

February 2011

Delta Fly Fishers

Rx
Flyfishing

DFF's Mentor Program Bill Laughlin

For over a year now, DFF has had a mentor program to help those new to fly fishing gain experience and/or expertise. Bob Sieler and his sons Bob and Nate attended a recent mentor program introduction and explanation by Steve Cooper and Bob Sousa. Since then they have signed up for Fly Tying, a part of the mentoring process. They are off to a fast start, the first night they tied wooly buggers and learned the jam knot, the use of half hitch tool and dubbing techniques.

Their second day was spent with Leo Gutterres, learning how to make poppers. Leo treated them to lunch at the In & Out Burger and concluded the afternoon session at his house learning how to make ferruled leaders.

Their third Mentor session was with Don Gillette. They started by watching Don Gillette tie his famous Red Ryder Fly. By the end of the session they were tying their own Red Ryders.

We would like to give a special thanks to Don for volunteering his services to the club's mentor program, and to Earl Summers for the fly tying materials that he gave to the boys. They were anxious to get home and go through it all.

The boys received fly rods and reels for Christmas and so did their Dad, who is now participating in the mentor program too. Jim Rich and Rick Green have them casting in addition to their fly tying, we can't wait for our first outing to get them on fish.

Bob and Sandy Sieler are to be congratulated for their support by bringing their sons, Bob and Nate along with their nephew Tyler every Wednesday to our programs. It involves a lot of their time coming from Lodi. Our volunteer mentors are dedicated in making it worth their time and effort.



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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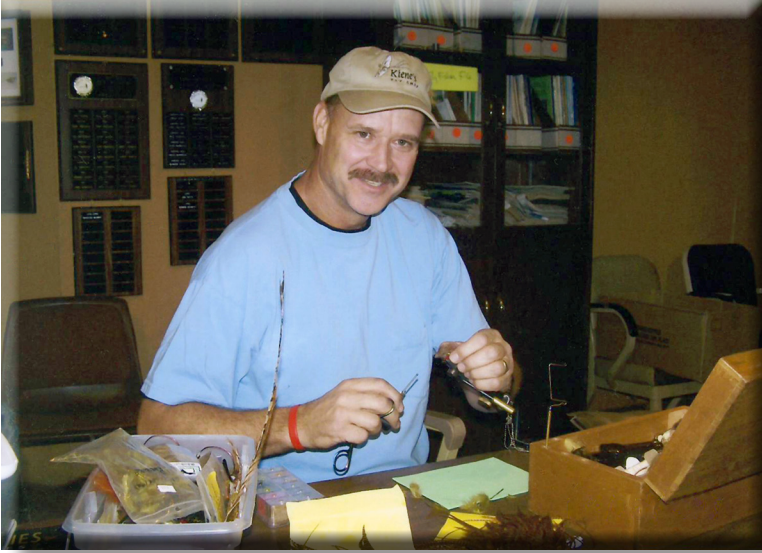
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Wednesday Night Fly Tying



The weekly Wednesday evening fly casting sessions have ended end 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 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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Membership

Bob Fujimura, Membership Chair

The winter weather and short day length can be a very challenging season for the novice or experienced fly fishers. The limited stream fisheries and the colder water temperatures can put a forced break in one's fishing plans. This is an especially challenging season for our newest members since there are fewer opportunities to learn fly casting or join the other members on a club fishing outing. My advice to the newest members is to take advantage of some of the other activities and events that the club is offering: the weekly fly tying sessions (e.g. they are great for getting familiar with the other members) or volunteer to help with the club events such as the Oak Grove Park trout fishing events. If you are not taking advantage of the Fishing Mentor program and want to get some individual help or advice, take the time to ask the members who might have the same interests and introduce yourself to that person. Often, they might only need an invitation to help a newer member out and fly fishers are usually generous with their experience.

I would like to praise Bill Laughlin who has been working as a fishing mentor for our youngest club members. He has been a good role model for these young men and any club member interested in sharing their love of fly fishing to others.

Please welcome one of our newest member, Robert Ladd of Stockton. Robert is an experienced stream angler and builds bamboo fly rods in his spare time.

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>.

Conservation

by Ron Forbes

I look into my fly box and consider all the elements I should consider in choosing the perfect fly: water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, what the fish are eating right now. Then I remember what a guide told me: "Ninety percent of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about five eighths of an inch long." --- Allison Moir

A number of months ago I wrote about the amount of ammonia that was being dumped into the Sacramento River by the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD). It has been estimated that about 30,000 to 35,000 gallons of ammonia is released into the river every day from SRCSD's treatment plant near Elk Grove. Basically there are several steps in sewage treatment: pretreatment, primary, secondary and tertiary. The purpose of the tertiary treatment is to remove both phosphorus and ammonia from the effluent before it's discharged into the environment. In this case the SRCSD's effluent goes directly into the Sacramento River. The issue with SRCSD's treatment of sewage is that it does not have tertiary treatment capability.

However, last December the State's Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) has put new discharge permit requirements on SRCSD before the effluent can be released into the river. SRCSD will now have to be able to remove both the ammonia and phosphorus from their effluent. In other words they will have to treat their sewage using tertiary treatment. There have been several articles in the Sacramento Bee recently on this issue. SRCSD does not want to comply with the new requirements. They claim it will cost the district 2 billion dollars to bring their plants up to par. They say this will triple the sewage treatment cost to each household to \$60.00. However, they have not shown how they reach that figure. They also say there is not enough scientific research to show the \$35,000 gallons a day of ammonia dumped into the Sacramento River is harmful. However, common sense would seem to indicate 35,000 gallons of ammonia released day in and day out over the years can't be doing the Delta much good. At this point SRCSD is the biggest ammonia polluter of the Delta. In the last 25 years Sacramento's urbanization has doubled and so has the sewage effluent. You have to wonder if they think this is helpful to the river or that it has no effect on the fish or environment.

This battle is being fought hard on both sides. California Sportfishing Protective Alliance (CSPA) wants SRCSD to have to comply with the permit requirements. But Bill Jennings, of CSPA, thinks the permit requirements do not go far enough. Other elements toxic to fish and the environment are not listed in the permit. These include copper and cyanide. Other products have been identified as being discharged into the Delta; these are toxic to the fish and environment. The products include such pharmaceuticals as antibiotics and estrogen. Jennings feels that the permit should list more chemicals than it does at present.

In a recent article in the Sacramento Bee, the director of the Sacramento Downtown Partnership made some comments that sum their feelings about their responsibility to the Delta

and the environment. "We understand there are some improvements need to be made. But, we have enough barriers against us in this economy to not pile on another obstacle for development." In other words to stop polluting the Delta is going to cost them money so they should be allowed to continue regardless of the fact that what they are doing is toxic to the Delta. More development without constraints means more pollution. It would seem that critical thinking is neither SRCSD's nor the executive director of the Sacramento Downtown Partnership's long suit. It will be interesting to see what CVRWQCB's final decision on the permit will be.

The Steelhead and Salmon Festival

For the last several months I have been attending meetings of Friends of the Lower Calaveras River (FLCR) as they have started planning Stockton's first Steelhead and Salmon Day. Jeremy Terhume is the Director of FLCR and The San Joaquin Valley Representative of Defenders of Wildlife and is in charge of the event. The basic idea behind the event is show the people of Stockton the degraded situation the Calaveras River and what has happened to the our salmon and steelhead. The Festival is sponsored by Friends of the Lower Calaveras, The City of Stockton and the Miracle Mile Business Association. Ann Johnson, Stockton's mayor, has put together a proclamation declaring Sunday, May 1st Steelhead and Salmon Day. The event will be from 11a.m. to 4p.m. It will be a family orientated event and will feature educational exhibits that will focus on our local anadromous fish.

The day will start with a parade down Pacific Ave. to the site at Tuxedo Court on the Miracle Mile. Beside the educational booths there will be live music, food vendors, a fish tank (for kids) and artisans. At this point the plans include booths from the Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Delta Fly Fishers have been invited to have a booth or booths at the event. Jim Rich and Rick Greene will be giving exhibitions on fly casting. Herm Spalinger will display his carvings and Joe Balderston will demonstrate fly tying and possibly his Fish-in-Classroom Project. All of our members are ask to take part and make suggestion as to how we can show Stockton who we are and what we are about. It can be a good event for us to attract new members to our club. More on this later.

Ron Forbes
Conservation

An Inexpensive Tying Light

Bob Fujimura



Since learning fly tying, I have looked for a convenient lamp to help light my tying station. I have looked closely at the McKenzie Bright Light that is regarded as one of the best “tying lights” on the market. It is a compact and “bright” halogen gooseneck light but is also relatively expensive for tiers on a budget (about \$100 retail).



An inexpensive alternative is a new product available from Ikea. The Jansjo “work lamp” has a bright LED light source on a similar gooseneck with a relatively solid lamp base. I liked the ability to make fine adjustments of the lamp’s orientation in close distance to the vise head. The LEDs are rated for 25,000 hours, have a low power consumption (only 4 watts), and are much “cooler” light source than halogen bulbs. The best feature of this lamp is its low cost – about \$9.99 retail. If you are looking for a directional tying light, this lamp may be a bargain.



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Is Your Fly Pattern More Important Than How You Present It? By Pat Damico – Taken from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers Club Newsletter

A book that should be in every saltwater fly fisherman's library is, "Fisherman's Coast," by Aaron J. Adams, Ph.D. Described as, "An angler's guide to marine warm-water gamefish and their habits," this book has been a revelation on how to fish different fly patterns. The author spends a lot of time discussing different types of prey found in every type of shallow saltwater environment. Color and size, as well as movements are presented in detail. Aaron's most recent book, "Fly Fisherman's Guide to Saltwater Prey," continues his quest and not only describes and contains photos of prey, but has detailed tying instructions and patterns that closely duplicate each life form.

Freshwater trout fishermen frequently wear a wool patch on their vests to dry fly patterns used that day. Did you ever notice that the most successful fisherman usually only have a couple flies present, while others may have a dozen or more? What does this tell us? Can we apply this information to improve our saltwater success? Could it be that the way a fly is presented is more important than the pattern itself? If you "match the hatch," exactly, why aren't you having as much success as you should? Think about how many times your beautiful fly improved as fish after fish destroyed the fly until only half of it was left.

With crabs, for instance, most fisherman fish a good pattern ineffectively. When discussing snook, the author reveals that stomach contents in colder weather show a very high number of crab parts. This finding was reinforced when our Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club had an outing close to Cockroach bay. Dressed for a cold windy morning with water temperatures below sixty degrees, we were all wading and fly fishing except for one person nearby who was using live shrimp with spinning tackle. During the first fifteen minutes, he caught two redfish and a snook casting into a deeper hole and just letting his bait sit on the bottom. None of us fly fishing had a strike. I switched to a weighted crab pattern and with a sinking tip line cast into the deepest part of the water in front of me. After waiting until I was sure the fly was on the bottom, I made short, one inch slow strips. My third cast stopped abruptly, almost like being snagged, and when I strip set the hook, I felt some head shaking. I thought I had a redfish on because the fish just, "Bulldogged," along the bottom. When he tired and came to the surface, much to my surprise, it was a decent snook. I told my companions what I was using, and continues to fish. Soon, another snook took my bottom-hugging crab pattern. After releasing the fish, I again shouted, "Put on a crab pattern!" Two more larger snook were later released. Every fish caught that morning fell to the same technique. Others fishing the same pattern were not fishing slow or deep enough to duplicate natural bait. Instead of changing to multiple patterns, presentation was the key.

Our spin fishing friends who use a DOA shrimp successfully follow my friend Capt. Mel's advice, "If you think you are fishing it too slow, slow it down even more." This will tell you how to fish shrimp patterns.

Size and color of these patterns should not be underestimated. Use a shrimp or crab pattern that closely matches the bottom you are fishing.



Neolithic Fly-Fishing

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
Saturday February 5	Oak Grove Park, Stockton	8th Annual Bob McMillen Memorial Fishing Tournament
Wednesday February 9	John R Williams School Stockton	Steve Karr - Putah Creek Trout
Wednesday February 16	Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton	Board Meeting All Members Welcome
Friday - Sunday February 25, 26, 27	Alameda County Fairgrounds Pleasanton, CA	2011 Fly Fishing Show



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DFF's February General Meeting

February 9

Steve Karr - Putah Creek Trout



Our speaker on Wednesday, February 9th will be Steve Karr of Putah Creek Trout (http://www.putahcreektrout.org/Welcome_.html). He will discuss the history and current conditions of Putah creek located west of Davis, California. The stream is a very productive water and a tail water of Lake Berryessa. Putah Creek Trout is a nonprofit organization that teams with other groups to restore the habitat and fishery. Steve also will share his experiences and tips on how best to fly fish the stream.

8th Annual Bob McMillen Memorial Fishing Tournament

On Saturday February 5, DFF will again assist the San Joaquin Department of Parks and Recreation in putting on their 8th Annual Bob McMillen Memorial Fishing Tournament. DFF will be selling food and drinks plus fly tying and casting demonstrations. Steve Cooper is heading up our participation and can use all of the help he can get.



Fish Factoids

From Page-a-day Calendar – Workman Publishing

Fish Food Chain

Oxygen is as important to fish as it is to humans. The ocean provides 70% of the world's oxygen which is produced by the phytoplankton which reside therein. However, phytoplankton does more than just help us breathe; it also feeds the zooplankton, which in turn feeds three of the world's largest sharks – the Whale Shark, the Basking Shark and the Megamouth Shark.

Nevada's Lahontan cutthroat trout is a remarkable game fish. Living in both rivers and lakes, the trout can also thrive in smaller tributaries where it endures severe temperature changes that fluctuate as much as 28 degrees. The Lahontan is also the only cutthroat trout that can survive in the extremely alkaline Walker and Pyramid Lakes. Not surprisingly this tough survivor is also able to eat both zooplankton and small fish such as chub. This subspecies of cutthroat is the largest being one of the four major subspecies of cutthroat trout together with the coastal, west slope, and Yellowstone cutthroat. Fossil-dated remains of its progenitor thought to be more than 600,000 years old have been found in the Lahontan basin, an area inclusive of northwestern Nevada, eastern California, and a small section of southeastern Oregon. In streams it can get as large as 8 pounds or more. The angler world record for this cutthroat is 41 pounds with one reported in the original population of Pyramid Lake at 62 pounds. The largest Lahontan cutthroat caught in Lake Tahoe weighed 31 pounds. The Lahontan was once native to Lake Tahoe, but due to over commercialization of this subspecies they became extinct in the 1940's.

The Falkland Island zebra trout is one of the most endangered trout in the world. Discovered by Charles Darwin in 1833, this native trout has become nearly extinct due to the introduction of the aggressive brown trout in the 1940's. To raise local awareness and to help anglers distinguish the trout from other species, a stamp was commemorated and a wall chart was designed so that visiting anglers can identify the zebra trout and other famed Falkland sport fish.

Located 1300 miles south of Hawaii, Christmas Island is the world's largest coral atoll. It is 30 miles long and has more than 250 square miles of lagoons. Once a bone fishing mecca, it is now also home to Giant Trevally. A favorite destination for fly fishermen, today the Christmas Island Bone Fishing Club caters to a growing number of international fly-fishing enthusiasts. The island also has an interesting history: besides its unfortunate use by the British to test nuclear weapons, Christmas Island was first visited by Captain Cook on Christmas Eve in 1777.

Delta Fly Fishers

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