

Delta Fly Fishers

October 2010

Rx

Flyfishing

President's Message by Stephen Johnson (the top dog in camp) October 2010

Oregon, this was the best trip ever...got to do something I have wanted to do for years fish the North Umpqua with the Ambassador of the river Frank Moore. 80 years old and still chases steelhead 3 or 4 days a week, running up and down the road in a 35 year old Volkswagon car , rusty, no back seat, cracked windshield ...but," she starts every morning".

Six hours watching and listening to a legend ...they don't make dedicated fisherman like Frank anymore, he can cast his 9.5' Sage rod a country mile (made me look like a rookie). Hooked 3 landed 2 in 5 hours and then it was time to go home and check on his wife...thank you Lord for allowing me this opportunity ...I am a richer man for the experience.

Next up, try and duplicate that , only with longtime friend and guide Dave Roberts...this time on our beloved Rouge...perfect conditions, cool temps, clear water at 1006 cfs (little skinny for the Clackacraft in some places, but perfect for spot and stalk). We put on a clinic for all watching and there was plenty...9 hooked and 7 landed in 6 hours...largest close to 30"...all over 24inches and all wild fish. Lots of 12 to 16 inch rainbows as the October Caddis were just starting. River was full of spawning Chinooks (thousands more than anyone ever expected) so the hot fly was a single, size 6 weighted, light pink egg.

(Sad note of the rip...after fishing I headed to Medford to pick up the little redhead and Dave was running a shuttle for another guide...deer jumped out in front of him and he and the pickup and boat and trailer ended up in ditch smashed up against a rock outcropping...boat wrecked badly, trailer totaled and pickup sustained major damage to front end, Dave was not hurt just a little embarrassed and real upset about loosing the next month or longer of fishing).

Fishing was so good I stayed for 3 extra days to fish and one extra to spend an entire day in the shop of one of the best Bamboo Rod builders today Bruce Howell...again a pure treat to call this man a friend and now to have one of his rods to fish...I am a wealthy man for this experience. Not only does he make rods but has over 50 plus years made every tool in his shop...and is a Oregon river history nut, what a day last Thursday was

Herman and Marty...sorry for missing our trip to the Upper Sac, more sorry you missed this trip as I fished it going and coming and nailed the big ones 9 fish in the 18" class and 1 in the range of 21"er all caught on size 10 October Caddis, fished in a down and across skating method.

Kate was a little put out as she stayed home and in her place my Border Collie Tucker made his first fishing trip...he now thinks herding spawning salmon in shallow water is as much fun as herding sheep...what a site to see this crazy little black and white fuzz ball running up and down trying to get 10 to 20 pound fish to go where HE wants them to go, I have got to get the video camera fixed.

Well as they say in the cartoons ...that's all folks...see ya at the potluck.

Steve and Tucker (sorry Kate)

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 @ repooc3@sbcglobal.net Mail the form to: Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862 Stockton, CA 95207	



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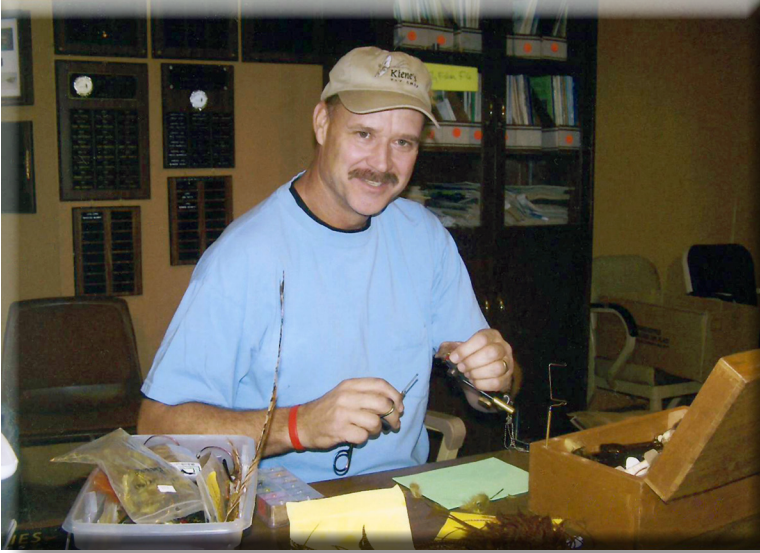
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Wednesday Night Casting & Fly Tying



The weekly Wednesday evening fly casting sessions will soon end until 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*

62 years or older – \$25.00*

*New members please add \$5.00 Initiation Fee

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

Delta Fly Fishers
PO Box 1562
Lodi, CA 95241-1562

Check one:

New membership _____ Renew membership _____

Regular Membership:

One year \$30.00 _____

Senior (62+) \$25.00 _____

Family Membership:

One year \$35.00 _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ - _____

Cell (____) _____ - _____

Work (____) _____ - _____

E-Mail Address _____

I would like to be on the _____ committee

Please renew your membership, if you have not done so. If you are not sure, check the mailing label for your current status. If there is any questions or problems please contact: Bob Fujimura at 209-948-7097 or e-mail at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com.

October's Member Meeting

For the October General meeting, members will be sharing their expertise at the Oct. 13th Potluck. We will hear from six members as they share diverse fly fishing topics including: The use of Google to find special waters, Bridgeport and Owahee fibs and such. Tales of a bamboo fly fisher, WY Cutthroat challenge and/or, so you want to be a woman fly fisher! Tying thread flies and Bruce and Salley's world fly fishing competitions.

Food line up for the October potluck is:

A-D Main course, (casserole, potato dish etc.)

E-G Dinner rolls, Bread (San Francisco sourdough is my favorite), butter etc.

H-K Salads

L-N Desserts

O-R Cold Drinks, ice & cups

S-Z Hot Veggie Plate

Membership

Those persons who still haven't sent their due should mail their annual dues and their contact information to:

Bob Fujimura, Membership Chairperson, PO Box 1562, Lodi, CA 95241-1562.

If you are new to fly fishing, or would just like to increase your expertise, use the DFF Mentor Program. DFF has several very talented and knowledgeable members that would just love to help you. Again welcome to the Delta Fly Fishers!



Conservation

by Ron Forbes

What Goes On Behind Closed Doors

Earlier this month it was discovered that State Resources Secretary, Lester Snow held closed door meetings concerning the Delta. It's not the first time the state has held secret meetings. These meetings were of course held without any public knowledge or input. Also excluded from the meetings were members of our state and federal legislature. Some in the legislature were furious to learn about the meetings. Senator Lois Wolk wrote Snow to ask who attended the meeting, why these people were chosen, and the purpose of those meetings. Snow responded to Wolk's letter by saying the attendees were "principals who were signatories to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)" and they were part of the public steering committee. According to Snow the "principals" have all sought to restore the Delta's ecosystem and to be able to make water supplies reliable.

What garbage! The "principals" are nothing more than the same old group of wealthy Central Valley agribusiness people, developers, and water districts who are only intent on maintaining their huge subsidized profits. Historically they have shown a total lack of concern for the Delta's ecosystem and our fisheries. They are so concerned about the Delta they again have kept any groups that have interest or concerns about the Delta out of the all their meetings or committees. I've found Lester Snow to be hypocrite. I was present during a joint committee meeting of the California Senate and Assembly in Sacramento when Snow and an executive from Westlands tried to sell the idea for making the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) co-equal with the water needs of Central Valley agribusiness. In California, water has been a public trust. To make the EPA and water needs co-equal means that all environment protection under the EPA would be stopped during low water years or years of perceived water needs. All EPA protection for the Delta would be suspended. This would gut the Delta.

The best science we have available has shown that we can't continue to export water at present levels without destroying the Delta. And under no circumstance can we increase exports. When Snow and other "principals" have been faced with science, they have ignored it or chose to secret meetings to obtain their goals. In the 70 pages of the conclusions reached by this private group of "principals" some very disturbing conclusions were reached. They want long term water supplies from the State Water Project (SWP) and the Central Valley Project (CVP) that would be of the same amounts as before the biologic opinions have come out.

Of course all of this will lead to what Snow and others now term a "water conveyance, a tunnel or a pipeline. This translates, of course, into peripheral canal. What they are proposing is a tunnel that will be 45 miles in length and transport 15,000 cfs around the Delta. This tunnel will be 29 ft. in diameter and will so big a small plane could fly inside. Snow and his people have also come up with the cost estimates of this project. They claim it will only be 20-25 billion over a 50 years period. But they don't have hard facts to prove their cost is accurate. Most feel

the cost would far exceed their projections. The next question is how can the State afford a peripheral canal? Simple answer is that we can't. At one point California bonds had a AAA rating. Now our bonds are rated among the lowest in all 50 states. Who wants them? No one at these meetings suggested how the cost of a canal would be paid.

One point that doesn't seem ever to be considered by these people is that at no time in history has a canal or pipeline ever been built around an environmentally degraded estuary, lake or river system and had that system improved, never. But, this isn't about and improved Delta as they claim. Their plans will destroy the Delta which contains 500,000 acres of the world's most prime farmland. It will lead to the extinction of animal species including our salmon and steelhead and of course, the loss of our \$800,000 per year salmon fishing industry and related jobs. Frankly they could care less. What Snow and his "principals" are proposing is merely another prime example of corporate greed. Nothing more, nothing less.

Conservation Addendum

After I wrote the article on conservation for the newsletter, I started thinking more about how Lester Snow has violated our public trust, and how he refused to identify the "principals" of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) to our state and federal legislatures. The more one thinks about Snow's letter the more one becomes angry. Anger is one thing, action is another. The Dept. of Water Resources has told our legislature that they were not welcome at the BDCP meetings with the "principals". These "principals" are most probably Delta water exporters. As of the 29th of September the Feds and State people had done nothing about these meetings that have gone on since August. This meeting was held at the California Farm Bureau Federation. No surprise here.

It now seems things are different. This morning (Sept. 30th) things changed. The closed door meeting with Snow and the "principals" had uninvited guests. Unannounced, Bill Jennings, Executive Director of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA); Jim Creshaw, President/Treasurer CSPA; Dan Bacher, activist, researcher and editor of the Fish Sniffer; and Brett Baker, a sixth generation pear farmer from the Delta, basically crashed the meeting. The meeting was with Snow and "principals" and the uninvited were asked to leave the meeting. Jennings and the group were not only asked to leave the meeting but were also asked not to reveal the names of the "principals". They, of course, refused to agree. And they were asked not to report any quotes made by the "principals". Jennings asked if they would be arrested if they refused to leave. At that point Lester Snow called the meeting off. A classic Snow move, he doesn't want anything he does, with the "principals", made public.

Evidently now the newspaper industry and civil liberties attorneys say Snow's meetings of the BDCP and his "principles" violate the Bagley-Keene Act and the 1st Amendment. It will be interesting to see where the secret meetings go from here.

Jennings, Crenshaw, Bacher and Baker have made it known that they have made themselves available for interviews. Seems like a can of worms has been opened, let's see how Lester Snow and the "principals" like these apples.

How Has Fly Fishing Changed

By John Berry

I was fishing with a client the other day, when he asked me an intriguing question. How has fly fishing changed since you started? I immediately started going through some of the changes in my head and quickly realized that there had been substantial change. Most of it was positive. I began fly fishing three decades ago and I must admit that I spend most of my time trying to manage change.

The most obvious change to me is that there are a lot more of us. There are more people fly fishing now than when I first started. Back then there were precious few fly fishers. Most of the anglers that you saw were bait fishing. Now it seems like there is parity in the numbers of fly fishers versus bait or lure anglers. A lot of the increase is due to technological advances in fly fishing gear. The advances in fly fishing gear have had a profound effect on the sport by making it easier to do and to make the anglers more comfortable. Another cause is the popularity of the movie, *A River Runs Through It*. I think that you could boost the popularity of *Tiddlywinks* if you made a movie about it featuring Brad Pitt.

Fly rods have under gone significant change. When I first started fly fishing, my first fly rod was made of fiber glass. It was heavy and had a very soft action. I remember casting a graphite rod for the first time. It was a Sage and it cast like a dream. It was lighter and had a much stiffer action than my fiberglass. I was so impressed that I went out and bought one (my daughter still fishes with it). The rods then were mostly eight footers. The rods now are much longer. Most are 9' and several are ten feet. The actions are stiffer and they weigh less.

Fly lines have under gone some fundamental change. Years ago they were either level (no taper) or they were double taper with a distinct taper on each end. The level lines were inexpensive but cast poorly. The double tapers were popular because you could use one end until you wore it out and then turn it around and use the other side. Now the most popular lines are weight forward which have a distinct taper and are heavier on the tapered end. The other end is smaller and lighter. This allows the line to be cast further. There are also a variety of specialty lines that did not exist then. We now have sink tips, which have a front sinking section and a floating rear section, this allows us to fish deep and still cast the line easily. We also have bass bug lines designed to cast wind resistant bass flies and nymph lines designed to cast double fly rigs, weight and strike indicators. There are more.

The fly reels used when I first started were basically unchanged since the nineteenth century. They used a simple spring and pawl drag. The big change since then is that most fly reels sold today feature a disc drag system similar to that used in automobile brakes. Reels with disc drags weigh a bit more than spring and pawl drags. The current trend is toward larger arbors which allow you to reel in line more quickly. Larger arbors weigh more than smaller arbors. So, while rods are getting lighter, reels are getting heavier.

One change that we don't think about often has been the improvement in leaders and tippets. Back in the day we made

our own leaders. We would take several sections of different sized tippet material and carefully join them with blood knots to produce a tapered shape. The knots had a tendency to grab algae or any trash in the water. We now buy knotless tapered leaders that perform flawlessly. Tippets have gotten much stronger over the years. When I began fishing 4X was four pound test. Now 4X is six or even seven pound test. Then there is fluorocarbon. This stuff is stronger, more abrasion resistant and has a specific gravity greater than water (it is heavier than water and it sinks).

The change in waders has possibly been the greatest change of all. When I began, I used a borrowed pair of rubberized cotton boot foot waders. They were clumsy, bulky and clammy. The first pair that I bought were neoprene. They were the hot new thing at the time and great during the cold months when their insulating properties were appreciated. They were stocking foots with separate boots that were much more comfortable and provided significant ankle support. However when the summer came, they were stifling. The new style breathable waders are the perfect waders for our area. They are lighter in weight and breathe making them much cooler in summer. In the winter we wear a pair of fleece pants and we are quite comfortable.

The last major change that I have seen has been in fishing ethics. Thirty years ago we kept everything we caught. A stringer was a regular part of our fishing gear. As I grew with the sport, I came to realize that the fish were too valuable to kill. I would rather release them so that I can return and catch them again. As our rivers get more crowded and fishing pressure increases, this is the only viable strategy to provide a quality fishing experience. I am not the only person with this opinion. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission creel studies prove that there are more anglers per mile fishing in Catch and Release waters than other sections. Years ago, I also fished over spawning trout. I caught some great fish but I came to realize that it was more important for the trout to naturally procreate than to provide me with a little recreation. Others have come to agree with me and the major spawning grounds are now closed during the spawn.

I have seen a lot of change in the last few years and it has been for the better. I have better gear that is much easier to cast, it keeps me more comfortable and I regularly catch quality fish that are the equal of good trout anywhere. Sometimes change is good!

Casting Tip

By Pat Damico – Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

“Don't be a creep!” Tailing loops are caused when the rod tip travels in a concave direction. This results in the tip being lower in the middle of the casting stroke. A frequent cause is a casting fault called creep. Creep is defined as the movement of the rod tip without power in the direction of the cast. If a definite arc is needed to cast a prescribed fly line length, trying to make that cast with a shorter arc will cause a tail. When the back cast is completed with a crisp stop the caster will move the rod tip forward before beginning his forward cast therefore reducing the distance the rod tip will travel. This can be very subtle, but destructive.

DFF Officers 2010

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(Open)

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Earl Summers 209-957-6756

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Help support your club by buying and using club merchandise.

Polo Shirt w/logo Now on Sale (Limited sizes available)	\$15.00
Ball cap structured/unstructured (New item)	\$13.00
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License Plate Frames	\$ 3.00
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DVD Fishing How To Rentals (3 weeks max)	\$ 2.00



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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

Web Site

Harold Bacich hbtwm@sbcglobal.net

net

Fishing Mentor Program

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

SAVE MART MARKETS – S.H.A.R.E.S

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.



Membership Meeting

October 13

Board Meeting

October 20

November Newsletter

The deadline for the

November issue is

October 25th



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Killer Whale on a 7 Weight? by Stephen Johnson

One of my guests recently sent me an e-mail describing how he accidentally caught a killer whale while fly fishing for Pink salmon on the ocean, and with his permission i am going to share with you his story...

“Hi Hannah – no grizzlies, but bigger predators!!!! Here’s a tall tale that was witnessed by several fellow flyfishers.

I, along with many others, was fly fishing for Pink salmon at the estuary of the Eve River last Tuesday morning. The tide was very low, and the pinks were there in abundance. With the tide that low, there is a little spit sand bar that more or less marks the end of the river, and the beginning of the ocean. I was wading there in about two feet of water, with the bottom shelving off to a sharp drop off about 50-70 ft out from where I stood. Several other guys were fishing close up-stream from me, but I had the outside spot and we were all catching salmon to beat the band. (I landed 19, and lost 17 that morning!). Weather was low overcast-foggy.

We all noticed a pod of killer whales about a half mile north of us, coming south along the drop-off. There were at least two mature bulls and one a little smaller, plus probably a dozen other cows and juveniles, all feeding on the massed pinks along the shoreline. I grabbed my camera in my right hand, holding my rod with a fish on in my left hand (ignoring it), taking pictures as they came past. I felt my rod moved and more or less jokingly yelled “I’ve hooked a killer! I had more or less forgotten that there was an inactive fish on my line, when my rod was whipped down so hard I almost lost it. I guess I had “hooked” a killer for a second or two, as it seemed that I was in effect bait fishing! The killer took my salmon, and almost my rod – I can tell you that a 7 wt fly rod with 12 lb tippet doesn’t hold a 6 ton killer whale for long – good thing, too! One of them came up onto the shelf in front of me, on it’s side with all that white belly showing. Quite a sight to see them that up-close-and-personal. Several of my fellow fishermen had, it seems, headed for higher ground, and I was alone with my confidence that these were intelligent animals and could tell that my legs were neither fish nor seals! Exciting and wonderful! Notice in a couple of the pictures that you can see my fly line showing on the water out of the bottom right hand corner of the picture.” Bill

Ok Delta Flyfishers beat that !!!

A Trash Cleanup



Saturday, September 25th, 13 members of the Delta Fly Fishers participated in Great Sierra River cleanup on five sites along the Mokelumne River. Our site was Van Assen Park and we were joined by Cub Scouts and local residences. East Bay MUD was the sponsor for the Lake Camanche and Van Assen Park areas. To our surprise Van Assen had far less trash than the other four site and we finished up in about two and half hours. Other sites had far more trash and East Bay MUD’s biologist James Jones, who was in charge of the area clean up, said over three and a half tons of trash was collected during the day. As a thank you, East Bay MUD provided workers with tee-shirts, a clip-on aluminum water bottle and a BBQ at Camanche when the job was finished.


In the past DFF has taken boats down the river from Van Assen and collected several tons of garbage. Tubers and rafters are the main source trash on the river. Perhaps next spring we can do a cleanup on our own as we have

in the past. DFF’s past history has been of strong support for the river and its fishery. Now some of us are working with the Foothill Conservancy to have the upper Mokelumne declared and Wild and Scenic River. This would stop East Bay MUD’s plan to increase the level of Pardee Dam. The next meeting of the Conservancy is Monday Oct. 11th at 6:00 PM at the Jackson Senior Center. Call me and let’s get a group together to show our support. My number is 209 368 5767.

FYI, James Jones told me that East Bay Mud has dropped gravel in the upper Mokelumne below the dam for the Salmon’s return. Saturday the river was flowing a 300 cfs. On Oct. 1 they want to increase the flow to 3,000 cfs. in order to scour out the channel to improve the salmon habit. There is some opposition from local farmers and the amount of release hasn’t been resolved. In any event they do plan a major water release and it would be a good time to stay off the Mokelumne.

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 October 13	John R. Williams School	2010 DFF Annual Pot Luck Marty Kjelson 477-9618 - John Keagy 369-5690
Saturday October 16	Lake Alpine	October Outing Earl Summers - 957-6756
Wednesday October 20	Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton	Board Meeting All Members Welcome
Saturday November 6	Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta	The Delta for Stripers Earl Summers - 957-6756
Saturday November 20	Oak Grove Park, Stockton	2010 Stockton Parks and Recreation Trout Bout Charlie Reames - 369-6053
Saturday December 18	Rancho Seco	December Outing Bill Laughlin - 411-6644



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Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

You've arrived at the stream & did your perquisite observation & there are not hatches. Now what? Don't panic; fishing between hatches is really simple. You need to try nymphs, attractors & terrestrials until you find something that works. A streamer is a last resort. This method isn't as burdensome as it sounds & obviously you know something about the rivers/streams you fish & what should be hatching at this time of year. Nymphs that work during a hatch will usually work before & after a hatch. When BWOs (blue winged olives) hatch, a RS-2 will also work. When trout see the occasional hatching caddis, Hare's Ear nymphs work well.

Anglers have a mind-set that when something has consistently worked well, they will use it to distraction even if the score is "O" & are as loyal to it beyond reason. Favorite flies are good but don't waste time trying to force-feed trout something they don't want. In my first 30 minutes on a stream or lake, I will probably change flies at least 5 or 6 times until I find something the trout will take. It could be the color, the size, the silhouette or even the smell that is turning them "off" to your choice. High water time in the spring dislodges a lot of food from the bottom & San Juan worms & other large nymphs will always work well. June & July have good morning hatches, so attractor patterns are a good choice for the afternoons when you would rather fish dries. It's just the opposite in the fall when the flows are down try an RS-2 & quill midge & you'll be surprised at the results. No, this doesn't mean that streamers "stink", they work all summer & trout will chase them as their effectiveness is a well-known fact. Ants & hoppers are abundant during the peak heat of the summer & your choices are huge, but I like to stay with woolly ants & grey/tan hoppers that conform to the real thing, but some of the Chernobyl ants & colorful foam hoppers may just hit a big trout's fancy. Get used to being flexible, as it's always a surprise if a "hawg" hits something you would not normally use.

Weather Conditions

Eastern Sierra high-pressure system moved in after a brutal wind beating on the 19th, & temperatures returned to somewhat normal, but the remainder of the month has been unseasonably warm with some cooler evenings. Fishing in the backcountry has improved with the cooling at night & trout seem to be getting ready for winter rushing around filling their bellies for their long dry spell in order to sustain them.

Long range forecasts predicts a warm October at least until around the 15th to the 17th. It would be a blessing to get in a few more weeks of creature comfort fishing in the upper elevations.

Lawsuit - Nothing to report. The invasive New Zealand Mud Snail remains a problem & it's imperative that fishers-of-the-fly help thwart the spread by NOT WADING.

UPPER OWENS - Flow has been consistent at 102cfs & the water is warm so look for cooler channels with undercuts. No sightings of spawning browns, but it should start happening soon. Caddis & hopper patterns have been fairly consistent. When the cooler nights start the BWO's will show up. Try parachute Adams, & Caddis, & #16-20 Elk hair caddis. Nymphs doing well have been flashback pheasant tails, Prince nymphs, Hare's Ears, Zebra midges & #14 Western Coachman.

ROCK CREEK LAKE - Has been good, & fish are still taking black or olive Matukas, but some caddis action late in the day. Mosquito Flats have been hammered & the gluttonous mosquitoes are few & far between, but still around. In the slower water try flying ants & elk hair caddis & work Mack Lake for "the" brown.

CROWLEY LAKE - Algae is gone & the lake is fishable everywhere. DWP is still dropping the lake level which is 6 to 12" a day & report

that the lake will be taken down 4 feet lower than any time in the last 25 years. Conditions are excellent for stripping perch imitations with dry or intermediate lines. Midging in 12' of water has turned up some nice size fish. Larger fish are reported in the North End & measuring in the 19 to 23" range. Check with local fly shops for patterns of the day if you plan a trip. Things change.

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN - The basin has reports of fish feeding aggressively as the days shorten, dries, nymphs & streamers are taking their turn in bringing fish to net. Parachute Caddis, Stimulators, Adams & plenty of flying ants.

HOT CREEK - Water conditions are good & flow is 23cfs. Caddis dries & emergers are hot right now, & hoppers will start to disappear as the evening temps drop. Some PMD & BWO are stirring up the mix. Constant afternoon breezes so be ready to adjust as conditions change. Try #18-20 Zebra midges or tiger midge, & #16-18 scuds dark olive. Try some big streamers like Doc's BH in black.

SAN JOAQUIN - Water level is dropping but hatches are continuous all day & trout are still rising to dries, parachute Adams, Humpys & stimulators. Copper Johns, BH pheasant tails & hares ear flashback. Doc's Special in rust & olive are the hot colors around mid-day.

JUNE LOOP - Has been doing fairly well on a variety of rigs with Streamers with a dropper, small midges & bird's nest. Also try a Twin Lake special in rust or olive. June & gull both did well using the same methods, except June depth was about 10' lower due to the water temperature. It's starting to cool, but should stay constant due to the warming that is ongoing.

LUNDY LAKE - Did fair to well most of the month near the inlet using any top water fly, streamers in brown/grizzly #10 or 12, also the grey/grizzly did well. Breezy most afternoons with the occasional flat water, but the inlet still held the number one spot for the best action.

VIRGINIA LAKES - Did great for tubers using birds nest under an olive wooly bugger with a full sink line. Consistent patterns were Rust or olive Twin Lakes Special, black gnats, Griffith Gnats & Rickard's AP emerger, Tuolumne Tamer & the naked caddis. I've been using dries & emergers just under the surface & still popping about 8 or 9 fish in around 35 to 40 minutes just before the bats hit the water.

DFF had a great outing & turned up the numbers of trout on Big Virginia as well as Little Virginia. A special Thank you for the fly & you know who you are.

GREEN CREEK - Nothing new, it hasn't been stocked this summer due to the logistics & I'll keep you updated if anything changes.

BRIDGEPORT REZ - Has algae & loads of weeds & channels to fish. Try streamers with a dropper near the weed lanes for browns & also near the dam. Pheasant tails under an indicator have taken fish & black & gray zebra midges. Some damsel patterns have also been working.

EAST WALKER - Flow currently is at 123cfs (cubic foot per second) & the temperature is running in the low 60's. Stimulators, little yellow sallies, & extended body BWO's have been doing well along with a few caddis hatches. Nymphs working are Buckskin Caddis, PT size 20, hare's ears, & Fox's olive pupa size 18. Streamers that have been working are leech patterns, perch & zonkers. Please take extra time when releasing fish, this is a valuable resource.

WEST WALKER - Water is at 43cfs so look for flat water to fish using a one fly rig with flying ants, & hopper imitations. If no results, move & use a two-fly setup with any nymph as your trailer & a parachute Adams as your top fly.

SADDLEBAG LAKE - Has seen some good action around the north inlet & the dam area using streamers but the staple has been cone-head dark olive with a lot of flash...

See you on the water! CJ (10 9)

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