

February 2010

Delta Fly Fishers

Rx

Flyfishing

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

February, 2010

Well the fishing report is small...two trips on the Moke and one to the Calaveras. Low water on my day on the Mokelumne...saw fish, one very nice steelhead but nothing was interested in what I had to offer...Calaveras is still fishing very nice on cold cloudy days.

Why no trip to Oregon? Corporate intervention, they brought the monthly business to Stockton this month so, I had to stay home, but all is not lost, lots of time for the winter tying. More to be disclosed at the annual dinner on the 31st of January...hope to see you all there.

Daughter of a very good friend is working on a project for school in which she was to recite part of the Declaration of Independence and when she got to the phrase "the pursuit of happiness" she stopped and asked what makes me happy, her father had already been asked the question.

No one can guarantee happiness anymore than you can guarantee the outcome of a baseball game, when the economy will turn around, or if the fishing will be better than last year.

I told my young friend that I am happiest when I have a fly rod (especially a bamboo fly rod) in my hand and am standing in a trout stream, because at that moment time stops and I enter a different reality, one in which I am fully focused. Focused on nature of the area, the subtle movement of the water as it flows around my feet, and the hopes that the small drama of deceit that I am working on works.

I am happiest not because the weather was good, the surroundings were beautiful, or that I may have been able to fool a trout (not likely). I will always have these memories in my mind and hopefully will be able to go over them again and again when I will no longer be able to fish.

The mutts on a vacation...warmer weather... so no words of wisdom from my four footed pal, but she will be back next month.

Big month coming up, so I hope to see a lot of you out and about and involved in our club outings.

Stephen Johnson

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.

Do You Want To Get Your DFF Newsletter Sooner?

DFF is working towards being able to send out DFF's Monthly Newsletter to our members electronically. By sending the Newsletter this way the DFF will be saving rising printing and postage costs that can then go towards our many programs. If you want to continue receiving the Newsletter by hard copy, (snail mail) there is no need to do anything.

If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email, send your email address to Bob Fujimura DeltaFlyFishers@gmail.com. Please put the following in Subject Field of your e-mail: Newsletter Email. Advise Bob of your full name and the email address you would like the magazine sent to.

This is strictly voluntary but you will be saving the Club money. also, since Bob emails out the newsletter before he takes it to the printer, you will receive it sooner.

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| <p>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 _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Please describe what you would like help with _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>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</p> |
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Wednesday Night Fly Tying

The weekly Wednesday evening fly tying sessions have begun and will continue through the Spring, Summer and Fall. Meet at the Nature Center, in the Oak Grove Park, at 6:30. 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 flies or an expert that wants an excuse to get out of the house, then come out for the camaraderie of other members. This is an excellent chance improve your fly Casting and/or BS abilities. For more information contact Joe Balderston at 649-0291 (joesteelhead@aol.com) or Jim Rich at 477-6404 (jrich1@sbcglobal.net).

Jim Rich wants to inform DFF members that they will now need a DFF parking permit to display on your dash as the County Sheriff's office will be writing tickets for non DFF members on Wednesday nights. Jim is going to print up placards or permits, so see Jim to get one.

Lake McSwain Monthly Outling February 20, 2010



The Lake McSwain outing is scheduled for Saturday Feb 20th. We will meet at the McSwain launch ramp parking lot at 8am. For those who have been to the Kelsey Bass Lake, the turn off for McSwain is only about a long mile past the Kelsey Bass Lake sign. For those who haven't been to Kelsey, take Highway 99 about 36 miles from Stockton south to Keyes road, east on Keyes 11 miles to Montpelier, right on Montpelier 6.4 miles to Turlock Rd, left on Turlock 8.4 miles to J59 follow J59 about 18 miles to McSwain/McClure sign, turn right and in couple of miles you are at Lake McSwain. It costs \$6 to fish McSwain, five for seniors. Grady will have maps for Lake McSwain at the February membership meeting and point out where to fish and what flies have been successful for him. For more information contact Earl Summers at 957-6756 or Grady Lee at 951-3623.



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Conservation

by Ron Forbes

In September of 2009, wealthy corporate farmer Stewart Resnick wrote U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein a letter asking for her support on the side of agribusiness in the water dispute in California. One of his complaints was what he termed “sloppy science” used by Federal wildlife agencies in the regulation the Delta. This is a common ploy for the south valley corporate farmers. Feinstein has come to his support. She immediately sent letters to the Obama administration. Her letter along with Resnick’s was sent to two U.S. Cabinet Secretaries. In her letter she pointed out Resnick’s concerns. The Obama people immediately responded by giving \$750,000 for a total re-examination of the science behind the entire Delta environmental protection plan and another review of the pumping restrictions in the Delta.

This action by Resnick is a show of his power in over government in California. Stewart Resnick is a very wealthy corporate farmer who, along with his wife, own Paramount Farms in the south valley. It’s 118,000 acres that depends heavily on Delta water. They also own several other businesses. Both he and his wife started buying land about 25 years ago. Records show that he has given Feinstein \$29,000 and the Democratic committees \$246,000 when she has sought re-election. In the last 25 years Resnick, his wife and executives in his companies have given a staggering \$3,970,000 to candidates in California. He has held fund raisers for Feinstein in his home in Beverly Hills and she has been a guest in Aspen at his second home. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently described the Resnick’s as his “dear, dear friends.” They are, and are going to continue to be, power players in the Delta water issues.

The focus of the discussions are the two environmental plans which were written by federal agencies and are intended to protect our fisheries by cutting the amount for water sent from the Delta. The panel of “experts” was appointed from the National Academies of Science and consists of 15 members. Their claim is that they won’t be swayed by politics but, by the facts based on science. They were appointed by U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. At this point they have been given briefings on the issues at U.C. Davis and have formed a list of witnesses to be interviewed.

Again, no groups from the Delta have been allowed to speak for us. Neither will anyone representing the salmon fishery will be allowed to present their point of view. So much for honesty on Ken Salazar’s part. One of the groups speaking is the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta (CSD). This group is financed by Stewart Resnick. Surprised? Their headquarters is located at Paramount Farms and 3 of the 4 directors are paid

Paramount employees. There isn’t much doubt on what they will be telling the panel. Another group that has been included to “represent” the Delta issues is the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. This group studies tuna.....not, salmon. It should be noted that the tuna’s range is from Mexico in the south and to Point Conception in the north, not central or northern California. The CSD thinks that the salmon fisherman should catch tuna not salmon. The idea being that the loss of salmon can be offset by tuna. The idea that it’s ok to cause salmon to become an extinct species if the CSD people get their water is totally outrageous. They have no concern for the environment as long as they turn a profit.

However, one so-called expert witness is truly a joke. His name is BJ Miller. A number of years ago he did a “study” that claimed that the Delta pumps don’t kill fish. According to Miller it’s a small toxic protozoan that has done all the damage. At the time of the BJ Miller was working for the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority. They paid for his so-called research. It should be noted his degree is in physics not biology. He is not connected with any university, nor does he have any academic standing. His work has never been published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Two years ago I was present when Rep. George Miller ripped BJ Miller’s study and BJ Miller apart at a House of Representatives committee meeting. Scientist who reviewed BJ Miller’s study called it non-science and basically a joke. And now CSD is presenting Miller as an expert witness.

The panel is to present its findings by March 15th. The panel will have 48 days to reach a conclusion. The two environmental plans written by by the federal agencies comprise 150,000 pages; therefore to even review the research done at this point would require reading over 3,000 pages of science per day. One doubts just how objective and honest this panel is going to be. It’s going to be interesting to see their conclusions the given the politics involved.

Education News

Boy Scouts a Valuable FFF Partner



The Boy Scouts of America is a longtime partner of the Federation of Fly Fishers. We encourage FFF members and clubs to work with local scout troops. FFF Clubs and Scouts often team up on local conservation efforts such as monofilament recycling programs. FFF members are also a valuable resource for scouts seeking the Fly Fishing Merit Badge.

To learn more about working with the Boy Scouts in your area, we recommend the following links:

- [Finding a Boy Scout Council](#)
- [What is the Fly Fishing Merit Badge?](#)
- [Sample Curriculum for Teaching Scouts](#)

For questions or to share your stories about working with scouts, you can also contact the FFF national office.



American Fly Fishing Co.
3523 Fair Oaks Blvd
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916-483-1222 or 800-410-1222
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www.americanflyfishingtravel.com/Travel

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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

David Coon 209-239-9936

Fishing Mentor Program

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

Delta Fly Fishers Official Club Merchandise For Sale

Help support your club by buying and using club merchandise.

Polo Shirt w/club logo sale \$26.00

Ball Cap \$11.50

Club Patch \$5.00

Lapel Pin \$7.00

Lic. Plate Frames \$3.00

Official coffee mug \$5.00

Also the club has a video library

Videotape Rentals \$2.00 Per Video

Membership Meeting

February 10

Board Meeting

February 27

February Newsletter

The deadline for the

March issue is

February 25th

February Program Bugology by John Gantner

This month's presentation will be given by John Gantner. John has been fly fishing for over 40 years and fly tying almost as long. He has had over 50 articles published in national fly fishing magazines. He does demonstration fly tying at various venues including the FFF National Conclaves and the Fly Fishing Show at Pleasanton. He has been presenting his "bugology" program to fly clubs for a couple of years. He is not a professional entomologist, and presents his program as an angler and for anglers. John lives in Redding with his wife Maggie and dog Riley. He is a long time member of Shasta/Trinity Fly Fishers.



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EASTERN SIERRA FOCUS

By CJ Webb 1.20.10 (vlr@qnet.com)

News – Changes – Editorial Opinion

Several changes have occurred over the past couple months. One that will affect License Agents throughout California is the Automated License Data System (ALDS) which will replace the current paper licensing system in the State starting August 2010. The Associate Governmental Program Analyst for the Department says there are a couple other options available, but not for us. We will no longer be an Agent for the Department of Fish and Game due to the requirements of a separate phone line and high-speed internet. All I can visualize are problems in compliance for those not willing to drive the 36 mile round-trip to Bridgeport or Lee Vining to purchase a license when anglers are accustomed to purchasing their licenses from us.

The California Fish and Game Commission met on December 9th in LA to discuss several pressing issues for anglers unveiling the “Warden’s Stamp” and the “No Wear Fishing Initiative,” removing the requirement that mandated California recreational anglers “display” their license when fishing. The Warden’s Stamp is a voluntary \$5 stamp that will be sold alongside hunting and fishing licenses in order to help fund special equipment for wardens, help in their advanced training and provide some family benefits that the state no longer can afford.

The Trout stocking lawsuit in California was found to have some unintended consequences threatening the entire aquaculture industry including private growers of trout, catfish and other fishes throughout the state. DFG’s preferred alternative in the environmental document would require a new set of regulations, permits and testing that will affect their businesses. Reports state that trout and catfish growers have been disappearing from California due to increasing costs and more regulations for the past.

Anglers across the state should have concerns as private hatcheries have picked up the slack due to DFG budget constraints. It is believed that the environmental damage caused by the DFG’s hatchery program including the private hatchery program, is almost negligible. DFG should have written a categorical exemption for the hatchery program decades ago and there would not have been a lawsuit filed except for site-specific suits that would address the few serious problems. Without stocking there will be other impacts on roadside waters as front-country anglers will hike into the backcountry for wild trout, and it’s not brain surgery where this will go.

DFG Lawsuit status – The joint EIR/EIS was finalized on January 11, 2009. For more information go to: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/news/pubnotice/hatchery/>.

This year will see a lot more environmental groups attempting to take away our natural resources, access public lands and even fishing. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is moving 40 of its main office staff (25%), to the Los Angeles area in an attempt to access the easy-to-influence celebrities in order to fill their declining finances.

The other problem is the Humane Society of the US (HSUS),

and they want the no-use of public lands or waters, no use of our natural resources to keep people off public lands by using the words “protect” and “preserve” as their trigger words. They are currently urging the President to appoint an Animal Protection Liaison in the White House. Cass Sunstein is already the Regulatory Czar and if they get their way, it is quite possible that the United States, as we know it, may become unrecognizable. Be vigilant and watch for anything that can impact the use of public lands and resources, and the rights of Americans under “The Constitution”.

DFG Reform - It seems there is a move to reform the DFG as stated by Jared Huffman, a long time angler and champion of fishery issues who will make this is priority in 2010. This was a very lengthy article by Tom Martens in the last issue of California Fly Fisher Nov/Dec 2009.

Mr. Martens discusses the political influences, budget and funding, preservation fund, staff furloughs, frozen funds, fish-planting priorities, warden force, the Delta, water, and Bills relating to fish and game. If you don’t have a copy, drop me an email and I’ll send you an electronic copy.

Tim Alpers with Inland Aquaculture Group (IAG) based on Conway Ranch (Mono County) is working on plans to purchase 80,000 fertilized brown trout “eyed” eggs from DFG’s Mt. Shasta hatchery. Bridgeport Fishing Enhancement Foundation (BFEF) will incubate them and split 50-50 with IAG and end product is destined for stocking in Mono County waters.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
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| 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 6 | Oak Grove Park Stockton | 2010 Bob McMillan Trout Bout Steve Cooper 956-1032 |
| Wednesday February 10 | John R Williams School Stockton | February General Meeting Bugoloy - John Gantner |
| Wednesday February 17 | Nature Center Oak Grove Park, Stockton | Board Meeting All Members Welcome |
| Saturday February 20 | Lake Mc Swain Snelling, CA | Grady Lee 951-3623 - Earl Summers 957-6756 |
| February 26 - 28 | Alameda County Fairgrounds Pleasanton, CA | The Fly Fishing Show www.flyfishingshow.com/Pleasanton.html |
| Saturday March 27 | Paradise Point Stockton, CA | March Outing - Black Bass/Striper Fishing Bill Laughlin 477-6644 |
| Saturday April 3 | Kelsey Bass Ranch Snelling, CA | March Outing - Kelsey Bass Ranch Al Smatsky 368-9261 |
| Fri/Sat April 23-24 | Salt Springs Reservoir Copperopolis, CA | April Outing |
| Saturday May 8 | White Pines Lake Arnold, CA | Annual One Fly Contest With the Calaveras Fly Fishers |
| Fri - Sun May 21-23 | Lassen National Park | May Outing Lassen Park Outing Marty Kjelson 477-9618 |
| Saturday, June 5 | Oak Grove Park, Stockton | Catfish Derby Earl Summers 957-6756 |
| Wednesday, June 9 | Oak Grove Park, Stockton | Annual Club Barbeque |
| Fri/Sun June 18-20 | Davis Lake Portola, CA | June Outing |
| Saturday July 10 | Spicer Res., Union Res. or N. Stanislaus River | July Outing |
| Sunday - Saturday July 11-18 | Owens Valley - Mammoth Lakes | July Outing Marty Kjelson 477-9618 |

2009
 Glenn Bockmon & Mike Trotter's Trip
 Jurassic Lake & Chubut River, Patagonia



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.

In February we passed out close to 100 S.H.A.R.E.S. cards to DFF members. Many of you have been using them. Since late February we have earned approximately \$300. We have noticed a drop in usage this past month so we encourage you to shop Save Mart and use the card. There is no additional cost to you. It merely gives 3% to DFF that otherwise would go to market profit.

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Students Predict Hatch

Hazelton Elementary students worked out the total number of thermal units required for 35 Chinook salmon eggs to hatch. The eggs were delivered from the Mokelumne hatchery on January 6th. Using a mathematical formula, the students combined the water temperatures of the hatchery with the classroom aquarium, totaling the number of days at each site and then predicting the eggs would hatch during the week of January 15th. Much to their chagrin, the students did not notice any action from the eggs until January 19th.

“Hey, I see a head!” exclaimed a 5th grade student.

Only one egg showed part of an alevin as of January 19th. The students in Hazelton’s Academic Center for the Talented learn about the life cycle of steelhead and Salmon throughout the incubation period. Before the young fish are fed, they are released at the annual Family Day at the River. This is Hazelton’s third year raising salmon in the classroom. Kohl Open School is also sponsored by the Delta Fly Fishers. This is their second year.

“I am not just bringing my hobby to work, I really am teaching!!” said teacher and DFF Educational Chair, Joe Balderston.



Paloma Baker and Andrew Gutierrez check the temperature of the salmon tank.



Eyed Chinook salmon eggs

Swap and/or Trade


St. Croix AFT 9010 “Avid” 9’ 10# 3 pc rod.
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The Northern California/ Nevada Council Federation of Fly Fishers
is proud to announce the induction of



Mike Michalak
into the

Fly Fishing Hall of Fame

Saturday Evening March 20th, 2010

Mike's contributions to the art and sport of fly fishing will be
recognized as he becomes the
30th inductee into the NCCFFF Fly Fishing Hall of Fame

Join Mike's family and friends as well as other fly fishing enthusiasts
as we celebrate Mike's contribution to fly fishing history.

To be held at the Napa Senior Activity Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa California

Social hour and silent auction starts at 5PM - Dinner at 7PM - Followed by live auction

For reservations to this special event please visit our web site at

www.nccfff.org

Registration forms along with payment must be received by **March 5, 2010** to reserve your space. Seating is limited!

Delta Fly Fishers

Rx Flyfishing Newsletter

PO Box 77862

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A Not For Profit Organization

www.deltaflyfishers.com