



Rx Fly Fishing!

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Stockton, California

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President Gil's message for July

Summer is officially here. I hope everyone is working to conserve water. In addition, the intense heat of our infamous valley summer has begun. And as if it were a light switch, and the fire season has started up and down the state. The fishing is still out there waiting for us, it is just necessary to seek it out. Pay attention to the news and the areas of high risk. Plan your trips and carry plenty of water. Stay hydrated! And be safe.

ways seems to be perceived as as a Given! Water Safety, is kind of an overstatement of the obvious. Of course, we all plan to be safe. The true reality is, when we are at the moment of risk, is really the first real beginning thoughts of safety. When we are confronted with a decision should I do this right now, or should I give it some thought and consideration before I jump into the risk? Larry plans to give us some things to think about, as we enter and exit, and while we are on the water. I am very high on this meeting, Please make a plan to be there.

A lot of members are heading to the Northwest for extended stays at some of the most productive trout fishing rivers and streams in the entire United States. I myself have a bucket list trip plan for eastern Idaho and southwestern Montana. In the two and a half weeks, I plan to get a small taste of the following rivers; So. Fork of the Snake, Henry's Fork, the Gallatin, the Madison, and the Yellowstone. That's the first week, second

Calendar

July 4--Independence Day

July--No General Meeting or BOD

August 12, General Membership Meeting, Oak Grove Park

August 19, BOD Meeting, Oak Grove Park

July is vacation month for the Club. No General meeting or Board meeting is scheduled for the month of July. No fly casting or Fly of the Month classes are scheduled. So you may not hear from us until end of July or early August. As members, it is on you to find out about scheduled outings in July and August.

Our August Meeting will be led by longtime member and current Board Member, Larry Schmidt, on water safety as it relates to wading, tubing and pontooning! Water Safety al-



week we will fish the upper part of the Missouri, the Beaverhead, the Ruby, the Jefferson, and the Big Hole. If the plan holds true to the plan, then we will exit by following the Salmon River on Hwy 93 back through Idaho. I realize it is too much water for the time span, but this trip will lay the ground work for my next trip. I will take more time and go fewer places. My intent is to journal my trip so hopefully I can share it with you at the end of the year. I will be off the grid so to speak and may

not be seen until late August.

I was very proud and excited to see our June BBQ go so well this year. We had a great turn out on a day with so much consistent morning rain. But the faucet shut off and we had an exceptional evening of good food and good company and a really beautiful sunset.

Lastly, in the months of August and September, our club will be accepting nominations of officers and board members. Those of you

who are looking to get more involved with our club please step up and ask the Question," How can I get more involved with Delta Fly Fishers?" Any current officer or board member will be glad to help you get the answers to your questions! If a position is not what your looking for but rather a way to help and assist events or outings, then, that too, will be welcomed.

Hope to see you on the water.
Your President, Gil.

Beardsley Afterbay Outing cancelled, Water Safety Class scheduled for August

There will be no scheduled club meeting, outings, or events in July. The July 11th outing to Beardsley Afterbay has been canceled due expected high water temperatures. The next general members meeting will be held on August 12 at the OAK GROVE PARK NATURE CENTER instead of our usual J.R.

William Elementary School. The August program speaker is DFF's Larry Schmidt who will be teaching personal watercraft safety tips. Fishing from these crafts has some risks so learn about how to fish safely. Seating is limited so please arrive early to ensure your seating.

Membership report

By Bob Fujimura

We continue to gain new members to join our longstanding members. Our newest members are John Walsh of Linden and Bob Selders of Brentwood. Both John and Bob are eager to learn about our sport and have requested club mentors. If you see them at upcoming club events please introduce yourself and help them get integrated into our club.

Getting our newer members to become active and sustaining members is one of our biggest long-term challenges for our club. Our older longstanding members are becoming less active or unable to participate or lead in the club's activities and events. Typically, a high number of our new members

drop out of our club within three years of joining. Our club officers are working on attracting and retaining more new members. But the general membership can help toward these goals by making our club by promoting our club to non-members and actively supporting new members to either learn this sport or socialize with our membership.

Early reminder that our 2015 membership year will end on August 31 and early renewal of your annual membership dues help with the running of our club. Prompt payment of our membership dues provides the funds to accurately plan for our annual events

and late payments are costly to administer or pursue.

Lastly, we hope you have a very pleasant Fourth of July holiday



Conservation: The Drought and Whirling Disease

Men and fish are alike. They both get in trouble when they open their mouths.

— Jimmy D. Moore

June's environmental and fisheries sources were full of reports about the state of California's fisheries. None of these reports were good. Drought mismanagement is not only destroying the Delta, it is now threatening our trout and salmon populations. For those who follow water issues it is frustrating that state and federal water agencies can never seem to get the picture right and continue to put our state's fisheries and environment at risk. In Bill Jennings's (Executive Director of California Sportfishing Protection Alliance) last testimony to the State Water Board (SWB), he noted California has had ten multi-year drought events in the last 100 years. These events lasted for 41 years of the last century. Jennings pointed out that California has less than 50% of our normal snow pack and rainfall more that 40% of the time. How can these agencies pretend to be shocked by something that occurs 41% of the time? The reason is that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) know they can consistently violate state and federal laws with impunity and never be held accountable by the SWB. Jennings put it best when he said, "This current crisis exists because of egregious malfeasance. If the SWB were a medical doctor practicing in California, not only would they be sued for malpractice, they would also have

their license removed as being unfit for practice. Now, because of their continuing malfeasance, our trout and salmon will pay the price.

Locally, we are starting to see the effects of warming water temperatures. The Delta Fly Fisher's trip to Beardsley Afterbay, hosted by Mike Nicholson, has been canceled. Mike fished the Beardsley earlier this month and it is felt that water temperatures will be too warm for catch and release fishing without fatally stressing the fish.

The BOR has miscalculated the amount of water to be released at Lake Shasta this summer with their use of "faulty models" They now feel there will be 20% less water available to release from the dam. In 2014 the winter-run chinook population was destroyed by high water temperatures. It may happen again this year. Chuck Bonham, the director of California's Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) said, "There is a legitimate threat to survival of the species. If we see a similar high mortality rate for a second year in a row, you're talking about a not-before-seen ecological crisis for

that group of salmon.

In the 1990's there were "tens of thousands" of Central Valley chinook spring-run salmon in the north state. Now there are less 2,000 salmon in Butte Creek and less than 400 in two smaller creeks. PG&E decided to cut off the cold-water flow to repair a facility on Butte Creek. PG&E's stopping the cold-water flow has killed 277 salmon. The Central Valley spring run Chinook's are on both the state and federal endangered species list. In three days PG&E killed 1/10 of the remaining population of the Central Valley spring-run Chinook. We are still facing our warmest temperatures of the summer. And again, once again, poor water management and corporate profit may cause the extinction of another species.

In California we have 22 fish hatcheries. Our hatcheries were started in the gold rush era because of the damage caused by mining to our waterways and fisheries. Nine of the hatcheries are for salmon and steelhead and 13 of the hatch-

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eries are for keeping our lakes, rivers, and streams stocked with recreational fish. In 2014, California sold 1.78 million fishing licenses. Because of the ongoing water problems, this year there will have to be major planting cuts in the stocking program. In 2008 CDFW stocked 4.6 million pounds of fish. This year the number of fish planted will decrease to 1.6 million pounds. And instead of the usual "half-pounders", the fish will be smaller and there will be about 65% fewer fish to catch. It's not going to be a good for trout fishing in California.

Because of the drought and warmer water temperatures, CDFW announced that for the second time they will have to evacuate fish from both the Nimbus and American river hatcheries. BOR feels that water temperatures will reach lethal levels for both trout and salmon in August. The American River Hatchery started stocking rainbow and brown trout earlier this year. This includes fingerlings that would normally be held until they were of catchable size. The planting will continue until the middle of this July. The new building at the American River Hatchery uses water chillers, water filters and ultraviolet sterilizers. Unfortunately, it can only hold a small number of fish and none of those in the raceways. The 330,000 steelhead at the Nimbus will be relocated to the Feather River Hatchery and held during the warm months. When the water cools, they will be returned to Nimbus to grow and imprint. Because the plantings will probably only continue until the middle of July, there will not be fish available in the fall and win-

ter. Recreational fishing is expected to decline as summer progresses.

Another Disease Is Destroying California's Trout: Whirling Disease

Last month's newsletter talked about 100% of fingerlings in the Klamath River Basin being infected with the parasite that causes gill rot. Unfortunately, now we have an even greater threat to our trout and salmon fisheries. In May, it was discovered that the Darrah Springs and Shasta Hatcheries are infected with the parasite that causes whirling disease. The parasite, *Myxobolus cerebralis*, is a protozoan and affects juvenile trout and salmon. Whirling disease causes both skeletal and neurological damage to the fish by destroying cartilage and bone in the skull and spinal cord. Once infected, the fish swim in a corkscrew, whirling motion. The mortality rate of the fingerlings is approaches 90%. Those that do survive are deformed by the parasite living in their cartilage and bone. The fish hosts the parasite until its death, and the parasite is again released into the water where it infects more fish.

During annual testing, the parasite was found at the Darrah Springs Hatchery. Unfortunately, fish from an infected raceway had just been transferred to Shasta Hatchery. After this discovery, both hatcheries have been quarantined since May 15th. Stafford Lehr, a DWF branch chief, said that for the last 25 years, annual testing has had negative results. Lehr said that all the 14,000 pounds of infected broodstock from the pond at



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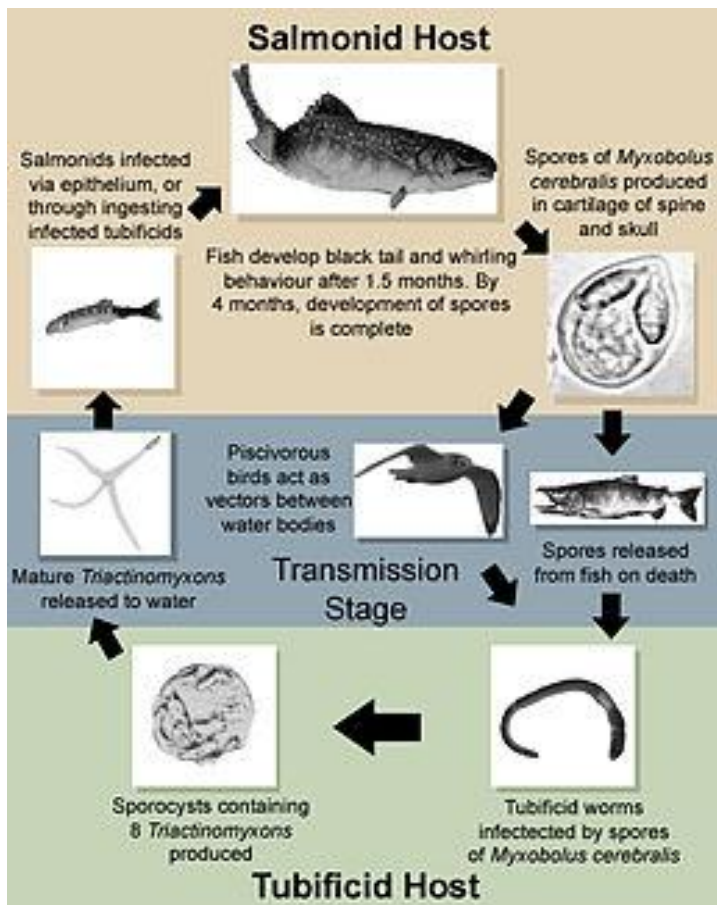
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Shasta and 5,500 pounds of infected trout from Darrah Springs were destroyed. There are 3 million trout at both hatcheries. If infection of both hatcheries has occurred, those three million fish will also have to be destroyed.. Extensive testing is continuing at both facilities. Both Darrah Spring, in the Battle Creek watershed, and the Shasta Hatchery flow into the lower Sacramento River. Some fish-eating birds can transfer the disease and river otter can carry the parasite in their fur. As I have been writing this article, I have received an update that the Hot Creek Hatchery has also found to be infected with whirling disease. Since the Hot Creek Hatchery is in the Owens River drainage, that river is now infected with the parasite. It's estimated that that to rid Darrah Springs of the parasite, it will cost \$400,000 and take 3-4 years. If the testing is positive for the parasite at both Shasta and Darrah Springs, a decision may be made to close all 3 hatcheries to rid them of the disease. Fisherman east of the Sierra's are also experiencing a 50% reduction in planted trout this year. If CDFW decide to close these 3 hatcheries, fishing the east Sierras will be poor for at least 3-4 years if not longer.

Whirling disease is not endemic to the U.S.. It was brought into Pennsylvania in 1956 from Europe. Originally its was thought to be manageable in hatcheries. However, now it is in the northeastern and

western United States. Some western streams have lost 90% of their trout and have put recreational fishing in jeopardy. Montana has a whirling disease task force that says recreational trout fishing gen-



erates 300 million dollars for their state annually. Last year CDFW said that because of budget reductions, they would have to reduce their trout production by 50%. Now with the potential of an outbreak of whirling disease there is a strong possibility of even less trout being produced. Not good news for fisherman.

How to prevent the spread of Whirling Disease

Recreational fishers can help prevent the spread of whirling disease by following a few easy steps:
 . Clean your equipment between fishing trips.

. NEVER take fish from one location or body of water to another. This will prevent cross-contamination.

. If you fish with felt-soled boots, treat the felt with 10% bleach solution for 15 minutes. Then rinse the felt well.

. NEVER put fish entrails or fish bones in any body of water. The parasite is easily spread this way.
 . NEVER use trout or salmon as bait. Obviously is will not be a problem for fly fishers.

If we follow these few simple steps we can help prevent a possible devastation to our fisheries.

This summer is off to a bad start for our fisheries and will probably become worse. Gov. Brown has abrogated all state environmental responsibilities and placed our fisheries in jeopardy of extinction. The DWR, the BOR, and the SWD all continue to violate both state and federal

laws with impunity as they mismanage the state's failing water resources. These issues, with the warmest part of our 4th year of drought approaching, will exacerbate lethal stress on our fish. Dr. Peter Moyle, using the best science available, has predicted that climate change will further stress the fisheries and environment and cause us to have to make hard choices as to which fish will survive and which fish will perish. The summer of 2015 has the potential of being catastrophic for our fisheries.

Ron Forbes
 Conservation

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