact, DFG RECOMMENDED THE CHANGES THAT THE WATER DISTRICTS SOUGHT AT THE HEARING!!

At the hearing, CSPA, DFF, the people from Striperfest, the NCCFFF and various other fishing clubs defended the current status of the regulations. The result: The commissioners rejected DFG's recommendations for changes in the regulations allowing increased take and reduced size. In fact, the chair of the commission suggested if possible, that the striped bass be recognized as a California citizen, rather than an introduced species.

The most recent effort at protecting our fisheries on the Mokelumne, MokeWISE, had DFF present in the form of Ron Forbes and myself. Because DFF is such a small organization, with no paid staff, it was impossible for us to propose significant improvements to the fisheries where we were ready and able to seek the grants necessary to carry these improvements out. The other organizations present, CSPA, the



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| John Highsmith | 209-369-3251 |
| Secretary | |
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| Jason Stapleton | 209-334-9201 |
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| Jason Stapleton | 209-334-9201 |
| Steve VonBerg | 209-327-6161 |
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Committees

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Bob McMillan Trout Bout | |
| Catfish Derby (June) | |
| Earl Summers | 209-957-6756 |
| Conservation/NCCFFF | |
| Ron Forbes | 209-368-5767 |
| Education | |
| Fishing Mentor Program | |
| Membership | |
| Bob Fujimura | 209-339-0683 |
| Outings | |
| Steve VonBerg, Gil Parker | |
| Programs | |
| Al Smatsky | 209-368-9261 |
| Bob Sousa | 209-368-2683 |
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| John Keagy | |
| Publicity | |
| Steve VonBerg | 209-327-6161 |
| Raffles | |
| Vacant | |
| Trout Bout (November) | |
| Charlie Reames | 209-642-6704 |
| Webmaster/Newsletter | |
| Jerry Neuburger | 209-369-5752 |

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Any correspondence regarding this publication should be directed to:
The Delta Fly Fishers Inc.
PO Box 77862
Stockton, CA 95207-7862

Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited, the Foothill Conservancy, and several other organizations, while supportive of efforts in the fisheries area, again were lacking in manpower and expertise, to put any complex proposals forward. “

Delta Fly Fishers are continuing

our tradition with conservation of our fisheries. The times and the situations have changed. Today we work with larger groups like Restore the Delta and the California Sportfishing Alliance to protect our fish. Years ago there was a CEO who was upset with one of his directors who constantly op-

posed and company's traditions and policies. Finally the CEO responded." Either lead or follow, just don't stand in the way." Delta Fly Fishers will continue with our conservation traditions.

Ron Forbes

Conservation Chair

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

News: IFFF 50th Anniversary

"The International Federation of Fly Fishers is celebrating their 50th year anniversary and hoping you will join them in the celebration in Bend Oregon. The Foundation (IFFF) about conservation and education in the sport of fly fishing, while focusing on fly tying and casting certification.

When most people learn about fly fishing, they have an opportunity to teach a youth, family member or friend. If you could teach or expose one young person to fly fishing, you would be preserving our sport and the IFFF mission. This year we have 80-plus workshops where you can learn everything you need to know about the sport. More than 100 tyers will gather in the exhibit hall during the event, including some from Japan and Iceland. Attendees will see fishing demonstrations, exhibitors, and free programs that will provide information about IFFF's history and what the future holds for our sport. Come celebrate with us and enjoy the fun and fellowship that the Fair has to offer". Sincere thanks, Philip Greenlee, President/CEO.

The event will be held at The Riverhouse Convention Center Exhibit Hall and will have 48 ex-

hibit spaces for fly fishing retailers, artists, travel services and other companies that cater to the fly fishing lifestyle. They will also be hosting a museum booth and authors signing booth, and a photo contest with winners published in the Autumn 2015-- Winter 2016 issue of *FLYFISHER* magazine. For detailed information regarding contest rules and instructions for photo submission go to www.fedflyfishers.org

On a side note, if you can find one, be sure and get a copy of Spring-Summer 2015 *FLYFISHER*, it's their 50th Anniversary issue that will be worth more than a "22 incher" in time.

CONWAY RANCH - Mono County Enhancement Program (trophy trout previously known as Alpers)

According to the written report to the board of supervisors as part of the Conway Ranch Update and Workshop session, Tony Dublino, Environmental Services Manager, said Desert springs Hatcher in Oregon which supplies trophy trout to the county and to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, has "expressed an interest in developing a 'recirculating aquaculture system' at Conway Ranch" after learning of emerging technology in recirculating water systems, and have expressed an interest in de-

veloping one at Conway Ranch. A recirculating aquaculture system, however, could reduce necessary water quantity because aquaculture water is treated and re-circulated instead of flowing through (as has been done historically). Also, Dublino said, it would allow for strict control of disease and contaminants, which are significant issues for a flow-through system that is subject to the water quality vagaries of Wilson Creek. "Until recently, such a system did not appear economically feasible, but in light of recent developments it appears that a request for a proposal for (such a system) at Conway Ranch may in fact receive some response."

SENATE BILL-345, legislation introduced in February for the Sport-fishing Stimulus Act of 2015 (Berryhill, R-Twain Harte) unanimously passed by the CA State Senate June 4, 2015. It will establish a 12-month fishing license from date of purchase, create a junior fishing license at a reduced price of \$15 (not special permits and will allow charitable organizations to use fish caught by anglers for their functions, and not subject the charities to fines if an event exceeds possession limits.

DFW reported 2015 stocking would be down by 40% due to

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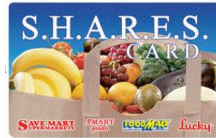
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budgetary problems within the department through the legislature. Stocking has been done every week since early June but that will change by Labor Day as reported. Desert Springs out of southern Oregon is still planting the trophy trout for their Enhancement Program.

CalTrans is still working on US395 along Mono Lake to improve safety for the traveling public by minimizing rocks falling from the steep adjacent slopes. Be prepared for daily lane closures with delays no longer than 20 minutes; Monday thru Thursday from 5am to 8pm and Fridays 6am to 3pm with flaggers and a pilot car.

Remember to check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water concerning limits, size, and other restrictions.

ROCK CREEK LAKE road reconstruction will trigger summer-long delays up to 30 minutes and possibly longer but should shorten as they finish the bridge slab work which means replacing large sections of the bridge using heavy equipment which will be done the 3rd week of July, but no report on their progress due to the heavy

rain-hail-snow that fell in May. No fishing report!

CROWLEY LAKE is seeing a slight algae bloom in Hilton and McGee Bays. Fish remain deep, 17-22 feet. Sacramento perch fry are now present along the shorelines and weed beds. Browns will target these sources of protein from this point forward. Try Hilton and if no luck head to McGee, both can be very good in around 16-21 feet. Trout are concentrated in these areas and gorging on chironomids just outside the submerged weed lines. The lake level continues to rise slowly, and the weed lines are growing out to 16 feet all over the lake. Water clarity is very good for this time of summer. The damsel fly migration and emergence has begun, it's on! Try all types of midges, it's all wide open, especially Lowe's Broken back #16 and 18, even the BB dark zebra or long shank crystal zebra midge as your dropper in deep water. Be careful as you net fish as some are spitting blood from their gills which is caused by mineral deposits that attach to the gill filaments due to the high alkalinity levels in the water. Let the fish resuscitate before lifting it out of the water, or don't lift it out.

Take care of the resource, if you enjoy this lake. Talk to the Crowley Lake store, Kent Rianda of the Trout Fitter or Tom Lowe of Sierra Drifters for more information on protecting the fish.

UPPER OWENS is fair with planted trout moving upstream into deeper pools due to high temps. Conditions are much better and you can get into some browns on caddis, Parachute Adams, Stimulator #16, Elk Hair Caddis #16-18. Nymphs: Zebra midge #18-20, red copper John #14-18, Prince nymph #14-18, red San Juan worm #12, flashback hares ear #14-18, and a rubber leg flashback pheasant tail.

CONVICT LAKE is always heavily stocked by the resort and reports have been fairly good, but again due to the weather conditions it can be up and down, so fish deep with a full sink and possibly a weighted fly. Try the inlet and outlets and keep your line tight should a "Desert Springs Beauty" cruise the area. Be sure and look under the bridge. Dry Flies: Adams, Female Adams, Cutter's Caddis, Elk Hair Caddis, Stimulators, Black/Red Ants, Si-

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erra Bright Dot, Royal Coachman and Hoppers. Streamers: Wooly Bugger (black, brown, olive, or green), Matuka (black, brown, olive), Hornberg, and Muddler Minnows. Wet Flies(Nymphs): Prince Nymph, Flashback Pheasant Tail, Hare's Ear, Zebra Midge (red and black), Copper John (red and copper) and San Juan Worm (brown or red).

HOT CREEK flume is at 29cfs, 11cfs more than last month with clear water. Knowing how to throw a good drift (short) to get into fish is essential but mainly look for slots in the weeds. Some dark or natural looking caddis in the afternoons. Trout are mostly taking small mayflies with good numbers but keep them riding high in the foam. There are a few sections that can be fished with a dry dropper nymph rig. Also, hoppers are starting to move in and a stimulator has a good profile for this. Tom Loe's high-vis caddis works very well. Dead drifted zebbras, scuds, flashback PT's or Bird's next bead had size 18 for droppers. Dries: Try Parachute Adams size 20, Extended body blue winged olive 20-22 and Grif-fith's Gnats. Nymphs taking fish are WD-40 #20-22 Grey RS2 emergers, #18-20, Tungsten Psycho 18-20, olive Micro-mayflies #18, Zebra Midge 20-22, and Frostbite Midge 20-22. Streamers - very iffy.

MAMMOTH BASIN SAN JOAQUIN flow is low but still has great spots holding trout. Just below the "Falls" should bring in some nice fish. I'm planning a short jaunt down there in 3 weeks to test some patterns in a couple favorite spots. Stay with top water flies and terrestrials that are very

floaty (is that a word?).

JUNE LAKE water level is holding and seems to not be down as previously reported due to all the rain, hail and snow the backcountry received over the past couple weeks. Use a fast sinking line and run your streamers down around 20 or 30 feet with buggers and leech patterns with soft hackle droppers should get you some fish if you get them deep.

GULL LAKE - Gary put in some really nice trophies on July 16th, and another load is coming on August 6th so bring your best streamers, buggers and a dropper near the reeds. Check in at the shop and see what's hot.

SILVER was stocked last Thursday with 400 pounds of large rainbows from Desert Springs of Oregon averaging 3 pounds. Fishing was good overall considering the up and down temperatures and weather. Always hit the smaller areas of the inlet and outlet for browns cruising for larger morsels to whet their appetites. Lake is only about 9" down and has come up in the last 6 weeks due to the rain-hair-more rain.

RUSH CREEK: No report on flows or fly action., but if it is typical of the last two summers, try some small attractor patterns, and I would use a blue dun dry, small olive elk hair caddis, small orange wulff's, and a Sierra Bright Dot. Give it a try you have nothing to lose but a glorious afternoon in the Eastern Sierra.

GRANT LAKE is extremely low but still a lot of water to fish on the east side so try the south shore (drive) or the inlet (park and walk) for trophy's cruising for smaller fish. Check with Ernie's or the Grant Lake Marina for current

info.

LUNDY LAKE is has risen and the fishing is great. County trophy program hit with a splash and reports are good from tubing using buggers, black, brown, dark olive along with Prince nymphs, Zug bugs, olive bird's nest and the rubber legged flashback Prince.

LITTLE VIRGINIA - BIG VIRGINIA & TRUMBLE LAKE

Water levels are great, and is holding at a normal level. Big Virginia is down about 3" making it difficult to move boats in and out unless you use the boat ramp. Upper lakes are in great shape and I didn't see much of a drop when I went to Summit Lake. Fly anglers are using beetles and ants on top as well as burgundy/olive seal buggers, olive cone-head leeches, soft hackles and prince nymphs. Some dry fly action in early am and late evening if there's a ripple on the water. We've had mayflies, dragonflies, midges, moths, ants and hoppers have started their ascent up the hill and should arrive in about a week as the weather warms so try some mini leeches, matukas soft hackles and zug bugs

GREEN CREEK water levels are good with a normal outflow from all the lakes above.

EAST WALKER The East is still running at 38 cfs, the water temperatures are still good and the fish are still seem healthy and strong. The fishing has been a bit tough but if you get your casts and drifts in the right places you should be able to sack a few nice fish. The section below the bridge on hwy 182 as well as the Nevada side of the river are reported as the most productive areas. There are fish hanging out on the deeper pools as

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well as underneath overhanging willows and some are hugging undercut banks. Be stealthy and look for fish in-close before you get in the water. Patterns to try include Fox's Poopah, buckskin caddis, San Juan worm, tungsten death, silver streak, rainbow warrior, chubby Chernobyl, madam X and dark lord, woolly buggers, WD-40, white Zebra midge, Rainbow Warrior, Micro-mayflies, stimulators, rubber leg stimulator and Chubby Chernobyl.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR
Check with Ken's Sporting Good

and Jeff at the marina for flies, boat rentals and current fishing info. Unfortunately the shore fishing is pretty slow so you'll need to be out in a boat, kayak or tube but fly anglers are doing well with hoppers, ants, humpy's, royal wulff's, prince nymphs, pheasant tails, Zug bugs and hare's ears. Look for foam lines, pools, deep curves and some runs are deceptive, so be alert.

KIRMAN LAKE - Ken's Sporting Goods said it is still pretty tough with most anglers reporting only one or no fish for their ef-

forts. It sounds like the water is very low and there's a LOT of scud in the water and it seems the fish are just gorging themselves on the naturals. Throwing one fly patterns amongst literally thousands of live scuds hurts your odds of getting bit. Hopefully later in the season when the water cools and the scuds become less active, this should help the angling considerably.

See you on the water, CJ
(156)

Rx Flyfishing!

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P. O. Box 77862
Stockton, CA 95207-7862
www.deltaflyfishers.com