



Delta Fly Fishers

September 2011

Rx

Flyfishing

FROM THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Herman Spalinger

September, 2011

I have been informed by the Board of Directors that Steve Johnson has submitted a letter of resignation effective August 28th as president of Delta Fly Fishers. Since I was president for two years before Steve, I have told the board I would reluctantly fill in as temporary president only to the end of the year.

It is hard for me to fathom Delta Fly Fishers going forward without a president or vice president or newsletter editor. Our club has endured since 1976 to present, and we as a club have achieved tremendous success in providing to the public and members instruction on fly fishing, how to tune up or learn better fly casting techniques, supported various conservation measures, sponsored club outings, put on tremendous club raffles and barbecues, helped the county in their fish derbies, and, the most important, showing the Northern California Federation that we could come together as a club and sponsor their 2008 fly fishing festival in Lodi.

A good portion of you, the members, should take credit for that success as you all showed the Federation we are a viable fly fishing club. You did it once before, and now it's time for two or three of you to please step forward and become a president, vice president and newsletter editor. We are 113 members strong and I know there are at least three of you out there who can handle the duties of an officer and editor of our newsletter. Our November meeting is where the members elect the board of directors who then accept volunteers for the officers and vote on them at the November board meeting. I would be more than happy to help make the transition an easy one for whoever steps forward to be the next president. It's now up to you to keep this club going forward and continue our tradition.

Our program for September 14, 2011 should be interesting and educational. Longtime member Bud Heintz, a well-regarded fly tier, will demonstrate tying proven fly patterns. Tying will be done with the use of close-up video shown on large screens. Bring questions for Bud. The program is at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Avenue, Stockton. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

September General Meeting September 14th - Bud Heintz Fly Tying

The September 14th speaker be a fly tying demonstration by Bud Heintz, of Modesto, a longtime friend and member of the Club. The meeting will be held on Sept. 14th at 7 p.m. at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Ave., in Stockton. Bud will provide basic and unique techniques and tips to make your fly tying more efficient and effective. He will share some proven dry fly, soft hackle and nymph patterns and answer beginner and experienced tiers' questions. The Club's camera/TV screen equipment allows fly tying to be seen up close and personal. All public are invited.

DFE 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

ST. CROIX ULTRA LEGEND 908-3, a 9" 8 wt 3 pc rod in good condition with tube. \$120.00

1 pr. Cabela's Neoprene boot foot chest waders, size 9 Stout, Used once. \$50

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1 pr. Patagonia flats boots, size 10 - \$22

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



1st Fly

Marty Kjelson's 7 yr. old granddaughter, Alyssa, is starting to tie with some creative materials. Many young fisherpersons caught their pan fish with a safety pin, line, bamboo poles and a worm. Alyssa plans to use a real fly rod with her own flies! Marty will provide her with a few real hooks/materials on her next visit to Stockton.

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

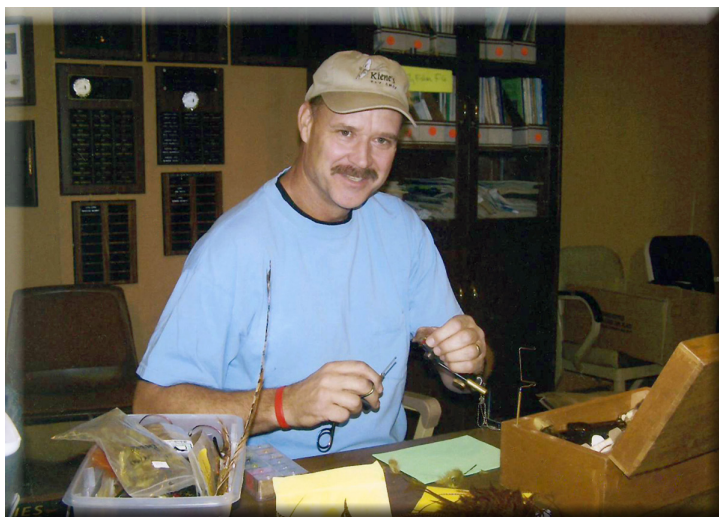
Entomology Other _____

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

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR
SPONSORS**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FLY CASTING AND TYING



The weekly Wednesday evening fly casting sessions have resumed this Summer. But not all is lost. Meet Jim Rich and Joe Balderston in the Nature Center, at Oak Grove Park, at 6:30 and do some fly casting and/or 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 cast 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 or Jim Rich at 477-6404.

MEMBERSHIP

BOB FUJIMURA, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

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 (____) _____ - _____

Cell (____) _____ - _____

Work (____) _____ - _____

E-Mail Address _____ **

**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.

I have previously mentioned ways that new members could better enjoy their participation with our club so this month let's focus our attentions to our biggest group: long-time members of Delta Fly Fishers. Most of this group has experienced most of what our club has to offer and have settled into a "comfort-zone" of familiar friends and places to fish – and perhaps wondering what or how to regain new interests into your favorite sport. If you feel this way and are interested in new and rewarding experience, you should consider helping a new club member to learn this sport and pass on some of the valuable lessons to someone who may be very appreciative of your knowledge. If you are lucky, that person may become a long-term fishing partner that might increase your expertise and your enjoyment from future trips. To do this, you can contact Steve Cooper and volunteer to be an official fishing mentor. Or just get to know a new club member and offer to take them out on your next fishing trip. Try it; you will enjoy it and your guest will too.

It is time of year again; the most important time of year – not the opening of trout season – but it's time to renew your annual membership. DFF relies on your dues as the major portion of its operating budget. Your prompt payment will allow the club to continue its many activities and programs. So please make our Treasurer smile again and send your dues to Bob Fujimura, PO Box 1562, Lodi, CA 95241-1562 or Bruce Rollans, Treasurer at the next meeting or club activity. If your contact information is still the same then you don't need to include a completed renewal form.

Please welcome our newest members, Ed and Michael Cottrell of Stockton, at our next meeting or activity.

New members are the life-blood of any worthwhile institution; please consider inviting your friends or relatives to join our club.

We are encouraging all members to receive their newsletters by e-mail attachment or downloading them from our website to speed delivery and reduce circulation costs. If wish to receive your newsletters electronically, please contact Bob Fujimura by e-mail (deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or phone 339-0683.



Cutthroats and Grizzlies

By Bob and Jean Fujimura



Herman, Marty, Ron, Jean, and I just returned from a trip to southeast British Columbia in early August. A previous DFF speaker got us interested in dry fly fishing for Westslope cutthroat trout. Due to fine planning by Herman, we stayed in comfort in a plush 4 bedroom condo in beautiful Fernie, BC. August is typically the summer season with few hatches and terrestrials are main patterns used.

But the spring flows and their associated hatches were still underway. We had good luck with oversized green drake patterns and other caddis or mayfly patterns.

Jean and I were very fortunate to be fishing with our more experienced DFF club members and we learned a lot from them about the joys of dry fly fishing and from our first guided float trip on the Elk River. Herman and the rest of this group are preparing a detailed slide presentation to share with club in the near future. So please enjoy a few photos to peak your interest until then.



Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Fishing Tip: Minimize-simplify-organize!

The size and variety of flies within most fly boxes can boggle even the sanest. I've seen some amazing SA waterproof boxes this summer, and the organizational skills of these fly boxes were amazing. I've an alter ego that suggests every possible unknown fly is needed so I've become a collector of sorts, but what I carry into the back country is about the size of a pack of cigarettes which is jammed full of what I always use, the same 5 flies in different colors for top water and the same 2 flies for sub-surface. I spend way too much time pouring over old fishing books looking for that perfect fly so I can simplify and organize my "toys" to come up with that one fly that not only is fast to tie, but inexpensive, works 85% of the time, and you don't care how many you lose. The fly is black and tied with 2 items, it's similar to the English version of the Black Gnat but with soft fibers for the swept back wing as in a Caddis, and a minimal black angora wool body that is picked out toward the throat to resemble legs. Most of the hook is showing as the body is very short. It only has one HUGE drawback; it's tied on a size 22 hook which works the best. Also, I wear bifocals and utilize a second magnifier. This tiny little item that swings out from the right edge of my specs so I can tie off the head, all the while using my left hand to keep the pussy-cat away from my feathers and only one eye is looking at the fly while the other is watching the kitty. After the flies are tied and the kitty is snoozing in my lap, I'm thinking as I pet her long silky fur, hmmmm. Another possible material, but first let's get this fly to work on a larger hook. I'll call in the R&D squad.

Weather:

Summer continues to bring great weather to the Eastern Sierra with a few patches of Aspens turning yellow meaning we're in for a good freeze within the next 10 days. It's that time of year.

News – Plan ahead, purchase your fishing license at your local tackle store and avoid the \$3 surcharge. More wardens are on the beat this summer and checking licenses.

Legislation – News still pending and will report when available.

Fishing Report: Always check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water as to limits, size and gear.

Rock Creek – Try small mosquitoes, olive and black woolies, Hornberg's (bugs are still bad up there). Subsurface with Type IV and seal buggers.

Hot Creek – Water conditions are great and stay in the wide channels and lengthen your leaders, lots of "goop" to snag up on. Hoppers are the best bet in the afternoon; try small mayfly and midge patterns for the am hatch. Important to keep the drag off your drifts, you're casting to trout with a 4.5 GPA.

Please stay out of the water and help prevent the spread of New Zealand mud snails.

Crowley Lake – Water temps are running between 53 to 70F (slightly higher than my last report). Check for the perfect temp of 57 with your thermometers. Massive weed beds will surface soon. Fish are moving all around look for dinner. DFG stocked browns earlier this spring due to the excellent conditions, and continue to stock with all the large fish chasing small Gorton's

Fish Sticks. It's like a circus down there. Big fish are spread out from the mouth of McGee out to 20' of water all along the old channel and big browns off the channel cruising the weed beds for tartar sauce for their dinner. It's similar to bobbing for apples without the water.

Nymphs: #16 red/black early, then go to Gray/Black Optimidges, Ultimate Damsel and Jansens Calibaetis. Dries: BWO extended body, or a dry-dropper, too much sub surface action for them to be interested in top water. Streamers: Stillwater Hares, Punk Perch, Doc's Twin lake Special black/olive #10, Hornberg #10, Olive Matuka #10 and Ultimate Damsel.

Upper Owens – Flows are at 79cfs above the Hot Creek confluence but down a bit from last week and starting to pick up. Dries working are #20 Para Adams, #16 Goddard Caddis, #16 Tan Elk Hair Caddis and #10 hoppers. Nymphs working are Zebra's and San Juan Worms. Streamers working are black/olive buggers, Hornbergs, and BH leeches.

Owens River Gorge – Flow is a permanent 45cfs required by LADWP. Water is clear and cold. Stinging nettles have their pickers out so swear leg protection and don't forget the water. Bring your arsenal of top water favorites like yellow humpy's #18, rubber leg stimulator, and Green Copper John #18 and #16 Western Coachman.

Convict – Reports good fishing using mostly black, or burgundy woolies, and Olive Hornbergs size 8. Of course the Pistol Pete is not a question, just the answer.

Mammoth – Water has warmed up and thunderstorms were in the forecast, but only a few sprinkles hit the Sierra. This time of summer the weather can change at a moments notice. Try Doc's Twin Lake Specials Black/olive/brown #10, Black and Olive Wolly buggers #8, Olive Matuka #8. Also tie one Callibaetis Nymphs #16, BH Prince nymphs #14 or a yummy yellow Stimulator #16.

San Joaquin – Running clear and slightly warmer and has had some nice hatches. Try some Humpy's, Royal Wulff's, hoppers, large ants, copper John red/green #18, and bead head Prince Nymph #18 and BH Yellow Sally #14.

June Lake – Reports good fishing on large streamers, the uglier the better, fish near the west end near weedy spots and don't spook the cutts. Drop your type IV sink and dip and strip working in lanes. Try different types of Hornberg's Spruce flies or some other "older" type wet flies. Have you heard of an Alexandra?

Gull Lake – Hawgs apparently are still stocked from Alpers trophy pond, so get up here and catch a nice trophy trout. Tie on dark streamers, woolies, Hornbergs, anything big and dark. It's all good.

Silver Lake – Level is still high and fishing near the bank looking for some slow weedy areas with a dry for a surprise, if your technique is up to it. Afternoon flies are standard dries like parachutes, umbrellas, or anything that will stay afloat and look tasty, maybe even give some Para-Duns or PMD's might get some tugs.

Grant Lake – Water is cold and clear, and still full with good reports on fishing. Check with the marina for the best area and flies, it has been inconsistent.

Lundy Lake – Reports good fishing at the west end on dark olive, purple Wooly buggers #8, also Rainbow Hornbergs, Spruce-fly (if you can find any) and Pistol Pete's out near the inlet and along the south shore. (Continued on Page 7)

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(February)

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Fishing Mentor Program

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

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License plate frame w "Delta Fly Fishers"	\$ 3.00
DVD Fishing How To Rentals (3 weeks max)	\$ 2.00



Eastern Sierra Focus By CJ Webb (Continued Form Page 6)

Virginia Lakes - Has done the best with the BH olive woolly bugger, Rickard's Stillwater nymph, olive bird's nest, partridge and yellow soft hackles. For the evening hatch, Grey Hackle Yellow (trimmed), mosquitoes, Griffith's Gnats, and. Enhancement Alpers arrived along with DFG's 500 pounds and the game was on with Alpers coming out daily.

Backcountry waters (Blue Lake, Cooney and Frogs) are producing on black ants, Griffith's Gnats, Adams, and small hoppers.

East Walker - Flow as of this writing is 349cfs, and fishing reports are good. Water is constantly improving, but fishing is pretty good especially in the am and pm but make sure and keep your fly clean between casts as the weeds are around. Try Stimulator #16, Elk hair Caddis, Fat Albert #12, Brooks PMD #16-18, hoppers, ants, foam beetles and damsels. Nymphs: Tan Nitro Caddis #16 Barr's Trico Emerger #18-22, Medallion Midge #20-22 and don't forget the mouse patterns in the late pm. Also drag out the Black Woolly Buggers and leeches #8.

Bridgeport Reservoir - Doing great and water temps are warming. Try BH flashback pleasant tails #14-16, #18-20 zebra midges, San Juan Worms, and #16 Callibaetis nymph. Just about any woolly bugger should work.

West Walker - Flow is 223cfs and the best fishing will be around and north of the bridge in the flat water. Still off color, but they are down there, so try some small midges, San Juan worms, hare's ear (BH), or Mayfly Micro midge. Hoppers are active, so get out the beasties and give 'em a toss.

See you on the water, CJ 118.26

Conservation

By Ron Forbes

Fly fishing is solitary, misanthropic, scientific in some hands, poetic in others, and laced with conflicting aesthetic considerations. It is not even clear if catching fish is actually the point. John Gierach

Since I have been writing the conservation section of our newsletter, people have asked me how I find enough material to write about. That isn't a problem. Actually the converse is the issue. At this point in our history there're more environmental, conservation and fisheries issues than have ever existed in the United States. We face two major problems. First is the number and seriousness of issues confronting us. The second is public ignorance and indifference.

Several months ago a Stockton Record reporter did a man on the street interview asking people the location of the Delta. Over 50% of the people living in Stockton couldn't answer the question. That gives us some of the idea of what we are dealing with. Public ignorance is what those with self-interest in these issues count on. That's, of course, a major card in the hand they play. Unfortunately, we rarely disappoint them. In the past we could count on the news media as a reliable source of information. This is no longer true. The media takes highly complex issues, such as the problems confronting the Delta, and turns them into 45-second sound bites such as "farmers income versus smelt" or "food vs. fish". At best, this is overly simplistic, at worst it is dishonest. In a recent news article, it was reported that the proposed canal will pay for itself. Nonsense! This is despite the fact that former Governor Edmond (Pat) Brown (1959 to 1967) made the same promise that the State Water Project, which cost \$1.75 billion, would pay for itself. We're still paying off those General Obligation bonds, issued during his administration, despite his promise.

Of all the many issues confronting California's fisheries, none is more important than the proposed building of a peripheral canal on the east side of the Delta. In other Conservation Reports, I have made a point of talking about some of the major issues relating to the Delta. Some of these issues include attempts at illegal water grabs, loss of our fisheries, agribusiness' blatant on-going greed and the list grows and grows. As you know, our Delta is a totally unique estuary on the west coast of both North and South America. In size, it is over 730,000 acres with over 500,000 acres in agricultural production. More than 750 animal and plant species live in the Delta. It hosts about 80% of our commercial fishery which either lives in or passes through the Delta. This includes winter-run Sacramento Chinook salmon, Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead.

This new proposed canal will destroy the Delta as we know it. The canal will be over 40 miles in length and extend from Hood to the Clifton Court Forebay near Tracy. It will connect the Sacramento River north of the Delta to the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project in the south. It is proposed to take 15,000 cfs of water around the Delta to be exported south, totally bypassing the Delta.

With increases of water currently exported from the Delta, there has been a decline in the Delta's water quality due to

the influx of salt intrusion from San Francisco Bay. Salinity control is the most important issue in maintaining the water quality of the Delta. With this bypass of the Delta and loss of the Sacramento River's water flow through the Delta, the loss of the Delta is certain. Despite what they tell us, their interest is only in high quality water, for their use and not in the health of the Delta or its fisheries.

It's interesting, also, that they have yet to make public some of the other costs this project will entail in addition to the cost of the canal itself. Some of these "other" issues are:

- Loss of prime agricultural land needed for right of way for a peripheral canal. How much land and what will that cost be?
- Problems of seepage caused by a peripheral canal. At a recent meeting on the restoration for the San Joaquin River, a speaker for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) spoke to the issues of seepage along the San Joaquin River and problems it will cause. When I suggested that a peripheral canal would cause the same issues, and asked what the DWR is planning to do about the problem and what was the proposed cost to the public, the speaker wouldn't answer the question.
- Total disruption of public utilities and transportation. If the canal is built on the east side of the Delta, it will totally disrupt passage of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railway system, the Stockton Ship canal, fuel and gas lines, two major highways, transmission lines, and a major water district's aqueducts, and other issues they chose not to address. And again, we see no attempt to address the financial aspect of this question.
- The loss of our fisheries including two salmon runs, steelhead, and the striped bass fishery. The loss of jobs and the fisheries also has not been taken into account.
- The loss of agriculture to San Joaquin County. It will devastate Stockton, and the county, since agriculture is the driving force in Stockton's and the county's economic life. Again, no discussion.

The governor and his colleagues make wonderful promises just like his father did. And, as in his father's case, it's not the truth.

Don't trust what you see or hear from the news media, our local, state, or national governments. And do not trust what you hear from state agencies including the State Water Quality Control Board, DWR, DFG and so on. This list should also include the Federal agencies. These agencies have vested not public, interest at heart. For example, several State agencies have formed to "investigate" the building of a peripheral canal. Two of the best known are the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), and the so-called Blue Ribbon Task Force started by our former governor. The BDCP is nothing more than a vehicle to start a peripheral canal. The so-called Blue Ribbon committee is anything but blue ribbon. In both these groups all people who live, work or have any interest in Delta have been excluded from membership. This also includes our local or State elected representatives. Only pro-canal advocates have been included. Despite State laws prohibiting closed-door meetings, the State of California continues to hold them with

(Continued on Page 9)

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 August 10	John R Williams School Stockton	Monthly Meeting A Fly Tying Demonstration by Bud Hynes
Wednesday August 17	Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton	Board Meeting
September 18-24	Bridgeport, CA	DFF September Outing Earl Summers 957 6756 - nancysummers@att.net
October 15-16	Alpine Lake, CA	DFF October Outing Earl Summers 957 6756 - nancysummers@att.net
November 19	Oak Grove Park, Stockton CA	Trout Bout Charlie Reames - 369-6053
Saturday January 14, 2012	Eagles' Lodge Stockton CA	2012 Annual Banquet

Conservation by Ron Forbes

(Continued From Page 8)

so-called “Principals”. These “Principals”, of course, are those who want a canal including Westlands Water District, Kern County Land Company, Metropolitan Water District (LA) and major agribusiness interests. All Delta farmers have been carefully excluded.

When looking at any issue I feel we should follow what the best science available tells us. Science tells us that the peripheral canal, as proposed, will destroy the Delta and its fisheries as we have known it. Although judgments should not be based solely on economics, the economics of a peripheral canal are disastrous. Because of California’s low credit rating (the lowest in the nation at this point) and our current outstanding financial obligations, for every dollar we borrow we will have to pay back two. If this occurs, our economic life will not change in the foreseeable future. Given that outlook one would ask why a peripheral canal is being pushed for by those who want it. The answer is, of course, we the taxpayers pay of it. Not them. They will continue to become even wealthier, at our expense, despite the fact we can neither educate our children, nor have a high level of service for police and fire protection, and can no longer take care of those who can’t take care of themselves. Their issue is continued wealth and greed regardless of the consequences. This has always been their mentality and it will always continue.

The message I hope you will take away from this conservation report is not to take simplistic news reports on radio or TV seriously. Know and understand the sources of your information. For example, Sean Hannity (Fox News) and those in the Tea Party are not known as either paragons of environmental concerns or good in depth thinking. When you read about these issues, ask the standards questions. Who? What? Where? Why? Learn to be a skeptic. It will serve you well. And when you read my Conservation Report, I expect you to hold me to those standards.

Finally there are three sources I hope you’ll read:

1st - The Cadillac Desert by Marc Reisne. It’s an excellent source of water history and it will open your eyes and make you angry.

2nd - An article written by Dan McDaniels’ law partner, Dante Nomellini, in “The Water Report”, July 15th, 2008 issue #53 (go to their website and download a free copy by date) It is the best discussion of the history of the Delta I have seen to date and its’ 11 pages will bring you up to speed on the issues immediately.

3rd - The website of Restore The Delta. It is an outstanding source of current Delta information. You cannot find a better site and it will serve you well. Their site is: restorethedelta.org.



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