



Rx Fly Fishing!

Volume XXXVIII Number V May 2014 Jerry Neuburger, Editor Stockton, California

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Calendar

May 3—One Fly Contest

May 14—DFF General Membership Meeting

May 15—Lake Davis Outing

May 21—DFF Board Meeting

June 1—Sacramento River Shad Outing with Orland Outfitters

Bob Baiocchi to talk about Lake Davis at May membership meeting; Outing to follow

Lake Davis in Eastern Plumas County is considered to be one of best still waters in Northern California and the West. The abundance of shallow flats, fertile weed beds, and prolific aquatic insect hatches makes this lake perfect for fly anglers. The current state of the lake is as healthy as it was before the two treatments to rid the waters of Northern Pike that were illegally introduced in the mid-nineties.

Jon Baiocchi will present his extremely popular power point presentation explaining access areas, entomology, gear requirements, specialized techniques, tactics, and how the fly angler approaches the different seasons. Vibrant colorful photographs, maps, and diagrams gives the audience a clear understanding of this awesome still water. Insider tips and current information will also be shared like the new Hexagenia mayfly hatch, and the increasing populations of snails that are finally making a comeback resulting in bigger fish. If you like to fish Lake Davis this will be a presentation you do not want to miss!

Jon's been fly fishing and tying flies since 1972 and is a California licensed fly fishing guide, published author, educator, innovative tier, and public speaker giving fly fishing presentations to clubs and expos across the state of California.

His Dad, Bob Baiocchi, was inducted into the Federation of Fly Fishers Hall of Fame in 1999 and was a major influence in helping Jon hone his fly fishing skills at a very early age. Jon now owns and operates Baiocchi's Troutfitters guide service In Northern California where he has been guiding for the last 18 years. He has a reputation as a hard working guide that's been trained by some of fly fishing's best known anglers. His enthusiasm



for the sport is contagious and combined with his simple approach to teaching gives students the skills needed to be successful. Moved by all things flora and fauna his passion for such is never ending. His locations for guiding include Lake Davis, the Wild & Scenic Middle Fork Feather River, French-

man's Reservoir, Eagle Lake, the North Fork Yuba River, The Big & Little Truckee Rivers, The Lower Yuba, and many secluded creeks in Eastern Plumas Co. Jon's philosophy on fly fishing is to keep it simple, be confident in your presentation, and have fun! His favorite game is stalking and sight fishing to large trout in shallow water whether it is a river or a still water.

The program will be presented, Wednesday, May 14, 7:30pm at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Avenue, Stockton. The public is cordially invited.

Conservation: Water, water, everywhere, but just enough to drink

I used to like fishing because I thought it had some larger significance. Now I like fishing because it's the one thing I can think of that probably doesn't.

-- John Gierach

There is one bright spot in the drought. It's forcing people to see that California has no effective water policy. Many of the policies California does have in place to protect our environment have been routinely avoided or violated, but the drought will force us to make decisions on water policy whether we like them or not. Two weeks ago, a 10 year legal issue finally was settled. The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the US Bureau of Reclamation has violated the Endangered Species Act when it failed to consult either the National Marine Fisheries Service or the US Fish and Wildlife Service when they renewed over 40 water contracts a decade ago. The National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and other environmental groups brought several suits to protect the Delta smelt and the Delta's environment. According to Douglass Obegi, an attorney for the NRDC, the NRDC's win will determine how we will "manage our water in the future" and, "its a step toward potential changes in the contracts". The water contractors, represented by Stuart Somach, see this as a major loss saying that their loss, "destabilizes the states water-allocation system because it raises uncertainty over the contracts and water delivery." What the water contractors aren't saying is that they will now have to abide by the law and that the state will not be able to allocate more water than exists. After this decision the case will now return to lower courts to look over existing contracts and consider pricing, and when contractors can take water. The water contractors may still may decide to

take the case to the US Supreme Court.

Many people don't realize where California's water is used. In the years between 2000 -2009, water from the state and federal water projects, 55% of our water went to the Westlands Water District, and the Kern County Water District. The Metropolitan water District of LA only used 42% of the Delta's water for 25 million people of Southern California and their industries. It's estimated that 70% of California's water goes to agriculture . Unfortunately, because of antiquated irrigation techniques and the inappropriate use of water-intensive crops, 40% of our water is wasted.

Two Letters Of Support

In the middle of April, I received request for two letters of support from the Delta Fly Fishers for the Environmental Water Caucus EWC) and the Foothill Conservancy (FC). We are members of the EWC and strong supporters of the FC. The EWC letter was sent to two federal and two state secretaries. The federal secretaries are Sally Jewell (US Dept. of Interior) and Penny Pritzker (US Dept. of Commerce) . The state secretaries are John Laird (California Natural Resources Agency) and Matt Rodriquez (California Environmental Protection Agency). Copies of the letter were sent to Gov. Jerry Brown, Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and Felicia Marcus, of the SWRCB. The EWC letter ask immediate action on three issues:

. Ending the roll-backs of both state and federal environmental protection for the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

. That their agencies commit to specific actions now to improve future conditions for fish and wildlife.

. To compensate for damage done in recent weeks.

The letter points out that the states

water problems are caused by the drought, not by environmental protection regulations. Even the head of the Dept. of Water Resources, Mark Cowan, agreed recently that the problems are indeed not caused by environmental regulations, but by the drought. The letter also points out that the Delta is home to 6 endangered species who's endangerment is brought about by a continuing over allocation for water from the Delta, and continued lose environmental protection may cause long-term and irreversible damage to these species. The waivers of environmental protection do not give carry over water to the fish later. Nick DiCrocer, of the EWC, also points out that species that only exist in the Delta could disappear forever because of the direct mismanagement of both state and federal agencies. This will result in the lose of the states \$1.4 billion salmon industry and would be catastrophic to all those who depend on salmon for a living. The secretaries are asked to make decisions based on science and not on the mega-agricultural interest in the South San Joaquin Valley.

The second letter of was from the Foothill Conservancy asking us to send a of support letter to Sen. Loni Hancock for her bill SB 1199. This bill will establish Wild and Scenic status for 37 miles of the Upper Mokelumne River from Salt Springs to Pardee Dam. This bill has many positive attributes for the river and its fisheries and will not interfere with existing services or structures. After talking with several people at FC, I volunteered our help and support of Wild and Scenic Status for the Moke... I will follow the bill's progress and keep the club posted on its status.

[Buried deep in the 40,000 pages of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan](#)

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Restore the Delta held a teleconference the first week in April to discuss several newly discovered issues within the BDCP which have come to light. These issues are buried in the footnotes of the BDCP. Actually, 52 permanent, significant, and unavoidable adverse impacts have been found in the BDCP. Including problems such as areas in the South Delta would have ground water that will become permanently undrinkable. And there will be long term losses of navigational opportunities, to name only a few problems. But the adverse impact that needs full disclosure to the public is that the BDCP admits the air quality will be so unhealthy in Byron, caused by near-by a pumping facility, that "children, the elderly, and people with conditions like asthma will be so threatened by air toxins from the tunnel project that they will have to leave the area." There should also be major health concerns for those who live nearby by in Discovery Bay and Brentwood.

The Brown administration, of course, has not brought this major health issue of the BDCP to the public's attention.

In their continuing rush to grab as much the state's water as possible, Westlands and the Kern County Water District has forgotten the people who make their wealth possible. There are between 150,000 and 175,000 farm workers who live in the Central Valley who do not have clean water. They must spend between 10% to 15% for their income for water to drink, cook their food, bath, and do their laundry. Neither Westlands nor the Kern County Water District have done anything to help their poorly-paid workers. Indeed, when the Human Right to Water Bill passed both houses in Sacramento, Westlands put strong pressure on the former governor to veto the bill. And he did. In Gov. Brown's term the bill passed both houses and he signed the legislation. But the bill was so eviscerated, farm workers are still without the human right for clean water. Mega-agriculture really doesn't care who

gets hurt in their attempts to grab our water. Even if it causes the loss of the Delta and it's fisheries, the state's environment, or those who have helped them become wealthy.

Restore the Delta is having General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at The Reserve at Spanos Park. It's located at 6301 W. Eight Mile Rd. and will be between 6 and 8 pm. You can expect:

- . updates on impacts of the tunnels on our community
- . an updated presentation on a better solution to the BDCP
- . Guidelines on how to comment on the draft BDCP & EIR/EIS

Refreshments will be provided. If you have questions call [209 475 9550](tel:2094759550)

This is an important meeting. There are only 30 days left for the public to be able to make comments about the BDCP. Don't miss this meeting. It's important.

Ronald A. Forbes
Conservation Chair

From last month: Don't forget the One Fly Contest, May 3rd, White Pines Lake

By Robert Fujimura

Come see Delta Fly Fishers anglers vie for continued dominance at this friendly fishing competition hosted by the Calaveras Fly Fishers annually. Always held at White Pines Lake near the community of Arnold just a short distance from Highway 4 (see map).

This event is a lot of fun and well-attended by DFF members of various skill levels. The lake is a relatively small and no motorized crafts are allowed on this lake making it a very beginner-friendly and a good learning situation for basic still water fishing. If the lake has been recently stocked, this can be an excellent location for easy fishing for novice anglers. Wild and hold-over trout can also provide more challenging angling for more skilled fishers.

The event will be similar to previous years. After registering fly fishers have the morning to catch either the largest

fish or the most trout with a single fly. The contestant fee (\$25) 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.

If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Bob Fujimura at

deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or (209) 339-0683 by April 29. The Calaveras Fly Fishers need a head-count of members who are coming so they can have plenty of food for lunch. More information on this event later this month.

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The May Lake Davis outing. This should be a good one!!!

The current article is an edited reprint from last year. Herman did such a good job, why reinvent the wheel?

May 15 - 18 LAKE DAVIS

By Herman Spalinger

Our Lake Davis outing is the second-most popular Sierra mountain outing after Bridgeport. For the newcomers, it is closer than Bridgeport (2 hours from Sacramento) and boasts many large "hot" rainbows every year. Built in 1966, Davis is a relatively shallow reservoir accessible year round with great fly fishing from late March until freeze-over in late December and early January. The shallow coves on the west side of the lake are accessible not only by float tube or pontoon boats, canoe or kayak, but by thrashing the shoreline early morning and late evening wading where the fish can be seen cruising the shallows looking for minnows or damsel flies during May and June. May-June-early July is the most exciting time of the year to fish during the damsel fly hatch that brings 14 inch to 6 or 7 pound rainbows into the shallows where they surface cruise for the nymphs and sometimes adults. The fishing can be nerve wracking with the "bows" chasing the nymphs into the shore around your offering.

FLIES Small midges various color larvae and pupae, size 12 - 20. (Fish 18 to 24 inches below your bobber)

Wooly and crystal buggers in black, olive or dark brown, size 8 - 16. (Unweighted nymphs are preferred)

Sheep Creek Specials, Pheasant Tails, Prince nymphs, Stimulators can also work as the bite slows down.

TACKLE 4 to 6 wt rods and lines. Longer rods are easier to cover more water. Intermediate and floating lines (in that order) are preferred. Nine foot leaders with 3X to 5X tippet is recommended. (Note: The afternoon wind can be nasty at times so have an anchor available.) If you have a rubber boat with oars, it

should be low to the water as the wind has been known to blow boats or float tubes across the lake!

Campgrounds & RV parks: Many of this year's participants plan to camp at the Grasshopper Flats Campground, the second campground on the east side of the lake, heading north. The U.S.D.A. campground has unimproved campsites, water and flush toilets. Fee is \$22 per night.

Other campsites and RV parks:

J & J's Grizzly Store, Campground and Resort (530) 832-0270 Lake Davis 34 sites, RV, tents, 2 camping cabins, showers, flush toilets, piped water, dump station, restaurant and store, open all year. (Yummie softie ice cream cones in the afternoon)

Sleepy Hollow Park - (530) 832-5914 - 3810 Grizzly Rd, Portola - 40 sites, RV, full hookups. (Grizzly Rd is east road off Hwy 70 to the lake) I will be located in Sleepy Hollow Park. (If cell service

available in RV park - 209-938-9736.)

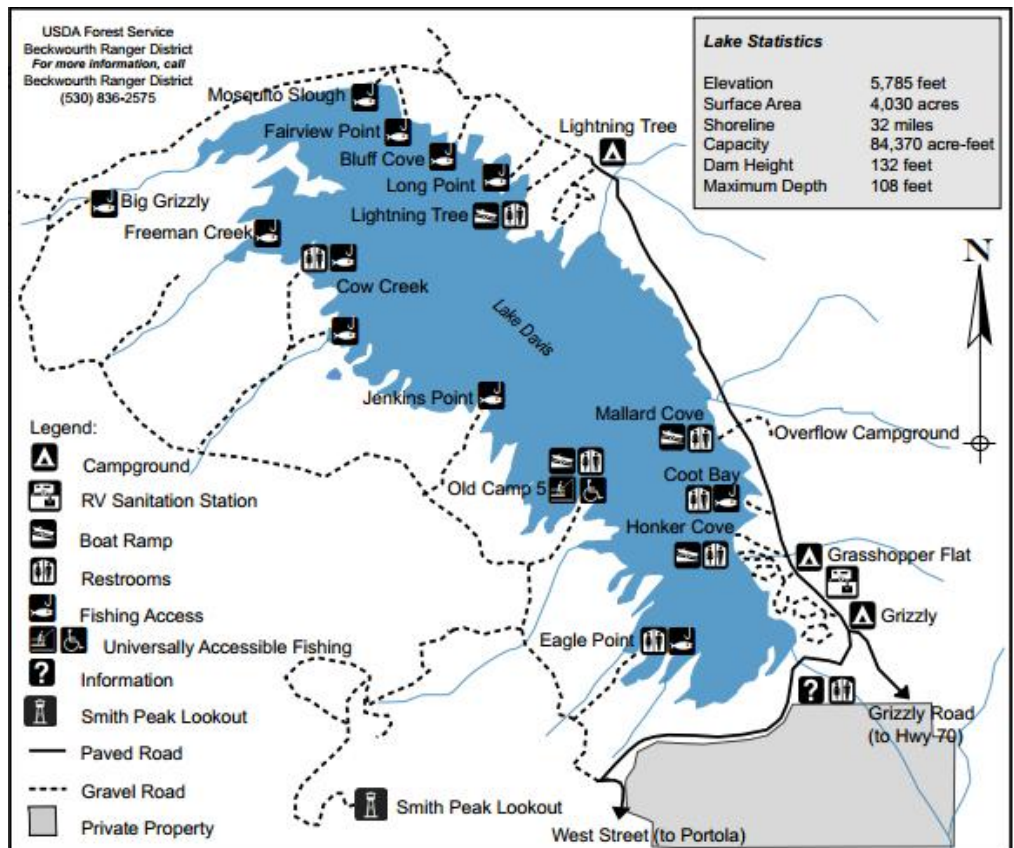
Trails West Trailer Park (530) 832-5074 - 73561 Highway 70, (west of Portola)

20 RV sites full hookups, Showers, flush toilets, laundry facility, Open all year

Motels (See Plumas County Recreation site for more information)

Lake Davis Resort (530) 832-1060 - Lake Davis Road, Lake Davis, quarter mile from the dam at the south end of the lake. 4 cabins, 8 motel rooms plus suite with optional spa, fridges/microwaves, coffeemakers, TVs. Average rates: Cabins: \$98 to \$192/night. Motel rooms: \$67 to \$86/night.

DIRECTIONS: East off I-5 or Hwy 99 on I-80. Go past Truckee to Hwy 89/267 turnoff. North on Hwy 89 to Sierraville. Turn left on 89 & north to just before Stattley. Turn right on A23 & follow to Hwy 70 turn left and follow signs to Lake Davis or Portola.



More Lake Davis guidelines from this year's fishmiester

by Marty Kjelson, Fishmeister

I wanted to make a few more comments on our Lake Davis outing to supplement the more extensive article on L. Davis is this issue. For those of you that are planning to camp in the public campgrounds on the east side of the lake, we will try to gather together at the Grasshopper Flat campground. Jim Rich will put up a sign, ie paper plate as to which site he is in. He likes one around no. 43. Rich, Jerry Neuberger, Gil Parker and I plus others will be there Thurs. as the speaker on L. Davis will be at our meeting the night before, ie Wednesday 5/14, and we'd like to hear him. We have a possibility of an informal gathering at the campground on Friday or Sat. eve. say 6pm, tentatively I'd say just bring your own food and drink rather than a formal potluck as at Bridgeport. We

won't have a large number of folks so it's difficult to get too fancy. Main thing is to have fellowship and share stories. We usually fish on the west side of the lake, at Jenkins Cove. There are signs to that area. Simply drive west from the Lake Davis store for a few miles and then bare right on a gravel road. and look for the various roads the go left, east to the lake. The camp 5 area has a boat ramp and Jenkins is the next rd to the north. Fly fishers just launch off the beach which is very close to parking. For those of you that are new to this area, I suggest you call me or others before the meeting on the 14th if you have detailed questions so that you don't wait to the last meeting. The fishing reports I've seen are good and we always have a good time with good fish. Hope to see you there.

Striped Bass Predation Claims on Salmonids Unjustified

By Dan McDaniel

Striped bass, salmon, steelhead, and many other fish thrived in the Delta for many years before the advent of the massive export pumping from the Delta. Striped bass were introduced to the Delta in the 1800's, and at one time were so abundant that there was a commercial fishery for striped bass. Striped bass thrived, as did other fish species including salmon and steelhead. With excessive Delta diversions by the state and federal export pumps, the pelagic and other fish of the Delta crashed. With a slight of hand, the water export community pointed to predation by striped bass. What an interesting concept - fish eat fish. Like everything else in the animal kingdom, they basically eat any food they can fit in their mouth. Tiny fish get eaten by larger fish, which get eaten by bigger fish, and so on. That predation is, and always has been, a normal part of the natural process, and salmon and steelhead themselves are predators. And they all contribute to the natural selection process: only the strong survive.

As we all know, fish are opportunistic feeders: they feed on what is readily available, and they use available cover and current to their advantage. We apply that when we fish all the time. So when a truckload of fish gets dumped in a

river, bigger fish, birds, seals, and other predators show up to eat. When fish get sucked toward the giant export pumps, the conditions are ripe and the predators show up there too. Also important in the mix are temperature and flow. As fishers, we know what a significant role water temperature and flows play on the fishing.

Recently in a letter from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the FERC relicensing process for Don Pedro on the Tuolumne River, the relationship of flow and water temperature was discussed, indicating the substantial role of flows and temperature on predation. None of it should be a surprise to us as fishers: Higher flows should translate to lower temperatures, and striped bass predation is reduced during periods of high flow when salmon are out-migrating. The striped bass do not feed as actively at lower water temperatures.

Higher flows also disperse the salmon, so it is harder for the striped bass to find them, and greater effort is required. [Here is a link to the DFW comments](#), with the most interesting discussion on this topic at pages 10-14. Take a moment to review, improve your fishing, and inform yourself about this important topic concerning the Delta and a river less than an hour away.



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Any correspondence regarding this publication should be directed to:
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Northern California Council of the IFFF.

Club presidents Newsletter, Spring 2014

Bob Shoberg, VP of Club Outreach, bobshoberg@aol.com

Dave Ford, CPNL editor, spruceflydave@comcast.net

Greetings, Club presidents! And, (for any of you who now may be a club ex-prez, please send us the name and email address of the new president so we can add them to the club presidents list serve).

President's Remarks

Ken Brunskill, President, NCCIFFF steamtrout@comcast.net

So, here we are at the beginning of the fishing season looking like we will need to bring our own water. Yeah, that it not possible but what does this mean to us? This is a serious situation and we need to pay very close attention to our resources this year, those resources are at minimum:

The water itself; How much are the dams going to be releasing & when? What the temperature of the water is will play a huge role in fish recovery & survival! What will the water temp. and oxygen content do to affect the biomass the fish need?

Regulations; Should we as an organization be advocating more closures due to the water situation(s)?

Watchdog; We are a conservation minded group who individually or even within our clubs alone cannot make much of a difference, however as a federation of clubs our voice carries much more weight.

Within the Northern California Council we are already involved with: Dam Relicensing, Dam Removals, Advocating for responsible water management of the Bay & Delta, Protecting & Advocating Wild & Scenic status for several rivers, We have many powerful and well funded foes whose only interest is quarterly results

What you a member of the IFFF can do and what I plead with you to do is: Understand that the IFFF office in Livingston is not a multistory plush set of offices with a highly paid staff. To the contrary, they are 4-5 ladies some of whom are part time, in a rented suite, in a strip mall, who's role in the IFFF office is to do the administrative work coordinating the 16 councils., Tax filing & Insurance for all 16 councils and numerous charter clubs. Planning for the Fly Fishing Fair, coordinating vendors, speakers, exhibitors, etc. Create and maintain the IFFF website Coordinate and prepare material for the Fly Fisher

I ask you to be an advocate and promote membership in the IFFF. Sure people join and send their dues to the IFFF, not the NCC but please understand & it is important that it is understood that the NCC is the local component of the IFFF, we do not have nor want to have the resources to collect dues, negotiate insurances, etc. Size is very important, the larger our membership is the louder our voice is when we advocate, this is a readily observable fact, think about a professional team with cheerleaders, why are those cheerleaders there, what are they attempting to do? MAKE NOISE and have as many participants as possible doing it!

Conservation:

Lowell Ashbaugh, VP of Conservation,

ashbaugh.lowell@gmail.com

Request to Fish and Game Commission for anadromous fish policies

The NCCFFF has asked the California Fish and Game Commission to adopt policies concerning California's anadromous fisheries. California currently lacks policies for assuring the long-term viability of its anadromous fishery resources for conservation, recreational and commercial purposes. Policies are needed that will guide our fishery agencies to respond to the threats facing our anadromous fisheries, including human population growth, drought and related habitat deterioration. The effects of drought are exacerbating stresses that an increasing population has placed on our fisheries. New water diversions and storage facilities are being discussed...apparently without benefit of established anadromous fishery policies. As a result, we believe these proposals are both timely and necessary.

Klamath River

The NCCFFF has worked for years on the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) and the Settlement Agreement (KBSA). A separate agreement on the Upper Klamath Basin has been undergoing negotiation among affected parties and is now coming to conclusion. The Klamath Tribes and ranchers above Upper Klamath Lake recently concluded a new Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement (UKBCA) to resolve decades-long water right disputes. This agreement expands on and improves the KBRA for the resolution of water disputes and habitat restoration, and the KBSA for hydropower operations.

In particular, the agreements will resolve water disputes in the Klamath basin; establish agreements on how to share water in dry years; almost double salmon populations and increase the economic value of commercial and ocean sport fishing by \$185 million; reconnect and restore about 420 miles of salmon habitat and nearly 500 miles of steelhead habitat; provide reliable water supplies for refuges; and remove a source of massive blooms of toxic algae that originate in the hydropower reservoirs. The agreements will

benefit efforts to manage fish and water supplies in the Central Valley because these salmon stocks mix in the oceans and because improving water quality in the mainstem Klamath River will improve operational flexibility for federal facilities on the Trinity River.

Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon is expected to introduce legislation to ratify and implement these three settlement agreements, and the NCCFFF has worked with other environmental organizations to seek the support of Senator Dianne Feinstein. The agreements are a broadly supported and promising solution to water disputes, drought management, and fisheries management that will benefit the Klamath Basin, the Central Valley, and California as a whole.

Environmental Rollbacks

The NCCFFF joined the Environmental Water Caucus, the CSPA, Friends of the River, Restore the Delta, and numerous other fishing, wildlife, Native American tribes, and environmental organizations to send a letter to Secretary Jewell, Secretary Pritzker, Secretary Laird, and Secretary Rodriguez urging them to end the ongoing rollbacks of environmental protections in the Delta. The letter points out that three dry years have caused the hardship, not the environmental protections.

The State Water Board first approved waivers of water quality rules for the State Water Project and Central Valley Project earlier this year. Subsequent snow surveys show that conditions have improved significantly since that time. Furthermore, the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation have stated that public health and safety needs of water contractors are met. The current waivers are not providing improved carryover storage or other benefits for fish later in the year. Therefore, the previous justification for weakening regulatory requirements no longer applies.

Conditions in the Bay-Delta and its tributary rivers are so poor that we may lose entire year classes of several distinct populations of salmon. Continued rollbacks of water quality objectives will only exacerbate the losses. Requirements protecting the Bay-Delta and listed species are already weaker in dry years than in other year types, and the continued decline of these species

demonstrates clearly that the protections in place (some of which have been waived this year) are insufficient. The State Board has already begun proceedings to modify some standards for the Bay-Delta system, in recognition that existing protections are inadequate. There is no credible scientific or legal basis for continued rollbacks of regulatory requirements.

Dry conditions are imposing hardships on all sectors of California's water community. Our letter urges the agencies not to sacrifice the environment, the fishing industry and other interests by responding to pressure from a small group of special interests.

San Joaquin River

The San Joaquin River is under attack once again. The conditions have gotten so bad that American Rivers, an organization dedicated to protecting wild rivers, restoring damaged rivers, and conserving clean water for people and nature, has named the San Joaquin as America's Most Endangered River. The San Joaquin River Settlement Agreement was reached in 2006 to restore the flow of the river from Friant Dam to the Pacific Ocean (via the San Francisco Bay Delta). The Settlement is based on two goals:

Restoration: To restore and maintain fish populations in "good condition" in the main stem of the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River, including naturally reproducing and self-sustaining populations of salmon and other fish.

Water Management: To reduce or avoid adverse water supply impacts to all of the Friant Division long-term contractors that may result from the Interim Flows and Restoration Flows provided for in the Settlement.

Prior to the agreement, 60 miles of the river was dry. This year, releases from Friant Dam were stopped early to save water for small communities and rural residents. Drought conditions have reduced the amount of water available to continue the river restoration.

This has given agricultural interests renewed enthusiasm for stopping the restoration process altogether. We must remain vigilant and committed to restoring and conserving our rivers and the fish in them. NCCFFF will continue to monitor the issue and keep you informed on actions you can take to ensure the San Joaquin River flows once more.

Education:

Bill Brauner, VP of Education, billbrauner@gmail.com

We are extending our educational outreach to include the Calveras County Special Education program, with a fly tying/casting session for 18-22 year old handicapped students. This program is scheduled to take place at the San Andreas special education center, which is being hosted by Adaptive PE Specialist, Pam Radmilovic. If the program goes as expected, we plan on offering this educational outreach to other surrounding counties in the gold country, and beyond.

Club Outreach:

Bob Shoberg, VP of Club Outreach, bobshoberg@aol.com

Your club is part of a larger organization, the Northern California Council, which in turn is supported by the Federation. The NCC assists affiliated clubs locally with conservation, education and restoration events. We want the clubs to know that the Council is here to offer programs, grants, volunteers and many other resources and assistance. One of the items your council and the IFFF provide are conservation grants.

Interested in a small grant to help fund a conservation activity your club is managing? The deadline to apply for a conservation grant is May 1st. So if you are interested I suggest checking out o the IFFF webpage for details - <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Conservation/Programs/SmallGrants.aspx>

Grants are partially funded by both your NCC and the IFF. Contact us if you need more details.

Club News:

The Carson City Fly fishing club is sponsoring the Nevada State Fly Tying Contest in conjunction with Nevada's 150th anniversary. The Nevada Sesquicentennial will be held in Carson City on July 30th through August 4th. The results of a State Fly tying Contest sponsored by the Carson Fly fishing Club will be displayed at the fly fishing booth. Three divisions are being offered to participants (advanced, intermediate and youth) with twenty fly categories. Awards will be mailed to all winning tiers immediately after the fair concludes.

That's it for the Spring Club Presidents Newsletter. Please feel free to share any or all of this newsletter with your club officers and members.

Ken Brunskill, President, NCC of the IFFF.

Bob Shoberg, VP of Club Outreach

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Fishing tip: Deer Migration - STAY ALERT!

As winters go this was disappointing if you read the Farmers Almanac, or maybe I just picked up the one for the New York. Winter was very mild producing only 5 storms with a few minor ones in between. The largest storm produced about 30 inches at 8100 feet and about 4-5 feet at Virginia Lakes with drifts into the 6 foot range. March came in like a Lion and went out with a fury putting more needed moisture into the ground. April started out great with a couple days of spotty rain. Agencies that measure the snow pack have a difference of opinion as to the water content, and DWP said we were at 48% of normal. Spring finally hit the Sierra with night temperatures in the high 30's to high 40's, but until the night temp increases and stabilizes we won't see run-off crank up. There go the daffodils!

As always, Eastern Sierra weather is unpredictable; come prepared with extra layers of clothing, and pack the bug juice as the mosquitoes ordered groceries and they'll be delivered on the 26th.

Be safe if you walk in and around desert brush, and watch for rattlesnakes. I saw one last Wednesday on 395 near the Point Ranch just south of Bridgeport, no kidding!

News - DFW reports that 2014 stocking will be down by 10% due to the first million dollars taken out of licenses that are required to go wild trout programs. Hot Creek is still only stocking mud-snail positive waters.

About 825,300 pounds of trout will be stocked in less than 100 waters in Inyo and Mono counties which average about four tons per fishery.

Regulation changes opened the West Walker on March 1, 2014 with catch and release "winter rules" until the regular season starts April 26.

On February 17, Richard "Dick" Cabela founder of the retail and catalog sporting goods giant Cabela's, Inc., died at the age of 77 at his home in Sidney, Nebraska. He was a staunch proponent of wildlife conservation and a recipient of numerous awards

and recognitions through the years. He started around a kitchen table in 1961 with \$45 worth of fishing flies purchased at a furniture expo in Chicago and a small advertisement in a local paper offering 12 hand-tied flies for \$1. Though his first effort generated only one response, after placing a different ad in Sports Afield, the orders began to surge and turned into an industry leader with 50 stores across the US and Canada as well as a flourishing online retail sales outlet.

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

ROCK CREEK has 75% ice which is unstable with water around 2/3rds of the lake and NOT safe to be on. Road was plowed the 15th of April. There is open water at several areas along the shoreline of the lake. Also, try the stream near US 395 where it's accessible with standard nymphs or dries for the best action until the lake is ice free. Mosquito flats road is plowed but the gate is still locked. Resort scheduled to open by Memorial weekend.

CROWLEY is ice free and ready for opener with hundreds of thousands of small and medium sized trout. Because of the excellent food sources in the 5280-acre reservoir, trout grow to catchable size and weight at three-quarters of a pound. About 10 percent of the trout caught (50,000 trout) during opening weekend will weigh over a pound and a half. These fish are from stocks planted in previous years or are wild fish produced in Crowley's tributary waters. DWP recently stated they will continue to raise the level of the lake until Opening Day and then lower it at sometime over the summer.

UPPER OWENS water has been dirty with inconsistent flows due to water being moved down east portal to Crowley. Try some large flashy patterns. Dries working are Parachute Adams, Stimulator, Elk Hair Caddis, and CDC Baetis emergers. Nymphs working are zebra midge, red copper John, prince nymphs, pink San Juan worm, red rainbow warrior, flashback hares ear, flashback pheasant tail and birds nest. Streamers to try, crystal bugger, Carey bugger, Doc's Twin Lakes specials, Matuka, and double bunny.

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CONVICT is simply beautiful and again I spotted some nice fish, under the bridge enjoying the deli. They sure are beautiful sitting there just finning. Fish the inlet and outlets and keep your line tight should a "hefty" be cruising the area and take your offering. Try some streamers with rubber legs, also Matukas and Pistol Pete's. Use just enough line to drift by their nose and don't overcast.

HOT CREEK flume is at 35cfs and water is clear, flows are not really high, but it is producing when the temps are at their peak. It's a stealth approach to get into some poundage and knowing how to throw a good drift is "key". Reports say trout are taking midge larva early in the morning and small baetis on top mid-day. Some caddis on the warmer afternoons and can be spotty on the bite. Try some parachute Adams and Griffith's gnats. Nymphs taking fish are wd40 flashy, rs2 emergers, micro mayflies, miracle nymph disco midge, and copper zebra midge.

MAMMOTH BASIN road crew hit the asphalt and the road is clear. Twin Lakes is ice free due to last week's warm-up. Loop road is scheduled to be open by the 26th.

SAN JOAQUIN is projected to open by May 11 with Reds Meadow road to Devils Postpile by the 29th. Pile burning in Devils Postpile was completed in February with the burning of over 200 piles on 59 acres in the National Monument area and National Forest land in Reds Meadow Valley. During the burning, smoke production was minimal due to the safe burning conditions and limited visitation to the Reds Meadow Valley.

JUNE LAKE loop has been open since March 14th. The June Lake cage culture program did not raise fish this past winter but it is holding Kamloop Rainbows for DFW due to water issues at Junction Reservoir. Try some streamers in dark patterns using quick action near weedy areas by the west end of the lake also try the shore with big rocks. There are a lot of deer moving into in the area, so stay alert and avoid wrecking your trip.

GULL LAKE iced out in early March and was stocked for the opener. Try streamers, buggers and a dropper near the reeds. Check in at the shop and see what's hot.

SILVER LAKE also iced out mid March and was stocked but I'd hit the smaller areas of the inlet and outlet for browns cruising for larger morsels to whet their appetites.

GRANT LAKE is on the low side always anticipating run-off, but there's still a lot of water to fish, try the south shore or the inlet for fish cruising for smaller fish. Check with Ernie's or the Grant Lake Marina for specifics.

LUNDY LAKE is ice free and down due to low snow pack and the road is open to the second gate. No report from Edison when they will let the lake fill up. The resort will open around mid June from the latest report. You can drive all the way to the ponds for some great dry fly action or the inlet on the mountain side of the resort.

VIRGINIA LAKES ROAD has been open all winter to Rand Road due to the lack of snow. The County plowed the parking lot at Big Virginia on the 21st. Big Virginia has some water showing at the outlet and the inlet of the lake and the whole lake is dark. **USE EXTREME CAUTION** if you decide to walk out there. The ice is breaking down very fast due to the warm weather in March and early April.

LITTLE VIRGINIA has water showing at the inlet with water along south shore. The outlet is showing more water daily. The ice will be dangerous and very unstable so use extreme caution and think twice before going out on the lake as it is has water on top the ice and very mushy. Weather has been cooler the last few days with light snow on 4/22 at 8000' and higher with night temperatures running between the high 20's to low 30's. Another storm is due in on Friday making opening day a bit uncomfortable for anyone attempting to fish the open water.

TRUMBULL LAKE has very little open water for fishing but it depends on this week's temperatures as to how much ice will be gone.

EAST WALKER flow is at 22cfs and holding with reports of 6 to 18 fish days. I scouted the area and found a bounty of bugs. Small midges, small streamers and some dries are seeing trout between 12 and 20 inches. Try q San Juan worm, birds nest, zebra midge, Tail-water Tiny, and WD40 in sizes 20 & 22. Be sure and phone Ken's for current conditions due to the drought and the exact pattern of the day.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR is low and clear. Lake has been stocked and DFW bows are ready. A huge load from the hatchery hit the water Wednesday and more were stocked before Saturday.

WEST WALKER flow is 248cfs but it's early, it will get higher as the temps increase after the next storm. DFW stocked 1500 lbs. along with 500 pounds of brown trout prior to the March 1st new regulation opener along with Northern Mono Chamber stocking a 750-pound load of 3-5 pound rainbows. Look for great action the entire length of the West Walker from Pickle Meadows to town. Flows have come down with the current cold snap but will return when it warms up starting on Monday. The town will also be hosting two big derbies one in July and the other in August. Check their website for details.

Fishing has been great with fish up to 18 inches on small midges or streamers (olive woolly buggers).

TIOGA PASS ~ The Park Service started on April 15th and they are working their way east and currently at Porcupine Flat which is about half way with CalTrans and the County working their way west. The road is open to the park entrance and they have a target date of early May sometime between the 11th and 16th is the rumor.

***Please note:** Tioga Pass will be undergoing a resurfacing project that is slated to start in May so expect 15-60 minute delays depending on the time of day. No work will take place on weekends from Friday 4:30pm thru Sunday 11:00pm. This will be on-going through 2014 and into summer 2015. Check their website for specific times. If you can't locate it email me at (vlresort@wildblue.net) and I'll send you the schedule.

SONORA PASS – Opened April 17th (subject to storm closure) but has been closed for 2 days and should reopen after the storm.

MONITOR PASS opened on March 7th (subject to storm closure) but has been closed for 2 days and should reopen after the storm.

See you on the water, CJ
(14.4)

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