



# Rx Fly Fishing!

Volume XXXVIII

Number IV

April 2015

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

## In this Issue

Page 2—[Brian Slusser to speak on Tahoe area still water fishing at April Meeting](#)

Page 2—[April membership report. Let's welcome four new members](#)

Page 3—[Conservation](#): The fourth year of the drought.

Page 4—[The Fly of the Month](#)

Page 5—[Larry Mettler breaks the ten pound barrier at the Pyramid Lake outing](#)

Page 5—[April is a great month to start working on your Delta Challenge](#)

Page 6—[April Outing at Kelsey Bass Ranch](#)

Page 6—[Can DFF regain its dominance at the 2015 One Fly Contest?](#)

Page 7—[New venue and new cooks for next year's annual dinner](#)

Page 8—[Trout Bout](#)

Page 8—[Free casting and tying lessons](#)

Page 9—[A Sallye and Bruce Adventure](#)

Page 9—[The club's at a turning point, where are you?](#)

## Calendar

April 8, General Membership meeting

April 9, 1865 General Robert E. Lee surrenders the Army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant, ending the U.S. Civil war at a cost of 650,000 Americans killed in battle.

April 11, Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing

April 15, BoD meeting

April 22, Fly of the Month tying and casting at Oak Grove Park

May 2, the One Fly Contest, White Pines Lake

May 13, General Membership Meeting

## President's Message for April: And he even catches a few fish

We have had a kinda quiet month. A disappointing dry month! The board is meeting some goal expectations, thanks to Jerry Neuburger bringing back the Fly of the Month, fly tying on the fourth Wednesday of the month, both February and March were well attended, and clearly on its way to returning as a popular club event. The idea behind it is to try and tie a fly which can be used at the following club outing. Last Wednesday they tied poppers, which can clearly be used at the Kelsey Ranch outing, led by long time member, Al Smatsky. If you plan to attend you need to get signed up and paid by April 8th!

We did not have a lot of members sign up for the Pyramid Lake outing this month, which was disappointing. I am anxious to hear from those that did go?

I got lucky this last month and Jerry took me out for a day on the Moke in the Delta. Almost immediately he put us on the fish. About 4

1/2 lbs was largest we caught that day, with about 15 caught, some were black bass, but not bad for starting at 9:30 and only going till about 2:30. I am always amazed that as bad as that Delta is abused, it is still one hellava fishery! Thanks Jerry, for the invite. I hope we can do it again in the short term.

Lastly, I hope everyone got a chance to

read the editorial by Michael Fitzgerald, the Record, a couple Friday's ago. (See me if you would like a copy). He confirmed what our environmental Board Director, Ron Forbes has been telling us. A recent study was conducted to see how the populations of the Delta Smelt, we're doing. In years past, counted in the hundreds and captured from schools in the thousands. This year's study was able to catch only six smelt, yes, you read it right, six were caught. The conclusion was that was not enough to expect survival. Extinction seems inevitable. Obviously, not completely, provable, but a good professional guess? How important is it when another

species disappears? As Mr Fitzgerald concludes, as stewards of the place we call home, are we doing our job, or we dropping our responsibility. Maybe our elected representatives, from both parties, should hear from us! Living with short sided goals is living without concern for our children and our children's children. Sadly, I have lived in

two sections of the country where, in my lifetime, a species has become extinct. Both species living in abundant quantities becoming extinct within a twenty-five year span, what a very sad legacy we are leaving? If your pissed off write a letter, it may make you feel better, I know I plan to!

See you on the water. Gil.



# Brian Slusser to speak on Tahoe area still water fishing at April meeting

Brian's program is titled "Stillwater Fly Fishing Opportunities in the Truckee Area" and will include some photo descriptions and maps of the four reservoirs in the Truckee Area. The reservoirs covered are Boca, Prosser, Stampede and Milton. I will cover some of the techniques I use and different rigs that I set up and some suggestions for other waters to try. Plan to include an update on the Little Truckee Project as well.

## Brian's Bio:

It's hard to not develop a passion for the outdoors if you spend some of your childhood growing up in Alaska. I was born in Kirkland, Washington but spent the majority of my first 13 years in Alaska, living in Seward, Nome, and Valdez. My parents moved up to Alaska for work but my father, an avid outdoorsman and pilot, introduced me to hunting and fishing during those years. Lots of fishing and hunting. Just about all of our free time was spent flying into remote areas to fish, hunt, or have a look around. While in Nome a coworker of my dad gave me a wolf mix puppy to raise which might be where I developed my interest in dogs and long cold winters.

My family left Alaska and relocated to Chelan, Washington where I finished

secondary school. My dad and I continued hunting and fishing, pursuing upland birds and deer. We began to spend more time fly fishing. I completed the Ski



Area Management Program at Wenatchee Valley College, then graduated with a BS in Business Administration and Marketing from Central Washington University in Ellensburg. I put myself through college by working on a Hotshot crew fighting forest fires during the summers throughout the western states and Alaska. Although the money was good, it severely cut into my summer recreational pursuits. Throughout college I also worked at Mission Ridge Ski Resort as a ski patroller and avalanche forecaster. This led me to Alpine Meadows in Lake Tahoe, California where I have been patrolling for the past 18 years. This is my ninth season as Assistant Patrol Manager where one of my duties is to run our Ava-

lanche Rescue Dog Program, which I have been doing for the past eight seasons. My dog, Shooter, and I are also on the Placer County Sheriffs Avalanche

Rescue Dog Team. And, yes I do shoot a Howitzer for avalanche control.

Not long after moving to California, I stopped fighting fires in the summer and started focusing on rafting and fly fishing again. After a few years of exploring the waters of the eastern Sierra, I launched Four Seasons Fly Fishing in 1997. Based in Truckee, CA I guide the rivers, lakes, and streams of the north Tahoe area. In 2000 I expanded my range of guiding to include steelhead fly fishing trips on the Rogue

River in Southern Oregon and the Upper Klamath in California. Chasing steelhead with a two handed fly rod is one my passions, and adapting these techniques to the pursuit of Tahoe area trout is one of my current goals. I enjoy guiding and instructing many different fly fishing techniques. I am also on the board of our local TU chapter. When I am not fishing I enjoy riding my mountain bike around the various trails of the Lake Tahoe area.

The meeting will be held at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Avenue, Stockton on April 8, start time, 7:30pm. The meeting is open to the public. Members are encouraged to bring guests.

## April Membership Report: Let's welcome four new members!

March was a good month for new and renewing membership. We gained four new members: George Lucas, Dillon Maddox, and George Lester of Stockton and Tom White of Lodi. Three of the four new members were referred by current members. If every member did the same our membership would double in size – so please remember to recommend

our club to your friends and coworkers. Dan and Kim Odenweller are longstanding members who also renewed the memberships last month. Please welcome these new and senior members to our club at the next opportunity.

Reminders that any new members get a great membership deal if they join this spring. For the price

of one year membership dues they will receive the remainder of the 2015 membership year (6 months) PLUS the entire 2016 membership year (12 additional months). For more information on the new member's promotional please contact Bob Fujimura at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or (209) 339-0683.

# The fourth year of the drought, the governor calls for municipalities to cut water usage by 25%, but pumping water south is way ahead of last year's schedule

- Meanwhile the delta smelt is called, "functionally extinct" by Peter Moyle

*"Be patient and calm - for no one can catch a fish in anger."*

Herbert Hoover

## While the drought makes headlines, pumping continues at a doubled pace compared to last year

In last month's Conservation article I spoke about the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) public meeting held in Sacramento. It was a sham. Neither the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) nor the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) took a definitive stand for the protection for the Delta or for the protection of the Delta Smelt. One of the most disheartening parts of the SWRCB meeting was watching the USFWS and NMFS take positions that were political rather than scientific when discussing the Delta, its environment, and its fisheries. Those of us at the meeting came away with deep feelings of anger that both the USFWS and NMFS claimed that the delta smelt would probably be OK even with the catastrophic trawl results earlier this year. Then came Westlands dog and pony show when they brought in three busloads of farm workers who went on for two hours about how bad things were in the south valley. Once again Westlands manipulated their farm workers to the advantage of the corporation. And, once again, the farm workers will continue to be without clean drinking water for their needs. Unfortunately, the Delta communities' concerns have shown to be correct. This year the federal and state water projects were to receive zero allocation of their contract quantity of water for agriculture. For municipal and industrial contractors, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) was to release just enough water to meet their health and safety needs or 25% of their historic use.

However, on March 5th, Tom Howard, executive director of the SWRCB, added a huge loophole for the state's water allocations. Both state and federal water con-

tractors from Westlands Water District, the Kern County Water Authority and Paramount Farms will only have to tell SWRCB that they need more water for "health and safety" reasons or to "lessen critical economic losses to agriculture" and do NOT have to identify what those uses will be! Howard commented, "The human face of suffering, tied to the lack of drinking water and the loss of jobs was clearly evident in the February 18 workshop". Westlands Water District has successfully prevented it's laborers access to clean drinking water through the Human Right to Water legislation. Jeff Michaels, of the University of the Pacific, has recently shown that farm employment re-

**It takes 110 gallons of water to grow one cup of almonds**

ords in the south valley has been approximately the same for the last several years. And every year the number of acres planted and harvested in the South San Joaquin Valley grows. Once again, Tom Howard is not telling the truth. And again, his action will be at the expense of the Delta and will probably result in the extinction of the Delta Smelt.

Later in the meeting, Don Peracchi, of Westlands Water District, commented that new federal rules and regulations contribute to "human suffering" and

### DeltaStrippers.Com

*Catch and release fly fishing for stripers and large mouth bass on the San Joaquin Delta*



**Captain Jerry Neuburger**

[gneuburger@yahoo.com](mailto:gneuburger@yahoo.com)

[www.deltastippers.com](http://www.deltastippers.com)

209-327-5993 1/14

"What is particularly tragic is that these new rules and regulations, which are intended to benefit fish species, are based on conjecture and unproven theories that have done nothing to protect fish populations. Instead, fish populations continue to decline. Everyone understands that our fish in the Delta are declining because our water is being shipped south. The audacity of SWRCB's actions will once again guarantee an unregulated amount of water taken from the Delta. Only this time the loss of water from the Delta may guarantee the extinction of the Delta Smelt.

## Peter Moyle: Prepare for the extinction of the delta smelt

Peter Moyle, UC Davis fish biologist, recently gave a talk to a group of scientists of the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) and another on National Public Radio(NPR). Moyle talked about his early years as an

assistant professor at Davis when, in 1972, he decided to study Delta Smelt. The California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) trawl surveys in the Delta were going after young stripers but also caught a lot of native delta smelt. He decided to study the smelt rather than stripers since not much was known about the smelt. For three years, CDFW would send him a pick-up filled with quart bottles of both



**Excellent**  
ADVENTURES  
*Unique Fly Fishing Trips*

*"Our mission is to provide you with a total Kesse Bass, Rainier, Astigosa, Isla Blanca, Pesca Maya, Xcalak, Picacho Lodge, Chile, Trinity & Klamath River Steelhead, Yuba, Feather & American River Shad, Club Presentations and Clinics*

[www.excellentadventures.org](http://www.excellentadventures.org)  
**Al Smatsky, Proprietor**  
619 W. Pine Street, Lodi, CA 95240  
(209) 368-9261, (209) 601-0819 cell 1/14

(Continued from page 3)

long and delta smelt. He and his assistant dissected 1,055 delta smelt in one study alone. In these years the smelt were common. This year, however, the CDFW trawl only captured 6 smelt. Moyle's fears that the smelt "appear to be approaching the point of no return, with extinction in the wild in the next year or two."

Moyle's presentations were made before the SWRCB

decisions on water allocations were released. While researching information for the conservation report, I came across unsettling information on our water exports. Several

weeks ago with only 17% of 2015 calendar gone, we have already exported 35% of last year's export amounts. At this point in 2015, 699,000 acre-feet of water has been shipped south from both state and federal projects. These users now estimate they will need an additional 510,000 acre-feet of water exported for "health and safety" and to "lessen critical economic agricultural losses". And of course, they do not say what these "health and safety issues" or "critical economic losses" are nor are they required to do so. It's rather obvious that the critical economic losses and health and safety issues are for the unsustainable almond crops of the Westlands' growers. As you

To produce an acre of corn, it takes 652,000 gallons of water

will remember, last year we lost 95% of our winter-run chinook and much of our spring-run chinook populations due to mismanagement of the Lower Sacramento River's temperatures. Howard apologized for these losses at the February SWRCB meeting. Now he has the audacity to admit, "the changes approved (by the SWRCB) will have a negative effect on fish and wildlife, but the tradeoff, when weighed against the water supply benefits,

strikes between fish and wildlife protection and best serving other needs for water". What Tom Howard has done, once again violates the Doctrine of Public Trust. And once again, he has done so with

impunity. This time it will probably cause the extinction of a species and continue to degrade the Delta. All this so Westlands' growers can continue to ship 80% of its unsustainable almond crop to China at the expense the rest of us. Many people knowledgeable about the state's water feel that California will exhaust its water supply in 2016 if the drought continues. I wonder what Tom Howard will say then?

Ron Forbes  
Conservation Chair

## The Fly of the Month is back. The April fly, Don Gillett's Red Ryder, tied by Don himself.

Don Gillett taught a beginner's class in fly tying to club members for many years. If you've been a member of the club for over ten years, you probably took one of Don's classes.

Don also developed a number of flies, his signature fly being the Red Ryder, a woolly bugger style fly, that has proven itself over and over in still water situations. It has become the go-to fly for many of the club members when fishing Davis Lake in June or the Twin Lakes and Virginia Lakes during the club's fall outings.

Don will tie the fly on the forth Wednesday of April, April 22nd, starting at 6pm at the Oak Grove Nature Center. The fee for the class is \$3.00 to cover material expenses. About 15 kits will be available on a first come, first served basis. Please be prompt since stragglers can cause some unneeded delays.

No picture of the fly? Of course not! This is one of the secret weapons that we Delta Fly Fishers use to beat the Calaveras club in the annual One Fly Contest. We've won the event 14 out of 15 times. The event is coming quickly, the first weekend in May.



### DFF Officers

President	
Gil Parker	209 951-7154
Vice President	
John Highsmith	209-369-3251
Secretary	
Karen Keagy	
Treasurer	
Jason Stapleton	209-334-9201
Directors	
Ron Forbes	209-368-5767
Jerry Neuburger	209-369-5752
Larry Schmidt	209-482-8742
Bob Fujimura	209-339-0683
Jason Stapleton	209-334-9201
Steve VonBerg	209-327-6161
Dena Mason	
Tim Costello	
Mike Nicholson	

### 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	
<a href="#">Bob Fujimura</a>	209-339-0683
Outings	
Steve VonBerg, Gil Parker	
Programs	
Al Smatsky	209-368-9261
Bob Sousa	209-368-2683
Property/Historian	
John Keagy	
Publicity	
<a href="#">Steve VonBerg</a>	209-327-6161
Raffles	
Vacant	
Trout Bout (November)	
Charlie Reames	209-642-6704
Webmaster/Newsletter	
<a href="#">Jerry Neuburger</a>	209-369-5752

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.

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

## Larry Mettler breaks the 10 pound barrier at the Pyramid Lake outing

The big fish at Pyramid Lake only drew two club members to its shores for the annual Pyramid Lake outing. Larry Mettler arrived on Thursday morning and within a short time, broke his old Pyramid Lake record for a large trout, landing a 32" Lahontan Cutthroat on a foam beetle. The fish weighed somewhere between 11 and 13 pounds according to the charts for length and weight.

Larry usually brings a crowd with him, since he secures deluxe rooms for club members at the Nugget in Sparks for less than \$30 each, double occupancy, but he had no takers this time.

Meanwhile Jerry Neuburger and friend Keith Shein set up camp at the North Nets in Jerry's 16 foot travel trailer. Both fished hard through Thursday evening without a fish. The lake was like a mirror most of the day, which makes for tough fishing.

Friday morning brought a number of fly fishers and spin casters to the water, most setting up ladders about 25 yards from shore. Included were two lake regulars, Doug, who builds and sells the roll-

ing ladder/seat combos used by many people at the lake, and his friend Ernie.

While almost everyone struggled trying to hook into at least one fish, Doug and Ernie, fishing chironomid patterns under an indicator, pulled in fish on a regular



basis.

Another friend of Jerry's, Wes, showed up at lunchtime with cartons of barbecued ribs, brisket and chicken, cole slaw, and barbecue sauce. Larry Mettler arrived right on time and everyone sat around stuffing their faces.

After lunch, Wes fished the nets and caught one fish, while missing others,

again, on a midge pattern under an indicator. Jerry took a good look at the pattern and went back to the trailer to tie some for Saturday. He also took a good look at Doug's patterns, and while they were similar to what he had been using, were slightly different.

Saturday the lake was as flat as a pancake and shiny as a mirror most of the day. Jerry and Keith experimented with the new flies, Jerry catching one fish and missing one, Keith missing two.

Amazingly, when the flies that were producing takes were compared to the flies used previously, the only difference was that the bead head was brass instead of white,

Sunday morning brought on a weather change, a slight wind and soome high clouds, the perfect Pyramid weather. It proved just right with Jerry landing four fish in an hour, Keith missing another two. The two broke camp about 10am, a four hour drive in front of them before reaching home.

## April is a great month to start working on your Delta Challenge



With traditional inland cold water fishing opportunity literally drying up due to drought conditions, it is very appropriate to remind all anglers of club's Delta Fly Fishing Challenge Project and its goal to encourage fishers to fly fishing the Delta and its many sport fish species. The objective is to catch and release six out of fifteen sport fish using fly fishing gear from the Delta and its reward is a personalized certificate with a visual and written description of your catch. The list of qualifying fish includes the popular Delta species such as striped bass and largemouth bass. The real challenge is targeting and

catching the lesser fished species from the Delta.

April is also a prime month for fishing for many of these fish species.

Water temperatures have already risen to a level that encourages active feeding or movement into shallower waters. Anglers working on their first certificates should focus on the two sunfish: bluegill and redear sunfish since striped bass and largemouth bass are commonly caught in Delta. Both sunfish are fairly common along the vegetated levee banks or near boat docks. Subsurface damsel fly nymphs or small poppers are reliable patterns for bank or boat

fishers. The remaining two fish species will be most challenging since the remaining species are not typically targeted by fly fishers and will require more research and planning than the aforementioned fish species. More information on the program can be found at the Delta Fly Fishers web site at:

<http://www.deltaflyfishers.com/deltachallenge.html> or contact Bob Fujimura at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com)



## The April Outing: Our Annual Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing will be held on Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>,



The Kelsey Ranch is located about 28 miles east of Turlock, and east of Snelling, CA. Kelsey Lake is a 125 acre impoundment stocked with trophy size Florida Black Bass. For those members that have not been there before, please contact Al and he will send you directions.

Every year this outing is very well attended by our Club members and I don't think that it will be any different this year. The lake is almost full and in very good condition. By the time we fish the lake in April, the bass will have already spawned, and the water temperature

should be in the mid to upper 60's. The lake should be perfect for all of those Leo's Poppers and Jerry's flip-flop poppers that you have been making.

Last year the lake record was broken by a conventional angler that hauled in a 16 lbs 12 oz bass in mid-January, on the fly fishing end; one SoCa angler landed a black bass over 14 lbs on a woolly-bugger and a bay area angler landed a black bass over 8 lbs on a popper. The California State record for blue gill record was not reestablished but the lake did produce one 3 lbs 14 oz. The lake fished very well all through the summer months.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The following requirement applies to participants in Guided Float Trip Outings and those Outings where participants use owned, rented or loaned watercraft such as, but not limited to, boats, canoes, kayaks, prams, pontoon boats and float tubes: "Each participant should wear a Coast Guard approved protective safety flotation device (SFD) at all

times while boarding, disembarking or on board the watercraft."

You may sign up any time by emailing [algofish@softcom.net](mailto:algofish@softcom.net) or calling Al Smatsky at (209) 368-9261, please do so by April 8<sup>th</sup>. We will have a sign-up sheet available at the March and April meetings. The cost for this year outing is \$85 per person. A barbeque lunch provided and prepared by Al is included in your entry fee.

Hope to see you all there!



## Can DFF Regain its Dominance at the 2015 One Fly Contest?

It was a sad conclusion to last year's contest when the host club, the Calaveras Fly Fishers' members, won the competition. Delta Fly Fishers anglers have won this annual contest as far as this author can remember. But DFF has some awesome stillwater fishers and will this first-time defeat motivate them to regain this title? Come out on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and see for yourself or better yet...join the participants in the friendly fishing event.

The event is held at White Pines Lake near the community of Arnold just a short distance from Highway 4 (see map). The lake is a relatively small in beautiful forested area. Locals maintain this free and well-maintained park. No motorized watercrafts are allowed on this lake making it a very beginner-friendly for fly fishers in personal watercrafts.

This event is a lot of fun and well-

attended by DFF members of various skill levels. The contest registration starts at 7 am but all competitors must wait until 9 am to start fishing. Usually most DFF participants drive up

that morning, enjoy set up their crafts and tackle, partake the coffee and donuts provided by SFF, and smack-talk with the other members. Anglers must pair up and verify each





diate fishers. This lake contains a good population of wild and hold-over trout. Late spring carpenter ant falls and Callibaetis hatches can produce exceptional dry fly fishing. Other fishes that can be fished during the summer and fall include largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, and common carp. Beginning fly fishers can learn a lot about lake fly fishing by just watching the expert fishers and this event is one of the best ways to get to know the other members of the club.

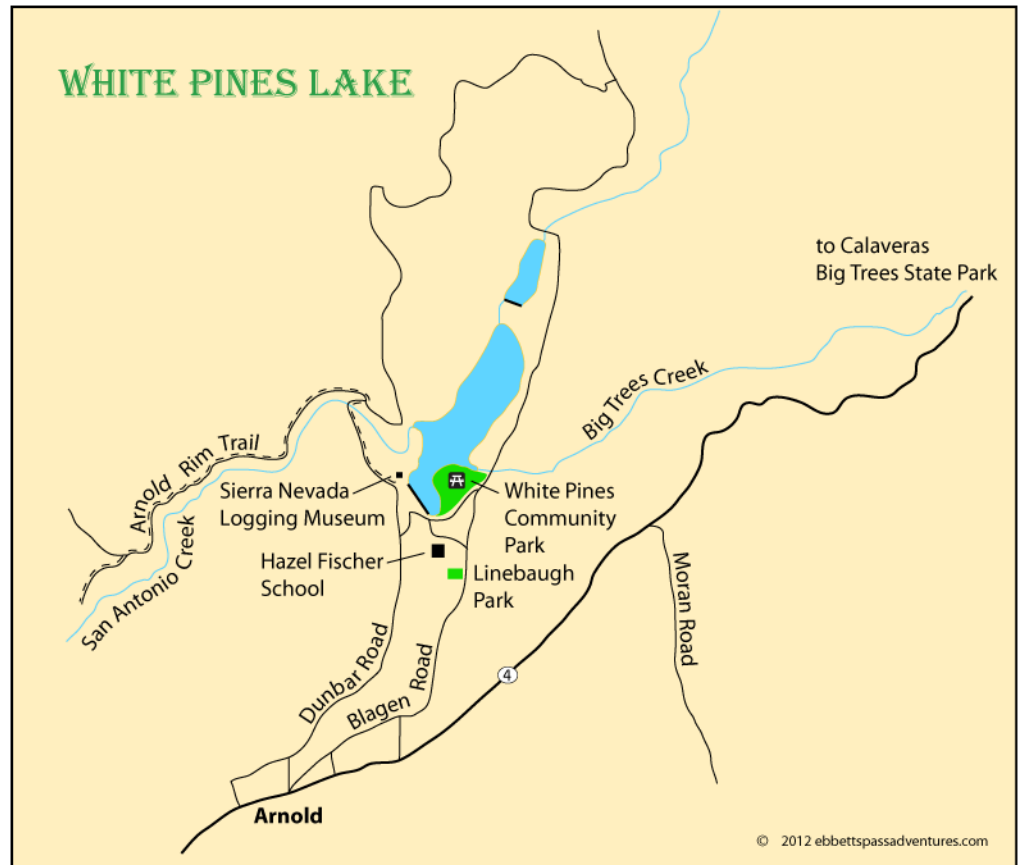
If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Bob Fujimura at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or (209) 339-0683 by April 25. The Calaveras Fly Fishers need a head-count of members who are coming so they can have enough food for lunch. Bob will also provide an update on cost and other event information when they are available. This is Bob's personal favorite lake for new fly fishers and can provide referrals on local restaurants or campgrounds.

other catches. If you lose your fly during the contest, you can continue your fishing but any additional fish do not count toward the contest. Awards are given for the most trout caught and released and the biggest fish. The contestant fee includes a great lunch serving BBQ tri-tip sandwiches, side dishes, soft drinks, and dessert. Funds from the event go to a local education fund. Last year's fee was \$25 but the organizers are considering raising this year's fee to \$30 at the time of this article.

Float tube or personal watercraft is necessary to be competitive in the contest. Although fly anglers can catch fish from the shore especially near the inlets or from the dam, the best fishing is from a watercraft. A basic trout rod (8.5 or 9 foot, 4-6 wt) with an intermediate or slow full sinking line (Type I or II) for subsurface nymph or streamer patterns are the most commonly used set up with 7.5 or 9 foot 4x leaders. Small wooly buggers, damsel fly nymphs, Red Ryders or sheep creek specials are some of the popular choices. Personal flotation devices are a must. No fish-finders are allowed during the contest.

Most anglers target recently planted hatchery trout. If this lake

has been recently planted good fishing conditions and high catch numbers are usually the rule. During these periods this lake can be an excellent venue to learn basic still water fishing in early spring. If the lake has not been recently planted or if the lake becomes temperature stratified then fishing for trout is more challenging for the beginning or interme-



# New venue and new cooks for next year's annual dinner

The meal we were served for our 2015 Annual Banquet proved a great disappointment to most all in attendance. It turned out the Moose Lodge's in house caterer was best at opening cans. In any

event, I am excited about the venue your Board of Directors has selected for the DFF 2016 Annual Banquet; the BPOE Lodge at 8900 Thornton Road, Stockton. The in house caterer for the Elks is

Creative Catering by Sondra Ryan and I have heard from five independent sources that Creative Catering does live up to its name.

Trout bout yields fish in excess of 15 pounds to event winners. DFF member volunteers serve a hungry crowd.

The trout bout was a great success. There was a long line before daylight and it turned out to be a beautiful day.

Most families had at least one fish and many families had full stringers. There were several very large fish caught.

The scale being used for weigh-in

only went to eleven pounds and that wasn't enough, Weigh masters Ed Sill and Walt Koteki had to send out for a larger scale. Two fish were weighed at just over fifteen pounds each. There were four more that weighed more than eleven pounds. Thanks to all the members who helped make this event a success.



## Free Casting and Fly Tying Sessions

- Every 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays (casting when daylight permits)
- Oak Grove Park
- Nature Center

Read below for program descriptions, dates and start times.



Spring is here and with it, Daylight Savings Time. The extended evening daylight allows for some casting practice and instruction at the pond across from the Nature /Center at Oak Grove Park. Those wishing to gain a little knowledge, perfect a certain cast or just learn the basics are encouraged to stop by and talk to some of the club veterans. The action starts

around seven and lasts until dusk.

The club has also restarted the Fly of the Month program. Two more sessions are left for the spring, Wednesday, April 22 and Wednesday, May 27th. The program, chaired by Jerry Neuburger will feature a fly or flies targeted at the club's next outing. Jerry will demonstrate some of the

flies and guest tiers will be asked to tie some of their favorites as well. Because of the need for additional time, the fly tying sessions will start at 6:00pm. Some basic fly tying kits are available to loan during the sessions. A fee of \$3.00 is charged to cover the cost of the materials.



# Another Day in the Neighborhood (Redding of Course)

Sallye and I floated the lower Sacramento River at Redding, California March 17-18 with Todd Cancilla. Using indicators 5 to 7 feet above the bottom of 3 flies, sizes 16 to 18, we had a very good rainbow count to the boat each day with only 1 salmon smolt and 1 sucker in the

mix. Both days were from Bonneview to Anderson as the upper section from Posse Grounds was extremely dirty. The first day ended with 51 trout to the net up to 18 inches. Predicted for the second day was wind out of the Northwest gusting to 8 mph; however, it was blowing up to 20 mph all day. This made for some diffi-

culty tracking seams on the water. Todd was able to get up into protected areas behind islands where we brought 44 trout to the net up to 21 inches. Looking forward to October using bugs and beads. Almost forgot. Sallye had the most, but not the largest.



## Our club's at a turning point, where are you?

The Delta Fly Fishers, once the Delta Fly Fishermen, have come a long way since the founding in 1976. The founding fathers worked hard to make the club one of the best in the state. Now, with one exception, Leo Gutierrez, all of the founding members have moved or passed away.

During those many years, the club has had some brilliant accomplishments, great outings, fantastic membership participation, outstanding officers and directors and some of the most dedicated teachers and instructors of any club on the west coast.

What has to be the club's high point was in the late 1980s and early 90s when members discovered that the Chinook salmon runs on the Mokelumne had collapsed due to lack of enforcement and monitoring by the Department of Fish and Game and insufficient flows and a lack of effort by East Bay Municipal Utility District.

The club spun off The Committee to Save the Mokelumne, raised thousands of dollars and with the help of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance brought EBMUD and DFG to the table, with a resulting Joint Settlement Agreement. aimed at restoring the fishery to its former relevance.

The rest is history. The number of returning

salmon increased from less than 50 to the 16,000 that return annually today. EBMUD has changed its policies and practices and is now considered the model for others to follow in fisheries restoration and management.

In the past the club's outings were some of the best of any club's with trips to the McCloud, Manzanita Lake at Lassen, Butt Lake, Bridgeport, the Fall River, Hat Creek and Baum Lake, the Trinity, Lewiston Lake, Hot /Creek and the Mammoth area lakes, Road 48, Princeton Bar, just to name some of the places. Many of these outings were attended by upwards of twenty to two dozen members and not just for the weekend either, many of the outings stringing out for four or five days.

At least once a year, club members like Al Smatsky, or Don Gillett would organize an out of state trip to places like the Green River in Utah, the San Juan in New Mexico or the Rogue in Oregon. Or if in California, a hike into Kennedy Meadows or a fully organized trip with food and lodging to Lewiston Lake or Mammoth.

The club had an annual Fly /Fishing Day at Oak Grove Park attended by well over 100 people, had booths at various RV and outdoor shows, put on casting and fly tying demonstrations for the public and regularly re-

ceived praise in the Stockton /Record in the form of news reporting.

Club members taught organized fly tying classes for beginners and intermediate tiers, complete with a series of basic fly tying skills matched with tried and true patterns. Other club members taught a series of casting classes to bring the beginner up to the skills necessary to fish both streams and lakes with confidence.

The club's regular meetings not only had a speaker but a monthly raffle, coffee, drinks and snacks. While the annual installation dinner drew as many as 120 club members out as well as guest elected officials and nationally and regionally known fly fishing personalities.

Once a year, usually on the same day as the annual dinner, the club would invite a notable fly fisher and fly tier, such people as Andy Burk and Jay Fair were two, who would conduct an all day fly tying and fishing seminar aimed at some REAL learning as well as some great entertainment.

The club was an active member in the Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers, assisting in the annual conclaves, working with the conservation committee

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Rx Fly Fishing! Advertising Rates

2 column inches each newsletter issue for the year for \$400, 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 similar ad on our website monthly articles equal to the number of newsletter advertising months. (App. Two per month.)

A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

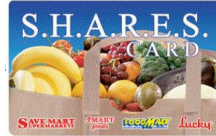
Permission to post specials and other advertising on the club's Face book page, 2 per month.

For additional information please phone or e-mail [Jerry Neuburger](mailto:Jerry.Neuburger), Editor 209-369-5752

# SAVE MART SUPERMARKETS

*Higher* produce standards  
than the USDA.  
Fresh comes first

The Delta Fly Fishers are proud to participate in the Save Mart Shares program. Each swipe of your Shares card earns the Delta Fly Fishers 3% of your purchase.



Ask John Keagy for a Shares Card today.

**Save Mart Store Locator**

1/15



CABINS • RESTAURANT • LODGE • TACKLE

Elevation 9770' Established 1923

The Heart of the High Sierra  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Fishing, Hiking, Camping, Cabins, Restaurant, Lodge

<http://www.virginialakesresort.com>

HC 62 BOX 1065,  
BRIDGEPORT CA 93517-9602  
760-647-6484 Tel/Fax 1/14

## RIO products

Available at all quality fly shops 7/14

(Continued from page 9)

people, serving as directors and officers, endorsing legislation supporting fish and fisheries and lobbying for its passage.

All of the things that the club did in the past were done by volunteers, members just like the ones we have now. They had families just like us, other obligations, work, kids, birthdays, weddings. But they still found the time to give back.

The art and science of fly fishing goes well beyond sitting in a pontoon boat and fishing a

woolly bugger on a lake or drifting a zebra midge on an indicator, through a riffle. It also includes interaction with like minded people. People who enjoy the outdoors, have a passion for conservation, love to introduce people to their sport, feel the thrill of watching a fish take a well presented dry fly, and the almost holy feeling of holding a truly wild thing in their hands for a few seconds before releasing it back to nature.

In the past, those people were willing to share something of themselves and their time for

the benefit of the sport and the joy of watching someone else grow into someone who, through fly fishing, becomes one of the great advocates and stewards of the environment.

We need our current membership to take on the traditions of the past, to carry the club forward, to continue the practices and activities that filled our club and its members with vitality in the past.

The club membership is YOU. YOU are the ones that can make things happen. If you don't, who will?

## Rx Flyfishing!

### Delta Fly Fishers, Inc.

P. O. Box 77862  
Stockton, CA 95207-7862  
[www.deltaflyfishers.com](http://www.deltaflyfishers.com)