

November 2011

Delta Fly Fishers

Rx

Flyfishing

November's President's Message The Temporary President's Corner By Herman Spalinger

At last I don't have to pound you over the head again regarding new officers for 2012. Two of our newer members have volunteered for nomination for Vice President, John Highsmith, and Jason Stapleton wants to be a nominee for our Board of Directors. We have another member "leaning" toward becoming a nominee for president, but until I get a full commitment from him I will not announce his name at this time. You will be advised at our next regular meeting at the J.R. Williams school on the Wednesday, November 9th. It is important we get as many members to attend that meeting as possible so we meet our By Laws requirement to hold a general election for the Board of Directors with over 40% attendance. As you will recall from past Fall meetings, each November you vote on member nominees who wish to sit on the Board of Directors. After that election is held, the Board will then elect the officers for next year at the following week's board meeting. You should be getting a special announcement in the mail from our secretary for that meeting within the next several days.

We had a great turnout for our September Bridgeport outing. A great time was had by all. Some members even made themselves available for the Incomplete Angler trophy, but that announcement will come at our annual dinner next year, Saturday, January 14th, 2012, by the "Shadow". In the meantime the "Shadow" continues stalking for any better candidates – if there be one - so be on your toes during any upcoming outing you attend.

Our December 14th meeting is Member's Night, so get out your photos or digital DVD that you made of your great trip to a special fishing spot this year and present it at that meeting. It is not necessary to have photos either, just stand up there and tell us of your experience. Please contact Marty Kjelson at 477-9618 before the December meeting to let him know if you wish to do a presentation so we have an idea of how long our program will take and how many we will have. I will be presenting a DVD about our fly fishing trip to Canada this last August with Marty, Ron, Bob and Jean. We had so much fun

we were thinking it would be great to hold an outing up there if it wasn't so far to drive. That said, the long drive was well worth it.

November 19th is the County's annual Trout Bout at Oak Grove Park, and this is the date where we need volunteers to help our club sell doughnuts, sodas, hot dogs, chili dogs and nachos to the participants plus drive around in an electric cart and do the same for everyone while they are fishing. It is especially fun to ride around in the county's carts and sell the participants food, hot chocolate or coffee while they're fishing as they really enjoy the convenience if it is a cold day. It is a great experience you'll remember, and our club gets a very friendly reception from those who come out, especially the young ones who hope to catch the biggest fish in their category to win a prize handed out by the county. This is our obligation to assist the county in their fish derbies during the year in thanks for them letting us use the Nature Center year round free of charge.

This last weekend a new member Ed Smith and I took our trailer and RV to Silver Lake campground for a fishing experience to see if we could catch some of the big ones cruising the shallower water. We fished Friday evening and Saturday at Silver then drove up to Caples for Sunday. I caught four fish Friday evening and Ed caught four fish Saturday. None were over 14 inches. On Saturday the lake was like glass until about 3:00 p.m. when some wind finally came up. Caples was a bust as we both got "skunked" Sunday, but the weather was great even though Sunday noon the wind came up on Caples and it got rather hard to control the boat. There weren't that many boats on the lake.

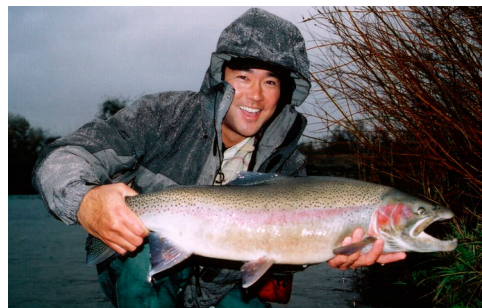
Looking forward to seeing you at our November 9th meeting for the election of the Board of Directors.

November General Meeting Keith Kaneko

Our speaker for the November 9th Delta Fly Fisher's monthly meeting will be Keith Kaneko of Nor Cal Fly Fishing. Keith is a fly fishing guide, destination travel agent, and Steelhead fanatic. He is a self-described refugee from 'corporate America,' and established his own fly fishing guide service (www.norcalflyfishing.com) more than a decade ago. He guides Northern California waters such as the Feather, American, Yuba, and other Central Valley rivers for trout, shad, stripers and steelhead. In addition, he founded Angling On The Fly Travel about 7 years ago, and has been helping clients book fishing trips to faraway destinations, as well as constantly exploring and developing new fly fishing opportunities around the globe.

Keith will discuss flyfishing for steelhead and native trout on the lower Yuba, Feather and American Rivers with specific instruction on nymphing techniques and other tips to catch these exciting fish. He will be sharing his knowledge on how to maximize your success while fly fishing for these anadromous fish. This informative and educational presentation is well suited for the first-time Steelhead angler and seasoned angler alike.

The meeting will be held at 7pm at J.R. Williams School on Meadow Ave. in Stockton. For more information call: Marty Kjelson, 209-477-9618 or John Keagy at 209-369 -5690.



DDF SPONSORS THE DELTA FLY FISHING CHALLENGE

Delta Fly Fishers has launched its angler recognition program to promote fly fishing for sport fish in the Delta and to foster appreciation of its fisheries and natural resources. Successful applicants must catch, photograph, and release six different sport fish (out of a list of 15 species) from the Delta using fly fishing gear. After receiving a completed application form, supporting photographs, and a \$5 application fee, Delta Fly Fishers will mail a personalized 11" x 14" color certificate suitable for framing.

For more information on this new award program, go to our web site at: www.deltaflyfishers.com/deltachallenge.html (web page in progress) or contact Bob Fujimura at: deltaflyfishers@gmail.com

SAVE MART MARKETS – S.H.A.R.E.S

As a reminder, DFF has joined with Save Mart Markets via the S.H.A.R.E.S. program. DFF earns 3% of most purchases made by customers using the card provided to DFF by Save Mart.

Since the last report about our SHARES participation, the membership has responded to the need. The donations from SHARES for the past two quarters totaled approximately \$484.00. Thank you membership. We have an additional 50 SHARES cards coming that will be distributed to new members, family and friends. Continue to shop Save Mart Markets! There is no additional cost to you. It merely gives 3% to DFF that otherwise would go to market profit.

FOR SALE

1 pr. Cabela's Neoprene boot foot chest waders, size 9 Stout, Used once. \$50
1 pr. Patagonia wading boots w/felt soles & cleats, size 8 - \$25
1 pr. Patagonia flats boots, size 10 - \$22
1 pr. Redington wading boots w/felt soles and cleats, size 10 \$18
2 Blanton Rigged 'N Ready Rod bags, VG condition, \$25 ea
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HEAVY DUTY MAGNIFYING FLORESCENT WORK LAMP - This has a 5" lens and has never been used \$25.00.

Call Doug Ridgway at (209) 617-7050 or email at doug_flyfisher@yahoo.com

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

DFF MENTOR PROGRAM

The Delta Fly Fishers Board of Directors, intent upon enhancing the existing Fishing Buddy Program, is proposing DFF adopt a Mentor Program which is proactive and broadly inclusive. The primary objective is, by sharing fly fishing skills and knowledge of existing DFF members with new members, this will assist new members in getting acquainted with existing members, with club activities and, generally speed the transition from new member to old friend.

The Board of Directors recognizes this will take considerable commitment from the existing membership and does encourage the active participation of current members. The following broad guidelines are thought to be necessary for this program.

- Every existing member willing to serve, as a Mentor will be asked to complete a skills/knowledge list that they will share with new members as requested. The Mentor Program Chairperson will maintain these documents.
- Every new member will be asked to complete a skills/knowledge request form, which the Mentor Program Chair will also maintain.
- The Mentor Program Chair will introduce any and all new members before the General Program begins and will make an effort to introduce the new members to DFF Officers and Board Members.
- Under consideration is the additional incentive for new members of some free raffle tickets.
- The Mentor Program Chair will follow up on matching a Mentor with a new member based on skills/knowledge sought and skills/knowledge available. The mentor and new member will work out a compatible schedule by which to transfer skills/knowledge. The Mentor Program Chair as needed can make reassignments.
- Examples of mentoring include such things as guiding a new member on local waters within a few months of assignment, accompany the new member to a local fly shop to assist with gear purchases, contact the new member a few days before each monthly meeting to remind the new member of the meeting and program, assisting with casting skills, how to tie useful knots and/or fly tying, sharing information regarding fly fishing destinations including basic travel tips and promoting new members to join DFF in its outings

Over time the Mentor Program may be extended to include existing members who want to learn new skills/knowledge.



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Fishing Mentor Request

NAME _____

DATE _____

PHONE CONTACTS: (1) _____

(2) _____

The best time to contact me is _____

My E-mail address is: _____

I WOULD LIKE A FISHING MENTOR TO HELP ME WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Casting Fly Tying Attending Outings Equipment

Knot Tying Float Tubing Pontoon Boating

Stream Fishing Lake Fishing Trout Fishing

Steelhead Fishing Shad Fishing Bass Fishing

Striper Fishing Salt Water Fishing Private Water Fishing

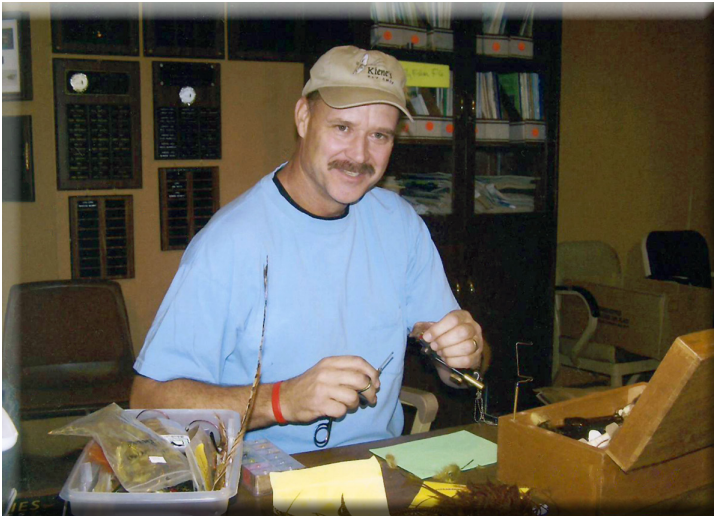
Rod Building Selecting a Guide Travel

Entomology Other _____

Please describe what you would like help with _____

If you need further information, please contact the Fishing Mentor Chairman:
Steve Cooper, 956-1032 or e-mail @ repuoc3@sbcglobal.net
Mail the form to:
Delta Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 77862
Stockton, CA 95207

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FLY CASTING AND TYING



The weekly Wednesday evening fly casting sessions have ended for the year. But not all is lost. Meet Joe Balderston in the Nature Center, at Oak Grove Park, at 6:30 and do some fly tying. The exception is the 2nd Wednesday night when DFF has its monthly meeting.

Whether you are a novice and want tips on how to tie or an expert that wants an excuse to get out of the house, then come out for the camaraderie of other members. This is an excellent chance improve your fly casting, tying and/or BS abilities. For more information contact Joe Balderston at 649-0291.

Membership Form

Regular membership – \$30 *

Family membership – \$35*

Senior (individuals 62 years or older) – \$25.00*

*Add \$10 to receive a printed newsletter by U.S. mail

Dues are for one year, from September 1 to August 31. Please fill out then mail to:

Bob Fujimura, Membership Chairman
PO Box 1562
Lodi, CA 95241-1562

Check one:

New membership _____ Renew membership _____

Regular Membership _____

Senior Membership (62+) _____

Family Membership _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ - _____

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**For receiving monthly e-mail attached newsletters and club notices

I would like to be on the _____ committee

Please enclose any dues as a check made to Delta Fly Fishers.

If there is any questions or problems please contact: Bob

Fujimura at 339-0683 or e-mail at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP

The high Sierra trout fishing in the streams are coming to a close with the colder fall nights although the lakes are turning over in water temperature so it is one of the prime periods of fishing for large brown, brook, and lake trout. Soon fishers will start focusing on the lower elevation lakes or tail-waters as DFG will begin to resume that fall and winter planting schedules. Water temperatures are rapidly decreasing in the Delta so largemouth and striper fishing are undergoing another peak fishing period. For those who choose to fish in the fall, the changing weather and solitude of fishing less crowded waters are the cherished rewards of this season.

Thank all of those members who have already paid their membership dues. The Board of Directors and the committee chairs greatly appreciate your promptness and consider it a sign of confidence in the past efforts and activities. If you are the few who haven't paid, we would appreciate if you could take the time now to mail your dues to either Bob Fujimura at PO Box 1562, Lodi, CA 95241-1562 or Treasurer John Keagy at the next club meeting or activity. No renewal form is necessary if your contract information has not change in the last year. If you need any renewal or new membership forms, you can download them from our Internet web site <http://www.deltaflyfishing.com/membership.html> or contact Bob Fujimura by e-mail (deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or by phone at 339-0683.



Trying Something New

by Marty Kjelson

I'm writing about an experience I had during our September, 2011 outing to the Bridgeport, Ca. area of the Eastern Sierra Nevada. Hopefully this will encourage our members, and other fly fishers, to try new patterns and techniques. For some time I've been interested in the late Gary LaFontains's work and read his book "Trout Flies - Proven Patterns" published by Greycliff Publ. Co in 1993. I had some success with his dry fly pattern, called the Airhead, on a recent trip to Canada and felt it would be good to test a few of his other patterns on the lakes near Bridgeport. Gary's description of patterns in the book is quite extensive and thought provoking. These include his underwater base experiments and stream logs. My testing, of course, assumes I could tie the patterns reasonably well and fish it somewhat properly. Both assumptions were/are very questionable! My approach was to choose seven patterns for a day of lake fishing, using each pattern for no more than one hour and to change patterns once three trout were landed. I tied the following fly patterns from Gary's book "Trout Flies":

Dries – The Double Wing, #10; The Foam Ant, #16; The Mess, # 10

Nymph – The Twist Nymph, #14

Emerger – The Halo Mayfly Emerger, #14

Wet – The Firecracker, #16, with fluorescent chartreuse or orange wings

Streamer – The Alexander, #12 (this is a very old pattern from the late 1800s) that is not Gary's but one C.J. Webb suggested we try on her Virginia Lakes

All these patterns can be found on the web, Gary's on: nwflytyer.wordpress.com, if you don't have his book available. To my surprise, six of the seven patterns worked well and caught the minimum of three fish each. Only the wet fly didn't get one hit, in an hour of fishing various parts of the lake. It's really a river fly and meant to attract trout in the deeper parts of the stream where the fluorescent can be seen better. So, go figure, the lake trout didn't care for it or maybe for my technique. The dry's were great and got strikes regularly when there was at least some surface action going on. The ant was hard to hook fish perhaps because it sits up pretty high. The Mess looks like a mess of feathers yet got very strong strikes. When one looks at LaFontaine's patterns you really ask, can this really catch a fish? Well, I found the answer to be yes! The nymph and streamer takes were more subtle, yet did the job fine.

That's my story of a day on one of our beautiful Sierra lakes where I caught primarily planted rainbows. I must admit planted fish may not be the most selective critters on the planet and may have taken any pattern "thrown at them" (I mean delicately cast to them). Nevertheless, I had a great fun day and found that "stepping out of the box" has very nice rewards. Some of you know I like to see the take off the top and also fish midge larvae with or without an indicator and a very slow strip. I also like to feel the strong take on a fast strip. These are just a few of many techniques and patterns we have available to us here in the year 2011. I encourage each of you to try something new and tell us about your experience. You won't be disappointed.

Good luck and tight lines.

Fly Tying and Casting

During his interesting fly tying demonstration at the September meeting, long-time member, Bud Heintz offered to have any member to contact him if they had any fly tying questions. Bud has been very generous with his time and experiences so don't be afraid to take up his offer. You can contact Bud by phone at (209) 522-8790 or by e-mail at budheintz@att.net. Bud gave a very informative program and we thank him for sharing his skills.

Jim Rich also wants to announce that the seasonal fly casting sessions at Oak Grove Park has ended for this year. Please note when handling public inquiry about these sessions.

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Fishing Tip: Locating a trout's favorite spot is fairly easy once you understand the dynamics of the way they feed. In rivers, they face into the current generally waiting for their food to arrive. In lakes trout are more likely to cruise in search for food. Trout cannot afford to waste energy because each morsel provides a small amount of their daily intake. In Gary Borger's book "Nymphing", he describes these holding areas as sheltering lies, feeding lies, and prime lies. Sheltering lies are protective cover like deep pools, logjams or shelter debris. Feeding lies are spots where trout feed without any effort. Large trout usually control prime lies and will hold in feedings areas. Rivers vary as do the lies depending on depth, cover and flat pools with no current or the edges of current that collect helpless insects. Usually a significant hatch will pull trout out of their protective positions into feeding lies for a period of time. Hatches provide one reason for fish to move from safety into open dangerous flat pools, the other reason being their metabolism signaling the need for food and eating anything that looks good. Larger fish are likely to stay put eating what drifts by and need more of a reason to move into vulnerable feeding spots than small fish.

If you are a serious angler, "you need to build a plan based upon what is in the body of water you fish. You have to break down the water into lies which will help build formulas that work" (Borger). Breaking down a river into its components (pools, riffles, runs and eddies) will help the angler in fly selection and once you have determined the fish's water level preference for food you may need to make different fly choices to match the spot you're fishing. Trout, their food, and their temperament are the best ways to beat them at their own game is how I prefer to spend a lot of my time.

Weather: Summer continued through most of October with one 14" snowstorm on the 5th. The Aspens appeared as though burned but returned with the most magnificent display in about 7 years peaking around the 16th through the 18th.

News – DFG infused all the waters with end of season stocking for a great 2012 opener. Virginia Lakes was stocked 10.25 with 500 pounds and these fish are fatties and great fun. Still waiting for the big news and will shoot off a special report to everyone.

Legislation – DFG seems to be dealing with internal turmoil as usual with the new Director (Ex CalTrout) and I'm curious as to their direction for the "everyday Joe" and the hatchery program. It would pain me greatly to see stringers of wild trout coming down the trail.

Fishing Report:

Rock Creek – Closed - Try small bushy parachutes #16-18 along the stream and in the lake fish with a sink-tip using olive or rust buggers. Hoppers & ants are also working on warmer afternoons. Temps are comfortable between 11am and 2pm.

Hot Creek – Water conditions are great (flows 33cfs) with the best fishing in the morning until early afternoon. Caddis hatches have been great all day; but fishing caddis dries mid-day are getting the best results. Nymphing small midges and baetis will get great action even on cloudy days. Dries:

Grey para Caddis #18-22, CDC caddis emerger #20, Brook's Hot Creek caddis #18-22 and Tan elk hair caddis #20. Nymphs: Copper Zebra #22, Miracle #20, Duck ass submerger #22-24, BH FB Pheasant Tail #18, Black beauty #24 and Barr's flashback emerger #22. Please stay out of the water and help prevent the spread of New Zealand mud snails.

Crowley Lake – Algae is still around and moving during the day with the breeze. Water continues to drop and only down 5 feet from the high water point. There are lots of weeds around for this time of year. Fishing is good to excellent and fish are everyone since DFG just dumped 280,000 fingerlings with larger rainbows and cutthroats scheduled before the end of the season. The grand total will be over 500,000 which is what it use to be some years ago. Nymphs: #16 black Optimidge with green flashback, red/black Optimidge, Mickey's Red Baron early. Streamers on the table are perfection perch, punk perch, Hornbergs, leeches and Stillwater hares. Look for a new policy on this water next summer.

Upper Owens – Has been good with stable flows. Good dry action early to mid morning and good nymphing throughout the day. Some terrestrials around and streamer action has been fair. Dries: Para Adams #20, Goddard Caddis #16, olive Elk hair caddis #18-20, Brook's CDC Baetis #22-24, Extended body BWO #18-20. Nymphs: Copper tiger midge #18, BH Prince #16, Green Copper John #16, PT #16, red San Juan worm and #18 Zebra Midge. Streamers: Meat Whistles, olive, black or brown wooly buggers, perfection perch, and punk perch. Give it a shot; it's been a lot of fun this summer. Check the regs for this area.

Owens River Gorge – Flow is a permanent 45cfs. Water is clear and cold as is the temperature. Stinging Nettles are taller than me so be careful. Bring your arsenal of top water favorites like yellow humpy's #18, rubber leg stimulator, Kauffman's stimulator and Green Copper John #18.

Convict - Reports good fishing using mostly black or olive woollies, Hornbergs and Rainbow Hornbergs size 8.

Mammoth Lakes Basin _ Reports that fishing has been fair to good depending on time of day with great water conditions and good hatches. Two-fly rig has been doing the best with a nymph behind a callibaetis dry. Streamers working are Doc's Twin Lakes Special in black/Olive/Brown #10-12, Olive Matukas, Black and Olive wooly Buggers #8-10. Nymphs getting the job done are callibaetis #16, BH prince #14 and Copper John #16. SAN JOAQUIN flows are low but fishing is still excellent. Keep your dries high and very dry. Try Kauffman Stimulator #16 to 18, olive Elk hair Caddis #18, hoppers, and Chernobyl Ants. Nymphs working are Red Copper John #18, BH prince nymphs, olive Micro-mayfly #18, and pheasant tails #18 and hare's ear #16. Road reopened after the storm and should remain open until the 31st.

June Lake – Reports great fishing on large streamers, fish near the west end near weedy spots and don't spook the trout. Drop your type II line and dip and strip working in lanes. Try different Hornbergs, leeches or even a Spruceabou. DFG stocked again this week and lots of boats out there. Neon orange stripes on your tube might be in order.

Gull Lake – Has improved with the 10 to 2 window of warmth so try different streamers in olive, but trout are taking some dries. Try Black Gnat parachute #14 or 16, olive elk hair caddis and Goddard Caddis. Caddis is hatching everywhere.

Silver Lake – Level is good and fishing near weedy areas with

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DVD Fishing How To Rentals (3 weeks max)	\$ 2.00



a dry should prove effective. Early afternoon dries are parachutes, or anything that will stay afloat and look tasty, maybe use some Para-Duns or PMD's to get some tugs.

Grant Lake – Water is very full with good reports on fishing. Marina is closed so check with Ernie's in town for current fly imitations.

Lundy Lake – Reports good fishing at the south end toward the inlet on dark olive or purple Woolly buggers #8 and Rainbow or Guinea Hornbergs.

Virginia Lakes – Have done the best on a olive woolly bugger, Rickard's callibaetis nymph #14 and #16, and Grey Ghosts. For the cocktail hour fish try Griffith's Gnats or partridge and yellow soft hackle (spiders). Lots of callibaetis floating above the shoreline willows so try Cahill light or a Cowdung. DFG hit the water on the 25th with 500 pounds. Backcountry waters (Blue Lake, Cooney and Frogs) are producing on small black dries, parachute black Gnats, and Adams during the window (2-4 pm).

East Walker – Flow as of this writing is 212cfs, and fishing reports are good. Fishing is pretty good most of the day but make sure and keep your fly clean between casts as the weeds are around. Not much Caddis around so tie on different Streamers like perfection perch #10, Punk Perch #10 and Black woolly buggers, leeches and crayfish. Fishing has been outstanding the last couple hours before dark near the dam so try some double ugly or even a crayfish and hang on. Check with JR or Rick for the latest patterns to try as conditions change.

Bridgeport – Reservoir is doing great and water temps are stable with weeds (here a weed, there a weed, everywhere a weed, weed). Stick with streamers along the outskirts of the weed beds with hare's Ear, PT #14-16, Copper Tiger midges #16, black Zebra midges #16, water-boatmen, and black AP Emergers.

West Walker – Flow is 90cfs and the best fishing is always around the bridge in the flat water. Try just past Chris Flat campground or west of the Bridge for about 200 feet or so staying on the north side. Water is low but they are down there, so try some small midges, San Juan worms, hare's ear (BH) or Mayfly Micro fly (glass bead), also hoppers, ants, and damselfly. A few short lived hatches are coming off around 11 or so.

See you in April! CJ 11 10.27

Conservation

By Ron Forbes

I continually read of men who said they would be just as happy not catching trout as catching them. To me, that even then sounded like pious nonsense, and rather more of an excuse than a statement of fact. No, I want to catch them, and every time I slip on my waders and put on a fly, it is with this in mind. -- Brain Clarke

The Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (NCCFFF) hosted this year's Festival of Fly Fishing at John Asquaga's Nugget in Sparks Nevada early last October. The event was a success and Delta Fly Fishers were well represented in the seminars. Steve Cooper, Jerry Neuberger, Al Smatsky, Leo Gutterres, and Bob Fujimura put on seminars and gave graciously of their time and efforts helping to make the seminars a success. They represented Delta Fly Fishers well.

Periodically, at the banquet, NCCFFF gives a Lifetime Achievement Award. This is not an annual award but only given to a recipient who has made an outstanding contribution to our sport or our fisheries. This year the Council gave the award to Felix Smith. As Mr. Smith's name was read as the winner and he approached the podium to accept the Lifetime Achievement Award, he received a well-deserved standing ovation. Felix Smith worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) and in 1983 he was on a team of biologists who were sent to the Kesterson Wildlife Refuge to investigate concerns of the owners of a few grassland duck clubs and others who thought there was something seriously wrong with the environment in the northern grasslands. They were finding dead fish and dead and deformed birds throughout the area. Smith and his group investigated, and to his dismay found a deformed American coot hatching. This discovery was followed by finding 1,000's of dead fish and dead and deformed birds. Upon investigation it was found that selenium was leaching from farms in the Wetlands Water District. Smith had been assigned to look into the Kesterson situation and issues that were becoming known about agricultural wastewater and drainage. It turned out that the selenium leaching was the problem. As the agriculture waste water flowed into Kesterson Wildlife refuge, it moved up through the food chain, due to bioaccumulation, until it reached concentrations that killed fish and deformed or killed birds. It wasn't the discovery of the selenium problem that got the award for Felix Smith... it is what he did afterwards.

Selenium is a naturally occurring non-metal that is necessary for human life but only in microscopic amounts. In larger amounts it is highly toxic. Safe levels of the element are about one part per billion. That's approximately one drop of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool. The levels at Kesterson were so high that thousands of birds were deformed, killed, or unable to reproduce. This was a huge environmental disaster. After a short period of time, it became apparent to Smith that neither the USF&WS nor their bosses at the Department of Interior were taking any action. They were, instead, doing there best to instigate a cover-up.

Felix Smith, however, is a man of integrity. During his

acceptance speech he emphasized that those in positions like his are charged with protection the environment. It's their duty to protect the trust the serve. His superiors at USFWS and the Dept. of the Interior didn't have Smith's integrity and chose the cover-up route. Their actions changed Smith's life. Hugh pressure was put on him to go along with the cover-up. He was accused of "not being a team player," and his superiors made his life a living hell. However, he lived by his principles and blew the whistle on what was going on at Kesterson. For months there were nightly newscasts on TV showing the deformed and dead birds and fish. Professional retribution against Smith continued for the rest of his career and he retired as soon as it was possible. He had served the USF&WS for 34 years. So much for his superiors taking protection of the public trust seriously or with integrity. When you look at the environmental and water issues confronting California, their attitude continues. Operating "to uphold the public trust" is not found in most of the state or federal agencies today.

The issues with chemicals and salts in agricultural wastewater drainage is not a new issue. In 1960 the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) did an investigation of water quality in the lower San Joaquin Valley. The investigations involved the drainage water containing salts, sodium, selenium, sulfates, boron, mercury, and other trace elements. Nothing has been done to address these problems due to DWR and other agencies' inaction.

It's now 28 years after Kesterson and still no resolution to the problems. The agricultural land is owned by Westland farmers, and one of the solutions purposed has been the retirement of the contaminated land. Another solution would be to fine agribusiness for their pollution, or if they continue to pollute they would forfeit their subsidized water rights. However, as you will recall from a former conservation report, agribusiness has received a variance from having to comply with the state's Clean Water Act. So they continue to pollute. The area of contamination is estimated from between 100,000-250,000 acres. Several years ago Westland's was starting negotiations to sell that land to the government. The land could be farmed with dry land agriculture, but without water the land is virtually worthless. Westland's wanted over \$6,000 per acre. Without water, the land is worth less than \$1,000 per acre. If Westland's sells 250,000 acres and gets their price, we the taxpayers, would pay \$1.5 billion for totally useless land. Westland also wants to maintain their pre-issued water rights that land. The obvious reason, of course, is to continue to sell water at a huge profit. In a talk given by Smith several years ago, he pointed out that for each acre retired from production between 2 and 3.5 acre feet of water could be saved or 200,000 to 350,000 acre feet of water for 100,000 acres. It would also reduce 60,000 to 80,000 acre feet of waste water and drainage for each 100,000 acres. Also for each acre removed from production up to 60 pounds of pesticides per acre will not be generated. The quality of water in the south-western San Joaquin Valley will continue to deteriorate until the drainage and waste water problems are resolved.

We need more people like Felix Smith.

Ron Forbes

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Wed (except meeting nights)	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	WEDNESDAY EVENING TYING Contact: Joe Balderston 649-0291 or Jim Rich 477-6404
Every 2nd Wed (Except July & Aug) 7:00 PM	John R Williams School Stockton	Membership Meeting Contact Marty Kjelson 477-9618 John Keagy 369-5690
Every 3rd Wed (Except July) 7:00 PM	Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton	Board Meeting All Members Welcome
Wednesday November 9	John R Williams School Stockton	Monthly Meeting Keith Kaneko of Nor Cal Fly Fishing
Wednesday November 16	Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton	Board Meeting
November 19	Oak Grove Park, Stockton CA	Trout Bout Charlie Reames - 369-6053
Saturday January 14, 2012	Eagles' Lodge Stockton CA	2012 Annual Banquet

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Some Pictures of Club Members and Outings



Bud Heintz demonstrating some clever fly tying techniques at the September's Members meeting.



At the September's meeting, Jason Stapleton and John Highsmith were also working on their fly tying.



Few club members enjoying float fishing Alpine Lake during the club's trip on October 15th.



Jean Fujimura, John Keagy, and Karen Keagy crossing the Stanislaus River access bridge above New Melones Reservoir.



Bud Heintz demonstrating some clever fly tying techniques at the September's Members meeting.



This was just one of many that Sallye and Bruce brought to the boat their last two days on the Lower Sac.