

Delta Fly Fishers

November 2007

Rx

Flyfishing

President's Message by Herman Spalinger

November, 2007

For those of you who were unable to attend our Lake Alpine outing on the 13th of October, you really missed out on a very good fish day. Of the dozen or so members who drove up to bear the cold morning, they were rewarded by fish that seemed eager to hit those flies. Saturday morning our group met at Rodz in Angels Camp as planned by Grady, and after a great breakfast we all hit the road to Alpine. Everyone who worked the lake caught fish; a few had over twenty fish and most others landed between ten and twenty. Even with the Shadow keeping constant surveillance, he ended up putting his "note pad" away and decided to catch some fish too – there were no incidents worthy of mention for an Incomplete Angler award! The weather couldn't have been better, sun warming up the body while casting for the fish and the wind stayed down to just a slight breeze all day long. Joe Balderston takes the record for staying the longest since his truck was still parked under the trees when the last of the group left. He was busy catching 12 to 14 inchers at the far east end of the lake on dry flies as the sun was setting. Ron Forbes took the "big fish award" for Saturday when he took over 20 minutes to land a 23 incher that had to be in the six to seven pound class. The "battle" was videoed by Jim Rich, and a photo I took should be published in the following pages of this newsletter. Greg Pettis stayed with me at the trailer Saturday night and we both returned to the lake Sunday morning eager to continue with the great fishing we had the day before. But, alas, there were too many fish still swimming around with sore mouths from our group the day before and strikes were hard to come by. However, around noon Greg broke the silence with a "Herman, I hope you have a camera, I've got a big one on here." Yes, indeed he did, and his picture should appear near Ron's in this newsletter as well. Greg's was six pounds plus.

If you've read this far, please read on as it is important we have 43 members attend our November 14th regular membership meeting at J.R. Williams school. November is the time of the month you the members elect our Board of Directors for the year 2008 that in turn elect the officers and committee chairpersons of this great organization. You have received a special notice in the mail of this meeting by now, and you'll notice we have two vacancies on the Board that need to be nominated and voted upon the 14th. The club's by-laws stipulate a majority of the members need be present to elect board members so that is where the number 43 comes from. Dean Watson has agreed to step into the Secretary position leaving his board position open. We cannot have an officer also serve on the board per our by-laws. Bob Souza is stepping down and concentrating on the membership committee chairmanship and other time-consuming duties. Bob has served this club well for as long as I've been a member and doesn't hesitate to step forward and volunteer, but he needs to step back and let some of you members come forward and volunteer to serve on the board. It only takes one Wednesday each month for 11 times a year, and any fresh ideas from a couple new members on the board would be greatly appreciated.

Please make an effort to attend the regular meeting on the 14th of November, and in the meantime it's getting that time of year to take those flies out of the water and renew those patterns on the tying bench. We will have a couple of outings before the end of the year closer in to Stockton, so keep watching for announcements in the newsletter.

Herman

Membership Form

Membership Form - Regular membership is: \$25 and a Family Membership is: \$30.00 or \$20.00 for 62 years or older. New members please add \$5.00 one time new member initiation. Dues are for one year September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007. Please fill out then mail to: Delta Fly Fishers P.O. Box 77862, Stockton, CA 95207

Check one: New membership _____ Renew membership _____

Regular Membership for one year \$25.00 _____ Two years \$50.00 _____

Family Membership for one year \$30.00 _____ Two years \$60.00 _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ - _____ Cell (____) _____ - _____

Phone: 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 Souza at 209-607-6604 or e-mail at suzasbs@clearwire.net.

Fishing Buddy Request

NAME _____ DATE _____

PHONE CONTACTS: (1) _____ (2) _____

The best time to contact me is _____

My E-mail address is: _____

I WOULD LIKE A FISHING BUDDY TO HELP ME WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Casting | <input type="checkbox"/> Fly Tying | <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Knot Tying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attending Outings | <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 Buddy Committee:

Bob Souza at 209-607-6604 or suzasbs@clearwire.net.

Grady Lee at 951-3623 or gmississippikid@aol.com

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

October's Alpine Lake Outing

11 or 12 members attended the Alpine outing on Saturday October 13. It is believed that everyone caught fish, even Santa Claus who managed to stay upright in his pontoon boat, despite all of his practice at upside down fishing on the Stanislaus last spring. Congratulations Walt. The Shadow was very disappointed as there were no reported FoxPaws for this outing which by the way was the first outing this year without one or more mishaps.



October Conservation

by Ron Forbes

One of the ongoing areas of contention between municipal water districts, related interest groups and the National Marine Fisheries Service is the status of steelhead. The water districts and their friends had long contended that the decline of wild steelhead is not of importance since they make up the decline in the wild fish by supplanting the loss of wild fish with hatchery fish. Their view is that wild steelhead and hatchery are basically equal and therefore the wild fish are no longer endangered and should be placed on the list. As you know the endangered list requires much higher protection for the steelhead than does the threatened list. The water districts of course want lower standards for so they don't have to go with higher standards that will help insure the survival of wild steelhead. Basically they don't care if the wild steelhead survives. In several recent court cases however, decisions have been handed down in our favor for the higher standards. Soon the case of the Modesto Water District versus the NMFS will be decided. We, along with Earth Justice, NCCFF, are interveners on NMFS's side.

In October of this year, science has come to the aid of the steelhead and supports the position long held those of us who value wild steelhead rather than farmed fish. Evidence now exists showing a major difference between hatchery fish and wild steelhead.

A 15-year study by Oregon State University (OSU) has shown that hatchery-raised steelhead (of non-wild origin) loses the ability to reproduce effectively when in the wild. The loss is about 40 percent per generation compared to wild fish. OSU did their work in the Hood River. The research has shown that fish taken only from farmed fish have about 50 percent of the reproductive ability of the fish in the hatchery reared by mating two wild steelhead. They never mate two non-wild fish. If they do the reproductive fitness falls off sharply.

The decrease in the ability to reproduce seems to be due to both genetics and natural selection. It seems that the evolutionary process will select traits favorable for fish living in a protected environment. But not for those fish that have to live in the real world. The fish released by OSU are the heredity contrast between and the hatchery's mating practices. In the study, they always mated wild trout and mated fish of different size and age keep the gene pool mixed.

To help the process along and maintain wild steelhead population the adipose fin is clipped on the farmed fish so the fisherman can tell the difference between the wild population and the hatchery population. Only farmed fish may be taken. If a wild fish spawns with a farmed fish in the wild, the off-spring have a better chance of survival rather than two farmed fish spawning. This study proves beyond any doubt that farmed fish and wild steelhead may look the same but are not the same genetically. Hopefully this will put the water districts legal arguments in rest scientifically once and for all.

Dredging

When you think just about all of the issues in the environment that are being looked at, a new one seems to pop up. This issue is the concern about suction dredging and the effect it has on streams and rivers in relation to the biologic life and physical aspects of those streams and rivers. In suction dredging for gold in rivers, streambed material is sucked from the river bottom and dumped somewhere else with little concern for the effects of this process.

Evidentially the effect of dredging on the ecosystem has been poorly studied. Some groups are now giving attention to the process and its relation stream biology, the river's physical characteristics after dredging, and how we should evaluate the dredging's effect on nature.

The timing of dredging activity can overlap with fish spawning and the incubation of the embryos. In some rivers the salmonids do not go into the river from the underlying substrate until the summer and some fish have long spawning periods lasting well into the summer. In Idaho studies have shown dredging to destroy emerging mayfly hatches and increased mortality rates in young trout.

Much work needs to be done on understanding the effect of dredging excavation on a river's habitat. For example, dredging near the area between a riffle and pool may cause the riffle to erode and destabilize and a spawning area can be destroyed. Deposits of tailings into spawning areas can allow fish to spawn in unsuitable material and cause the death of the run. In Butte Creek here in California, 50 percent of the rainbow were lost in a pool after dredging upstream filled 25 percent of the pool's volume.

It seems that suction dredging has effects on our rivers ecosystems, but right now they are not well understood. It also seems that dredging has done harm to threatened species, but again we don't know the extent of the damage. The people who manage our fisheries need to be aware of the problems dredging causes when it occurs at the same time of incubation of young fish or if it occurs just before spawning runs. They also need to be made aware of the problems fine-sediment will cause when it's deposited in spawning channels. From much of the evidence we know however, maybe this is one of those cases where the act should be considered guilty until proven innocent.

Tight lines,

Ron Forbes

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Charles Edwards 209 - 951-0391

2nd Vice President

(Open)

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Ron Forbes 209 - 368-5767

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Bill Laughlin 209 - 477-6644

Doug Ridgway 209 - 957-0170

Bob Souza 209 - 478-8344

Dean Watson 209 - 474-9776

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Newsletter

Doug Ridgway 209 - 957-0170

Conservation & NCCFFF Member

Ron Forbes 209 - 368-5767

Catfish Derby (June)

Earl Summers 209 - 957-6756

Historian

Dean Watson 209 - 815-6887

Membership

Bob Souza 209 - 478-8344

Outings

Grady Lee 209 - 951-3623

Earl Summers 209 - 957-6756

Marty Kjelson 209 - 477-9618

Publicity

Grady Lee 209 - 951-3623

Programs

Marty Kjelson 209 - 477-9618

John Keagy 209 - 369-5690

Property

Jacob Loyko 209 - 468-2664

Raffles

Bill Laughlin 209 - 477-6644

Trout Bout

Charlie Reames 209 - 369-6053

Bob McMillan Memorial Trout Bout

Steve Cooper 209 - 956-1032

Web Site

David Coon 209 - 239-9936

Fishing Buddy

Bob Souza 209 - 478-8344

Grady Lee 209 - 951-3623

Ron Pettit 209 - 931-2997

Help support your club by buying and using club merchandise.

Polo Shirt w/club logo sale	\$26.00
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Ball Cap	\$11.50
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Club Patch	\$5.00
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Lapel Pin	\$7.00
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Lic. Plate Frames	\$3.00
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Official coffee mug	\$5.00
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Also the club has a video library

Videotape Rentals	\$2.00 Per Video
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See Jacob Loyko 468-2664 for info on

merchandise and videos at all the meetings.

November 14

November Board Meeting

November 21

December Newsletter

The deadline for the November issue is November

November's Membership Meeting



The November 14th program for the DFF will be a presentation by a local lifetime fly fisher Mike Costello. Mike is owner and guide of Pacific Adventures in Woodbridge. Mike guides extensively for stripers in the delta using streamer flies and surface poppers to land fish from one to over forty lbs. with side catches of black bass and an occasional salmon. Mike also guides drift boat trips on the Stanislaus River for trout, stripers and steelhead. Guided trips on the Mokelumne and Lower Sac for trout and steelhead are also available from Mike. Looks like a good program for November from a local guide providing information on our local waters. Information: Marty Kjelson 209-477-9618 or John Keagy 369-5690

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Fishing tip: I'm going to veer from my normal report to provide you with information on the regulation changes for Hot Creek, Upper Owens and the East Walker Rivers that the Fish and Game Commission will implement on November 1st. I have my own opinion but will only offer facts.

These and their flows are dependent on the winter storms and the amount of water that is taken for irrigation. East Walker should be open or closed all year based on water flow on a day-to-day basis. The fish are taking a beating when the water flow is low and temperatures are hot. No information from any survey is available for winter yet. How do you implement a day-to-day rule change and who is going to put the signs up and down? How do you protect the fish in the summer to be safe?

It's pretty cool for the catch-and-release anglers to get to fish in March and April and have their own early opener and not have to wait until May when the bait crowds arrive. Will the benefit outweigh the negative impact on the fishery? Hot Creek got pounded near the Interpretive Site on March 1st while spawning occurred, which is a negative impact.

The number of locals or people that will come up from So Cal and fish the winter months, in an average or high snowfall year will be dependent on the snowfall, so having it open or closed November through February is probably moot.

Any assumption from DFG biologists is as to the true long term impact on the resource is no more than speculation.

The only ways to know is to try it for a year then re-evaluate the results. The local guides would be the best survey you could possibly get, as they fish the waters more than the average fly angler. But do the guides want to increase their business or do they care about the resource. This is your judgment call.

How the process works is that anyone can propose changes by putting it on the Agenda for consideration. The agenda is then published on the web site in the spring, then the public is welcome to come to any meetings around the state and make comments or write a letter with your commentary on any of the proposals, and then at the December meeting, the Commission votes and the proposals that pass are adopted into the regulations that come out in the spring.

If you agree or not, voice your opinion and contact the Commissioners, they need input to make a sound decision for the resource. Hopefully, they will make the right decision to maintain a valuable fishery.

California Fish and Game Commission

1416 Ninth Street

PO Box 944209

Sacramento CA 94244-2090

916753/4900, 916.653.5040 (fax) Email: fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Any questions, email me at vlr@qnet.com.

Weather: Unsettled would best describe the entire month with wind, rain, snow and cold temperatures. Water temp is dropping fast, but it has not hurt the fishing. Generally speaking the fishing has been slow, with the exception of the first 10 days, it was excellent and then again on the 13th and 15th The wind has brought in

a few snow flurries but we had a ten day period of pure heavenly weather. The fishing has picked up.

Legislation: Same as last report status quo to date.

News: FG Commission meeting on November 1st.

ROCK CREEK AREA – No Report

UPPER OWENS – The section downstream from the Benton Bridge to the monument is now closed until the Saturday preceding Memorial Day of 2008. You may fish UPSTREAM from the bridge, which has special regulations and is currently open all year. You may also fish downstream from the monument to Crowley with special regulations until November 15th. All the open area are still doing well on streamers, so fish the deep water near cut banks and the flows are up a bit due to the recent storm activity that dropped a few inches of snow/rain.

HOT CREEK – The flow is low but some water from the recent storms has increased it slightly. Afternoons have been the best time to get some action using very, very small flies with a 7X, yes; I said a 7X, my favorite size. Some caddis and Baetis mayflies are around so you better do a dry dropper in the pools and runs.

CROWLEY – The marina will be closed shortly and the season ends Nov. 15th but you can still wade, float or drift for the next 3 weeks. A Warming trend has been producing some nice 30 fish days. Low water has some hazards so you should check with the store for their locations. Some water markers are present but these may not be enough. The Vanderleech with a black tiger midge or Gillie as the dropper has been the number one source of action. IAG put in over 2,000 pounds of half-pounders and the Still Water Classic also planted some small browns.

CONVICT – The Lake has been doing well on the south shore near the trees on large olive bunny streamers, black and olive wooly buggers, and their "Marvel".

SAN JOAQUIN – The river continued to show action on medium sized dries (Stimulators, Humpies, Light Cahills and Parachute Adams #16-18) try small nymphs like Copper Johns, PT's, Zug Bugs as the under fly #18-20.

RUSH CREEK – No Report

JUNE LOOP – Hawks are interested in fattening up before the freeze so try some large Matuka in olive or brown, Flash-a-buggers in olive brown or purple, #10 Mohair leech in Maroon or Brown with a trailer of a red Copper John, #16-18 Tiger Midge and a #10 olive Mini Leech

VIRGINIA LAKES – Some nice Alpers were taken on Olive Matukas, and olive and black wooly buggers out in the center of Little Virginia mid month, but when the wind kicked in, it all died. Indian summer took over the last half of the month but no one was around to enjoy it. Spider columns are still coming off the pines so soft hackles will also do well.

EAST WALKER – The River has been good even with the low flows. Try small midges, WD40's, zebra midges, blood midges and Copper John's. Streamers have all been doing well; try using Zuddlers, Hornbergs and mini leech perch fry's.

BRIDGEPORT REZ – Looks like a mud hold, and temps are finally dropping. Tubing will be the only way you can get into some action with a 3-fly rig. Bring your finest and work them, from midges to larva patterns. Try large streamers on top and micros as the bottom with prince nymph, scuds, bird's nest and PT's in the middle. You'll have to work for them as the water is not being flushed, but some nice fish are coming out if you work it.

WEST WALKER – It's hard to find any good water unless you go way down the canyon where the other sources meet the main river or "trickle". Terrestrials will probably get you into fish with soft hackles as a backup.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Wed (except meet- ing nights)	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	FLY CASTING Contact: Jim Rich 477-6404 Rick Greene 477-1488
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 November 14	John R Williams School	Member Meeting Mike Costello of Pacific Adventures Annual Elections
November 17	Boat Dock Oak Grove Park Stockton	Trout Bout
Wednesday November 21	Stockton	Board Meeting All Members Welcome
TBA November	Rancho Seco Lake or Lake Amador	Outing
TBA December	Rancho Seco Lake or Lake Amador	Outing

DFF's November Outing

At this writing, November's Outing, the place and time, has not been set. Depending on the weather, fish plants and other considerations, the location will probably be either Lake Amador or Rancho Seco. When something is set, then watch for an announcement from Grady and/or on the Club's web site.

The Trout Bout

Saturday November 17, is the date for the DFF members to help with the biannual Trout Bout held by the County Parks Department. For more information please contact Charlie Reames at 369-6053

Makos in San Diego

I took some meds to ward off motion sickness and off we went in search of Mako Shark. Sallye and I had booked the services of Bowman Blue Water for two mornings the first week of October to see what it is like to hook and play shark on a fly rod.

We left Mission Bay and headed for Nine Mile Bank where Captain Dave Trimble hung a couple of chum boxes over the side while we drifted with the current, laying down an oily chum line as we moved along. Within 30 minutes we had our first Mako next to the boat. This shark showed almost as much interest in biting the motor shaft as he did chewing on a chum box.

Dave threw out a large plastic squid. It had no hook, serving as the teaser. Just as the shark moved toward the teaser, Sallye or I would lay the real fly down on the water about four feet behind and to the side of the shark. As the shark grabbed for the teaser, Dave pulled it from the water. The shark began turning to search for its prey and invariably found the real fly readily available.

The fight typically began with a long spirited run followed by two or more somersault leaps. They rarely go deep, but certainly can put a bend in a 12-weight rod.

We landed two small Mako Sharks and one very small Blue Shark that morning. We were looking for much



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Rx Flyfishing Newsletter

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