

March 2011

Delta Fly Fishers

Rx

Flyfishing

President's Message by Stephen Johnson (the top dog in camp)

March 2011

Ok, so my grandfather Harry Carlson, (the sob responsible for my addiction) says, "everyday should be a lesson of life, study it and learn."

Well this is what I learned on Friday Feb. 25th of 2011. Club members Herman Spalinger, John Keagy, Bob Fujimura, Larry Schmidt and I slipped tripped and sloshed our way to the fly fishing show in Pleasanton. Should have stayed home, not that there wasn't anything interesting to see or hear...just tired of whining and complaining. Many nice booths of vendors...factory reps to small independent business owners and many very knowledgeable fly fishing folks sharing their experiences and wisdom at the seminars, and let's not forget the masses of folks looking for a great deal, as if they could recognize one when or if it hit them in the nose.

"I could have stayed home and purchased this from Ebay for a third of what you're asking", "are you kidding me? I thought you guys (meaning fly fishing equipment manufactures) were hurting, why are you charging so much at this show?"...and these are only a couple of the comments I overheard ALL day long.

This coming from a bunch of overweight, balding, experts who drove to the show in gas guzzling 4-wheel drive SUV's and exotic (foreign made) crossover models. (I actually took a walk through the parking lot once to count the make and model of vehicles ...just for research). So they paid close to \$4 dollar a gallon for fuel, stood in line for a really long time to buy a lot of \$12 beers and hugely overpriced hot dogs and bitched about the cost of tippet material, reels and last year's model of the got to have Boron-Graphite fly flinger (rod). Go figure.

I did score a great book, (so Kate will be happy)... "Fishing Fifty" by Ken Niles, 50 species 'n 50 States 'n 50 Weeks. Husband and wife traveling in a forty foot RV with two dogs all over the US to do something no one else has done...stay tuned for more on this book.

Fishing report...last Tuesday got a call from longtime friend and fishing buddy to fish the Lower Yuba from the private property. Hell yes...so off we went. #8 Skwalas to Maribou Olive Leeches with a couple caught on rubber leg Stones with a BHPT dropper 16 to 22" fish caught all day long as long as you stayed in the shade. We fished from the Narrows to downstream of the University of Ca. research property.

Couple of short afternoon trips to our local water and lots of small 8, 9 and 10 inch babies but mom and dad seemed to have taken the afternoons off.

By the time this is published the new CLUB computer will be here...so expect great technological things from our own club techno weenies (just kidding Charlie) at the upcoming monthly meetings.

Ok got to run...headed to meet club members for a meeting on the Delta Fly Fishing Challenge...soon to be available for public consumption.

Health tip of the month...when it gets cold (like this weekend) and you're on the river or lake, remember to drink lots of water...our bodies actually use more than we do in the summer, stay hydrated for warmth.

Steve and his buddy Kate

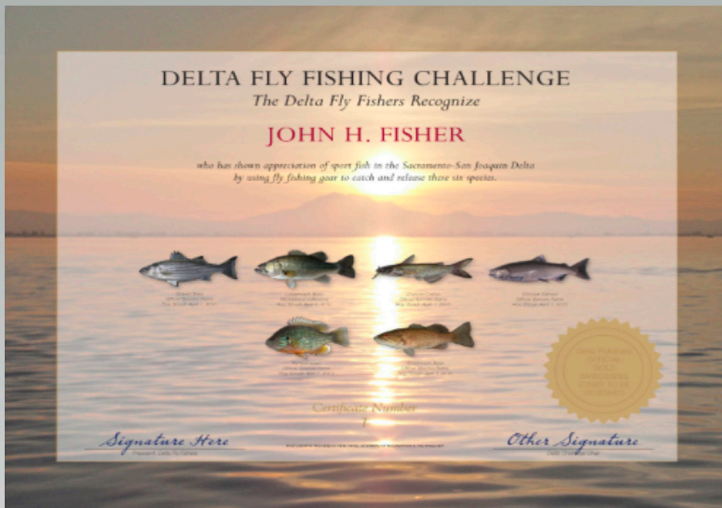
DFE Sponsors the Delta Fly Fishing Challenge

This month Delta Fly Fishers launches 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

Delta Fly Fishing Challenge

Explore the greatest inland fishery on the West Coast



The Delta Fly Fishing Challenge is an angler recognition program to promote knowledge and appreciation of sport fish that reside in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, encourage local fly fishing, and increase awareness of the Delta and its natural resources.

RULES

Submit a completed application form (download from the Delta Fly Fishers Delta Fly Fishing Challenge webpage) with clear photographs of 6 different species from the list of 15. All fish must be legally caught from the statue Delta using fly fishing gear and released alive. There is no time limit to complete the challenge and applicants may only earn one certificate per year.

Please include a check for \$5.00 addressed to Delta Fly Fishers, which covers printing and shipping costs.



Each award will be a color 11"x14" personalized certificate suitable for framing

ELIGIBLE SPORT FISH

- Striped bass
- Largemouth bass
- Spotted bass
- Smallmouth bass
- Steelhead trout
- Sacramento pikeminnow
- Chinook salmon
- American shad
- Channel catfish
- White crappie
- Black crappie
- Bluegill
- Redear sunfish
- Common carp
- Tule perch

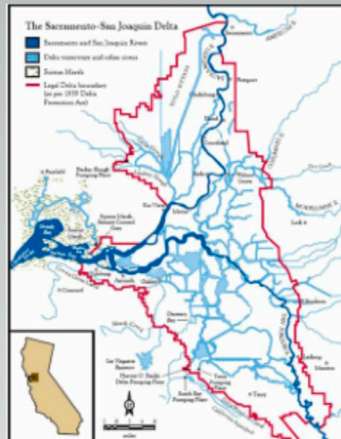
WHO WE ARE

Delta Fly Fishers is a community organization whose members are dedicated to the furtherance of the art of fly fishing. To accomplish this, we actively participate in educational programs to teach anglers the techniques of fly fishing, fly tying, fishing ethics and the practice of "catch and release."

We place great emphasis on conservation issues as they relate to the

Delta, local streams, and lakes. Delta Fish Fishers focuses on protection, preservation, and restoration. We have assumed the responsibility to monitor local waters and bring to the attention of the public and governmental agencies issues that threaten the conservation of sport fish. We encourage families and anglers of all ages to participate in the club's activities.

We hold public meetings each 2nd Wednesday of each month at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Ave., Stockton. We also host weekly fly casting and fly tying instruction on the other Wednesday evenings at the Oak Grove Park.



Map of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (provided by the Public Policy Institute of California)

MORE INFORMATION

More information can be found at our website: deltaflyfishers.com. References on fly fishing methods and information on Delta sport fish can be found there and you can download a PDF application form. You may mail us at: Delta Fly Fishers, Delta Fly Fishing Challenge Program, PO Box 77862, Stockton, CA 95207-7862 or e-mail Bob Fujimura at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com.



Photos provided by The Angle web site, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Bob Fujimura

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.

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:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Casting	<input type="checkbox"/> Fly Tying
<input type="checkbox"/> Attending Outings	<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment
<input type="checkbox"/> Knot Tying	<input type="checkbox"/> Float Tubing
<input type="checkbox"/> Pontoon Boating	<input type="checkbox"/> Stream Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Trout Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Steelhead Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Shad Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Bass Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Striper Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Salt Water Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Water Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Rod Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Selecting a Guide
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Entomology
<input type="checkbox"/> 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	



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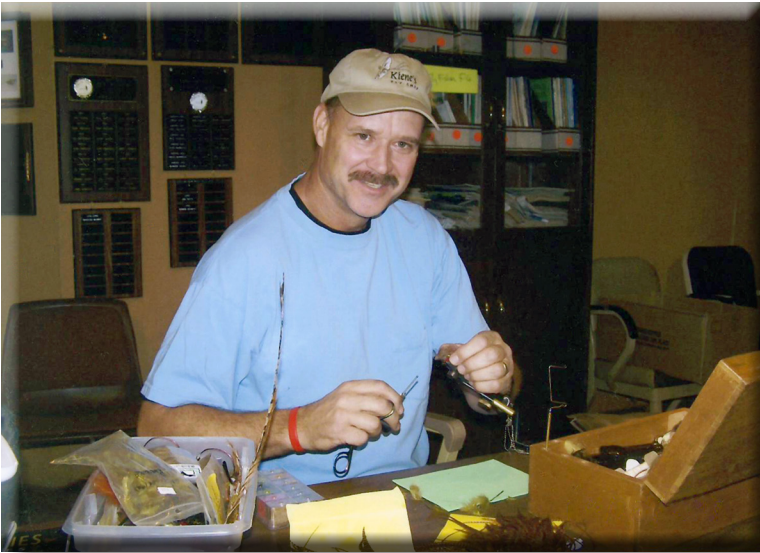
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Wednesday Night Fly Tying



The weekly Wednesday evening fly casting sessions have ended but, will resume next Spring. 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 tying and/or BS abilities. For more information contact Joe Balderston at 649-0291.

Membership

Bob Fujimura, Membership Chair

Winter-type weather has returned to our area with colder temperatures and with well-needed rain and snow. Despite that these conditions can really limited one's fishing; it is only a few months or weeks until the spring fishing season begins. Just enough time to easily to make plans for that special fishing trip or do annual maintenance on your fishing gear.

This month we recognize Joe Balderston for volunteering without reservations to project close-ups video of his fly tying at our routine meetings and our public events. Joe enjoys tying and doesn't need an excuse for tying during meetings but sharing his work in a most public way deserves praise.

I sent out a request for donating used equipment for our club and wish to thank all the members who generously offered their used equipment to help the club's committee work: Tony Ott donated a camera tripod, Randy Viglienze provided a set of computer speakers, and CJ Webb, Kevin Owen, Doug Ridgway and Ron Petitt also offered their equipment.

We want to recognize our newest club members: Ray and Anne Ott, Stockton, Ray is the brother of member Tony Ott. Dick Freudenthal, Modesto, Dick is a self-taught fly fishers and enjoys trout fishing in the Sierras

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.

If you need new or renewing membership forms, please download them from the DFF Membership website page at <http://www.deltaflyfishers.com/membership.html>.

For Sale

St. Croix Ultra Legend 997-3, a 9' 9" 7 wt. 3 pc rod in good condition with tube. \$120.00

St. Croix Ultra Legend 908-3, a 9" 8 wt 3 pc rod in good condition with tube. \$120.00

Call Bruce at (209) 274-0448 or email @ mbrsmr36@gmail.com

Membership Form

Regular membership – \$30

Family membership – \$35

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

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 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.



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Conservation

by Ron Forbes

I don't lie about the size of fish I catch, I just remember them bigger. --- Alan De Soma

There's been a settlement reached in the lawsuit between Fish & Game (DFG) and the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta (CSD). This started in 2008 but the final results are still pending.

The current settlement hasn't gone in our favor. It requires DFG to lower the size and increase the bag limits on Stripers, to allow more fish to be caught. The settlement now must go before U.S. District Court Judge Oliver Wanger for its final settlement.

It's important to note who CSD is and why they have brought this lawsuit. They sound like an environmental group. However, they are anything but a group interested in the Delta's well-being. It's comprised of a group of wealthy San Joaquin Valley agribusiness men who belong to irrigation districts. These districts are in the southern San Joaquin Valley and Kern County, not from the Delta. We shall continue to see actions brought against both Federal and State governments, from groups like CSD. Their interests are basically to divert the public's attention away from the real problems in the Delta, the loss of our Delta's ecosystem at the expense their diversion of water for use in the south valley. The protection of the Delta is the very last concern of CSD. It's just another step in their attempt to insure more subsidized water for their subsidized crops. In an article in the Sacramento Bee, Michael Boccadoro of CSD said "We think this is a great settlement to begin to address the issue". The last thing Boccadoro wants is to have the real issue addressed. Incidentally, it's estimated that CSD has spent \$5 million on this action so far. It's interesting that a group from Kern County would claim to be interested in Delta fish. Their concern is, of course transparent. Their real interest is getting rid of the Stripers, thereby getting rid of the fishermen. Get rid of the fisherman and to get rid of a source of protection for the fish. CSD and others will have less opposition in their demand for more water from the Delta. Boccadoro's concern is hardly as noble as he would have us to believe.

As you would expect, Bill Jennings of California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) disagrees with CSD position in this suit. In the same article his comments are that if the Stripers decline, other predators will fill the gap and the results would possibly be far worse on the salmon population than the Stripers. If you want to see what the best scientific opinion is on Striper predation, I suggest you Google Dr. Peter Moyle's letter to California's Fish and Game Commission. It's probably the best science on the subject so far rather than the misinformation that groups like CSD keep claiming to be fact.

FYI: When you read articles in newspapers on the Delta or other articles concerning fish, wildlife and water, don't take them as fact by rather with a grain of salt. Case in point, the Sacramento Bee article by Matt Weiser. He basically has taken CSR's position as fact. His article leaves you with the idea that the Stripers are destroying the Salmon population. It shows a lack of research and understanding of Weiser's on the issues. He also misquoted a Delta guide. After a 15 minute interview with the guide all he quoted was that," Stripers

annihilate salmon." The guide pointed out that the two species has coexisted for over a hundred years. He also talked about the history of salmon runs, about the crash, DFG's efforts to restore the salmon populations, etc. But Weiser's comments were reduced to three words, and he was off 180°.

The next step in the battle over the Striper's survival, rests in Judge Wanger's court. Hopefully his decision won't insure their eradication in the Delta.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) does it Again! First, thank you Bruce Rollans for bringing this story to my attention. The cities of Davis and Woodland have received permission from the SWRCB to take 45,000 acre feet per year from the Sacramento River. Up to this point Woodland and Davis have relied on ground water for their water supply. But now, some of the wells can't be used because they're tainted. So they've turned to the Sacramento River as their water source. The use permit will allow the water to be used for the approximately 120,000 people in the area. The SWRCB permit uses the allocation of 1 acre foot pre 2 families.

In the US, an acre foot is usually defined the amount of water contained in a volume 1 ft. deep, by 66 ft. by 660 ft. or 325,851 US gallons. Another way of looking at the situation is that under the terms of the permit issued to Davis - Woodland each of 120,000 people in those cities area will be allowed 122,194 gallons of water to be drawn from the Sacramento River.

Even though most considered the Sacramento River overdrawn at present, the SWRCB has issued the permit. Due to political pressure they just don't have the courage to say no. Their action has been described as business as usual by Chris Shutes of CSPA. With all the contracts for water issued by the State to date, the volume of water in those contracts is 8 1/2 times the amount of water available in the State in an average year.

In 2010 the Board released a report which stated the water flow or "Flow Criteria" through the Delta necessary to maintain the health of the estuary. This means the amount of water that isn't diverted and flows through the Delta to maintain the eco-system in a healthy state. Their report maintains, the flow should be double the present amount available. Unfortunately that report is not binding and is not being followed.

This permit will be the first real litmus test on issues of this nature. It should be noted that all of the Board members were appointed by then Gov. Schwarzenegger with no representation from the Delta. The DWR and SWRCB have historically been very weak in enforcing environmental protection laws. Rather than enforcement of environmental laws and protection of our fisheries they have just looked the other way or given in to the demands. The Board claims the permit won't harm the environment because Davis-Woodland will have to abide by TERM 91. Under Term 91, the cities will have to find other water sources in dry years, other than the Sacramento River. If the cities can't use their groundwater and can't use the Sacramento River, will the Board enforce Term 91? It's beginning to look like another Delta smelt issue; the only difference being cities taking water for urban use as opposed to south San Joaquin Valley irrigation districts taking water for agribusiness's interest. However the results will be the same.

March 9th Members Meeting



Our speaker for the March 9th membership meeting will be John Gantner from the Redding area who spoke to us last year on Bugs 101. His program is called "Slip into Canada" and will relect the fly fishing opportunities near the Canadian border for larger trout, fewer anglers and open uncluttered stream sides that retain the rural feel not often found in the U.S. He will share how, when, and where to fish key Canadian rivers at a low cost based on over ten years' experience.

John has been fly fishing for about 40 years and fly tying almost as long. He has had over 50 articles published in fly fishing magazines such as Fly Fisherman, American Angler, and Fly Tyer Magazine. He does demonstration fly tying at various venues including the FFF national conclaves and the Fly Fishing Show. He has been presenting his "Bugology 101" program to fly clubs for a couple of years. He is not a professional entomologist, and presents his program as an angler for anglers. John lives in Redding with his wife Maggie and dog Riley. He is a long-time member of Shasta Fly Fishers.

The meeting will be held at John R. Williams School at 7pm at 2450 Meadow Ave. All are welcome.

Contacts: John Keagy, 369-5690 or Marty Kjelson, 477-9618

Bass-N-Fly

Bass-N-Fly... fly fishing only tournament will not be held this year. It will return in 2012...reason posted is family health issues that are conflicting with scheduling the tournament. Per Ken Hanley

2011 Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave Announcement

It's OFFICIAL! Mark your calendars! The 46th Annual Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave of 2011 will be held in West Yellowstone, MT on August 30th - September 3rd, 2011.

Plan to attend this spectacular event for people of all ages and abilities! The fishing and educational opportunities will be outstanding! More details to come soon! We hope we see you there!

From The Page-a-Day Calendar by Workman Publishing

New Mexico's state record Cutthroat Trout was caught in Latir Lakes in 1981 and weighed 10 pounds 2 ounces. The Cutthroat is the only state record to come for Latir Lakes. The most prolific lake in New Mexico is Elephant Butte Lake. Since 1979 five separate species of State record fish have been caught from that lake, including the State's largest record fish, a 78 lb Flathead Catfish.

The New Hampshire state record Brook Trout was caught in Pleasant Lake in 1911 and weighed 9 lbs. The world record Brook Trout, caught by fly was landed at the Assinica Broadback River, Quebec, Canada, in 1982 and weighed 10 lbs. 7 oz. New Hampshire's record Striped Bass was caught in Great Bay in 1980 and weighed 60 lbs.

Most fishers have heard stories of aquatic life getting tangled in discarded fishing line and plastic six-pack rings, but what about aluminum cans? An angler fishing in the Indian Ocean off South Africa reeled in a small game fish with the ring of a tin can around its neck. The metal necklace had been there so long that the skin had begun to grow around the rusted edges. The angler was able to snip away the deadly chocker and release the fish.

Keep in mind when rivers rise, most fish move upstream and toward the shorelines and when river waters drop the fish move downstream and into deeper water. Now you know where to drift that fly.

Remember the old saying, "Ten percent of the anglers catch ninety percent of the fish." A general tip is varying the speed and patterns of retrieval can have a profound effect on catch ratios. Remember; retrieve flies faster in warm water and slower in cold water.

There's something fishy about beer these days. Fish Tail Ale is popular as ever, and New Jersey's Flying Fish Brewery is one of the state's largest specialty breweries. There's also Washington's Wild Salmon Organic Pale Ale, Florida's Land Shark beer, Delaware's Dogfish Head beer and two versions of Stingray beer - a lighter version from the Cayman Islands and a dark beer from Canada.

Barometric pressure can influence a fish's feeding patterns as much as water fluctuations. Falling barometric pressure seems to stimulate fish, drawing them closer to the shoreline to feed and attack lures or flies. Rising pressure has the opposite effect often leading to slower fishing. One easy way to remember this is to think of stress: less stress equals better fishing and more . . . well, you get the idea.

When fly fishing, it's important for the angler to match the hatch. You know the drill. Fish can be picky eaters and will generally forage on what's familiar. Some fly tiers are now expanding on this practice by matching anything a fish might be seen eating, like mulberries dropped by a streamside tree. That's right; the mulberry fly may just be what it takes to entice that finicky finster ignoring your wooly bugger.

DFE Officers 2010

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John Keagy 209-369-5690

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Bill Laughlin 209-477-6644

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Earl Summers 209-957-6756

Trout Bout (November)

Charlie Reames 209-369-6053

Bob McMillan Trout Bout

(February)

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

Fishing Mentor Program

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

Grady Lee

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



REMINDER FROM THE PROPERTY CHAIR HERMAN SPALINGER

Legends, Inc is allowing us to embroider our logo on some of our personal items (fly fishing shirts or sweatshirts) for a one-time production. IF YOU HAVE ANY CLEAN FLY FISHING SHIRTS or SWEATSHIRTS in a dark color please BRING SAID ITEMS TO OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING, March 9th, so I can deliver them to Legends for a one-time run. Darker colors work better as the logo is the same as on our T-shirts, gold and orange lettering. The more items I can collect the cheaper the cost. If I get over 12 items, the cost is 7.50 each; if I get over 24 items, the cost is 5.90 each. PLEASE DO NOT PROCRASTINATE. If you can't make it to the meeting and have an item you want embroidered with our club logo, call Herman at 209-477-3412.



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

8th Annual Bob McMillen Memorial Trout Tournament

Volunteers from the Delta Fly Fishers worked to provide casting and fly tying demonstrations and food to over 1,000 participants at the annual Bob McMillen Memorial Trout fishing event. Fair weather and live TV coverage on this event contributed to the larger turn-out of anglers. Kudos to Earl Summers for being the club's spokesperson during a press interview with Channel 31. Even the most jaded fly fishers were impressed at the number of large rainbow trout caught and weighed at the end of the tournament.



Oak Grove Park Get-Together

On February 12th, club members gathered again at the Oak Grove Park to fish for any hold-over trout from the earlier Bob McMillen Memorial Trout Tournament and eat hot dogs and chili. Joe Balderston won the award for biggest fish caught (see photo) but all involved enjoyed the warm weather and good company. Special credit to our newest members Gil and Melanie Parker who also spent the morning practicing their skills and hanging out with the senior club members.



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 March 9	John R Williams School Stockton	John Gantner "Slip into Canada"
Wednesday March 16	Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton	Board Meeting All Members Welcome



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Taper Talk

by Ross Purnell

When you were new to fly fishing, your first fly line was likely a cheap, general-purpose floating line—maybe even a level floating line. After you became a proficient caster, you quickly realized that your fly line was at least as important as the rod you use.

To get the most out of your fishing experience you should use the right line weight for the rod (see sidebar), match the taper for the flies and type of fishing, and make sure you use a new or at least a clean fly line. An old, cracked, weathered, or dirty line will not cast, float, or otherwise perform well.

Once you are past the basics—right line weight, and line in good condition—you must address the subtle, technical, yet oh-so-important subject of line tapers.

The core (monofilament or multifilament?), the coating (polyvinylchloride or polyurethane?), the surface design (Airflo Ridge or SA Sharkskin?), and the floating and sinking characteristics are all also critically important questions you should address, but a fly line's taper directly affects the way it shoots, turns over a heavy fly, presents a small fly delicately, or casts efficiently at long or short distances. The line's taper (its outside dimension) is the result of varying thicknesses of the line coating—some parts are thicker and have greater mass, other parts are thin and have less mass. This distribution of mass along the length of the line determines how it performs in a variety of conditions.

For instance, if you want a line to easily cast a large, wind-resistant bass popper, you need one with a great deal of the weight as close to the fly as possible. However, this is not ideal for fishing small trout flies on flat water where you need a long, delicate tip for stealthy presentations.

There are two major groups of fly line tapers weight forward and double taper. Double-taper lines are sufficient for most short- to medium-range fishing situations and although they are economical they have fallen out of favor with most fly fishers because while they do an adequate job at many tasks, they don't excel at anything specific such as distance casting.

Weight-forward lines have asymmetrical tapers and cannot be reversed like double-taper lines. They have a narrow, level-diameter running line at the rear that shoots through the guides easily, allowing for longer casts. The head of the fly line includes the front taper, which starts at the tip and gradually increases in diameter; the belly, where most of the weight is concentrated; and the rear taper, which decreases in diameter as it joins the rear running line.

Weight-forward tapers include nearly every specialty line on the market including those for bass, tarpon, steelhead, salmon, trout, and pike. If you want to make your casting as easy as possible and enjoy productive fishing, choose the weight-forward specialty line that matches your situation.

If you are fishing for trout, get a line advertised as a trout line. If you plan on fishing for bass, you will be frustrated with a steelhead line. It isn't just a marketing ploy—there are significant differences between the various specialty lines. And this is where the fun starts Once you decide on the specialty

taper you want—a floating trout nymph line for instance—you'll be faced with several different brands of nymph lines, each with subtle taper differences.

Which one is best? When it comes down to a few extra feet of rear taper, or (slightly) thinner diameter running line it's mostly a matter of personal preference. We can't definitively say which taper is best, but we can share with you the ones we've tried and tell you how they perform.

Double Taper

The most frequent fly-line question we field on flyfisherman.com is "Should I buy a double-taper or weight-forward line?" Double-taper lines were once the most popular because they work well at short to medium distances, they are easy to roll cast and mend, and most important because they are economical. Since both ends of a double-taper line are the same, you can wear out one end, then reverse it on your reel and have a "new" fly line. Most double-taper lines are 90 feet long so you have two 45-foot ends to work with. If you cast farther than that, there is some overlap.

Some fly fishers cut their double-taper lines in half right out of the box, and use only a 45-foot line. This reasoning works fine on small streams where you rarely cast more than 40 feet, but as soon as you exceed that, you are limited to where and how you can fish.

Weight Forward

Weight-forward lines include most of the specialty tapers where the line has one rear and one front end. Most of the weight is near the front of the line and the rear of the line is a thin level line called running line.

Weight-forward lines are by far the most popular lines sold today and for good reason—they allow you to cast farther with less effort, defeat wind, and carry larger flies. Their only drawback is that you cannot reverse them. When the line is worn you must replace it.

Do not believe the myth that double-taper lines somehow deliver the fly with more stealth or that they by their nature have a more delicate front taper. A weight-forward line may have a long, delicate front taper for small flies on spring creeks, or a short, severe taper to turn over large flies. The main difference is that weight-forward lines have a running line at the rear, double-taper lines do not.

The Fly Fishing Film Tour

The Fly Fishing Film Tour returns again to Modesto on March 10, 2011 at the State Theatre, 1307 J Street.

The evening's program benefits Rivers of Recovery that supports local disabled veterans. Tickets cost \$15 in advance through www.thestate.org or at the Sierra Anglers Fly Shop or \$20 at the door. Doors open at 5:30 PM and the program starts at 6:15 PM." www.flyfishingfilmtour.com/

Disease Control

Common Sense Wader and Equipment Disinfection Procedure

By Phil Wright — for the Rocky Mountain Flycasters, Colorado Trout Unlimited, Fort Collins CO

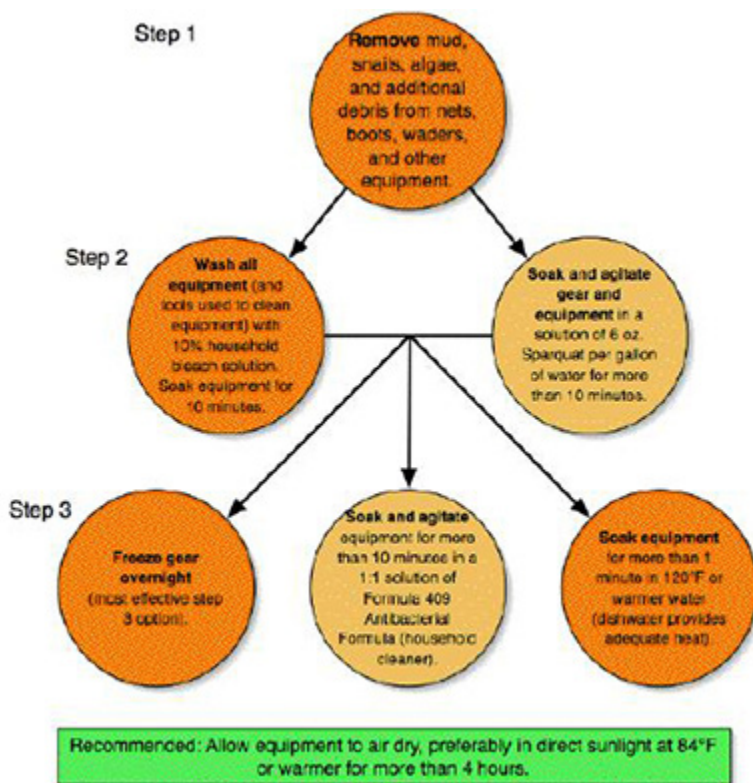
For the past few years I have been hearing more and more about harmful plants, animals and diseases that are being introduced into our waterways by recreationalists and others. When I do volunteer work on greenback cutthroat trout restoration in Rocky Mountain National Park I am always advised that I must disinfect my gear before I enter the water.

I really want to comply as I believe many others do as well, but I think that some of the procedures for disinfection that have been published and distributed while effective may be so laborious, time consuming, and expensive that I suspect some fishers just find them too difficult. I also question whether some of the procedures may lead to unintended secondary effects such as negative environmental effects when the chemical solutions are perhaps disposed of incorrectly or excessively.

In all, I have wanted to establish a disinfection procedure that was effective, inexpensive, environmentally sound, and did not damage equipment. I also wanted to use a procedure that was easy enough to perform that fishers would be able to comply easily with the guidelines. To this end, I have studied the recommended procedures and developed a very simple, effective procedure that can be set up at the beginning of the season, and used throughout the season without much replenishment if any. I did not invent anything new but I tried to pick the simplest, cheapest, and safest of the recommended procedures and combine them with some common sense practices and ideas. The procedures used and referenced here should also be appropriate for use prior to fishing all Colorado trout waters.

Before I start, here are links/references that I used to develop the procedure. The simplified chart below is derived from a Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) publication. Available as a simple GIF file or PDF file (2.6 MB suitable for reprinting). The RMNP Guidelines publication gives additional information including the three major threats to our waters, including Whirling Disease, Bd (chytrid fungus), and New Zealand Mudsnails. These particular guidelines may have been written before the incidence of dydimo appeared, but decontamination remains the same.

Required Decontamination Steps



Disinfecting procedure diagram.

The procedure detailed here is just a means to implement a particular series of steps recommended by the National Park Service. The particular steps were chosen because they were simplest, cheapest, and environmentally benign. I describe two easy ways to perform step 3. I have spoken with Simms about soaking their waders in 10% bleach solution. They said it is ok to soak in 10% bleach solution but that doing so may lead to a whitening of the neoprene booties. Simms said the other fabrics and the Gore-tex™ will not be affected since Gore-tex™ is inert.

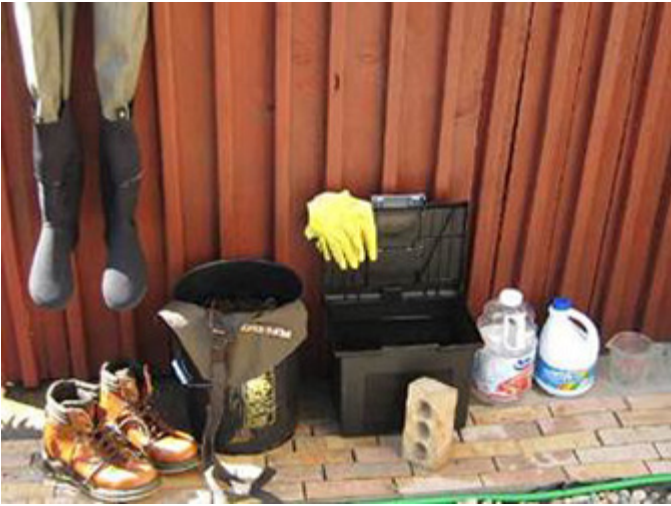


Figure 1. Disinfection Setup, Supplies and Gear (Chest waders, hip boots, wading boots) First assemble all the materials you will need. Figure 1 shows the materials and supplies.

The supplies required are simply water and chlorine bleach. The other pieces of the setup are a 5 gallon bucket, a Rubbermaid covered file box purchased at Wal-Mart for about \$6, two bricks, a measuring cup, rubber gloves, and an empty 1 gallon juice bottle for easier water measuring. They only important item here is the covered file box which happens to be cheap, just the right and minimum size for my gear (especially boots), and the cover allows you to close up the bleach solution so it doesn't evaporate during the season. There are other Rubbermaid containers available if your gear size is different.

hands without gloves. The bricks are simply used to weight down the gear in the bleach solution since boots and some waders like to float up and may not stay submerged in solution.

I really recommend rubber gloves and using care when placing your gear in the bleach solution. The solution is a bit hard on the



Figure 2. Disinfection Setup stored when not in use.

The key elements of this setup are that it is cheap, easy to use, preserves the bleach solution during the season, thus you only mix it once and dispose of it once. Moreover, I leave the setup at the rear of my porch as in Figure 2 so it's ready to use quickly and without much trouble. The five gallon bucket is used to rinse the gear in two or more changes of fresh water from the hose. I use the rinse water to water my lawn. When rinsing the gear in fresh water the resulting rinse water is such dilute bleach that my grass is still green.

pints of H₂O plus 2.5 pints or 5 cups of bleach). At the end of the season I will dispose of the 10% Bleach solution in my toilet. After rinsing the gear I found either of two procedures to be simplest. The first is to put dry gear in the freezer over night. Other household members may not like this, but actually finding that much room in the freezer proved to be the biggest challenge. Hint: temporarily remove the ice maker storage bin to gain a lot of room for your gear.

The disinfection solution is simply 10% household chlorine bleach in water solution. I found that the covered file box was filled properly using 3 gallons of water and adding 5 cups of bleach (24



Figure 3. If you don't freeze gear overnight, soak gear for 1 minute in 120°F+ Hot water The second approach is also quick and easy. First set your water heater temperature setting to the letter A (the letter "A" is usually circled) on the water heater thermostat dial. This will result in a running hot water temperature of 51-53°C in the five gallon bucket. The guideline calls for water of 120°F which is 49°C. Soak gear for 1 minute in flowing hot water. Figure 3 shows that it is helpful to grab a plastic shampoo bottle to hold the gear under hot water. Be careful not to scald yourself and remember when done disinfecting gear to reset the water heater back to the setting just below A to conserve energy.



Figure 4. These patio chairs make great drying racks.

Conveniently, the five gallon bucket fits right under the faucet in my bathtub and even hangs on to the shower button. Empty the bucket and carry the gear back outside in the bucket to dry as shown in Figure 4. Maybe the bucket will keep you from dripping water throughout the house.

I note that most gear manufacturers tell you to dry in shade rather than direct sunlight. I guess they feel that UV light may damage the product.

Well that's it. It took me longer to write this down than it took to disinfect the gear which is a good thing. I particularly like the fact that the next time I disinfect the gear, the stuff is already out back and ready to go. Well, it's starting to get on toward freezing weather now so I have to decide whether to dump out the solution or just move the full container into the garage and keep on fishing. I'll think I'll go have a beer and think it over.

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