

April 2007

# Delta Fly Fishers

## Rx Flyfishing

### President's Message by Herman Spalinger

April 2007

BASS. That seems a rather appropriate subject as I write this with ESPN following a group of professional fishermen all over the Delta in their fast boats competing for huge amounts of prize money for the most weight of fish caught. However, this BASS stands for Bass Anglers of the Silent Society. As I mentioned in my March message, Harvey Hamlow's son Erick is helping get the details worked out for a fly fishing workshop put on by our club for about 30 members of BASS. The date has been set as July 28th at the boathouse at Oak Grove Park from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. BASS will provide the interpreters and the food. Our club is to provide the information these youths seek on what this fly-fishing is all about. We've tentatively planned to break the youth group up in probably three or four smaller groups with our club members providing short classes on the equipment we use, fly casting demonstrations and fly tying demonstrations. Then each youth group will rotate around with the interpreters so everyone gets a good rounded education on how to catch fish on light tackle with a fly tied on the end of the line. This should be a fun event for our members to participate with hearing impaired youth. More details will follow in future newsletters so stay tuned, and let Harvey know if you wish to participate or come out just to interact with the young men and women as their organization will need to know a head count for their planning on food.

As you will probably read in another page of the newsletter, our club had a great turnout for the Rancho Seco "throw down" with the so-called fly fishers from the Sacramento club. Some of their club members were trying to say they won the competition by catching a 500-pound marlin - at Rancho Seco? I'll let Ron's article describe more fully how the event went. Let's just say this warm weather warmed up the pond to over 62 degrees and the fishing was pretty slow. Greg Pettis managed to land three trout at the upper end but, alas, he didn't register them in time. Sallye Rollans did, however, register her fish to determine the outcome. Way to go, Sallye.

I want to again regurgitate our next regular meeting on April 11th will NOT be at J.R. Williams school as that is their spring break. We have made arrangements to hold the meeting at the Brookside Church School on Rosemarie Lane midway between Pacific and Pershing on the north side of Rosemarie. This will be a test to see how many actually read the newsletter or look at our web site as to how many show up at J.R. Williams instead. Perhaps anyone going to J.R. Williams first could be considered a candidate for the 2007 Incomplete Angler trophy?

I'm sure some or all of you are getting anxious to head out to some of the local waters for trout or stripper or shad fishing. Some of you may even be planning a trip north to Alaska or south to Mexico or even farther south to Australia. Best of luck to you wherever you go and please think about writing up a short story about your trip and submit it to Doug Ridgway, dsridgway@sbcglobal.net, for our newsletter. The newsletter is our communication with each other and we certainly like to hear from you as to your success or failure. We're fishermen not journalists or writers so we enjoy reading whatever you have to say in print or otherwise.

I want to mention your Board of Directors and officers are doing everything we can to stay within our budget, and at our last board meeting we were discussing other means of raising more money for the club and still keeping our dues at the same level. One of our discussions focused on perhaps having a garage sale. One of our committee chairpersons has volunteered his garage to store whatever items any of you may have so we can have a garage sale that will help us raise money for our club operations. The cost of doing "business" has been going up and we need to meet the increased operating costs with increased income. I'm sure several of you have some old or used fishing equipment - or whatever - that might go in a sale. My experience with garage sales has been that a lot of the people, that show up, ask for any fishing equipment right off the bat. We'll have more discussion on this possibility in the future, and we invite any of you who may have other fund-raising ideas to please either come to a board meeting or discuss them with our officers or board members so we can go forward with your proposal.

In the meantime, tight lines, and we'll next meet April 11th at Brookside School on Rosemarie Lane.

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](mailto: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](mailto:suzasbs@clearwire.net).

Grady Lee at 951-3623 or [gmississippikid@aol.com](mailto:gmississippikid@aol.com)

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

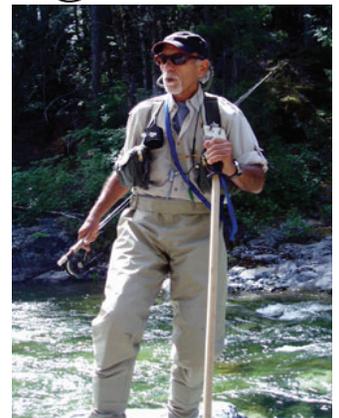
# The Annual Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing



It's that time of the year. The days are getting longer, the weather is getting warmer and the bass are hungry! Join the Delta Fly Fishers on their annual trip to the Kelsey Bass Ranch Pond on Saturday April 7th. The fee is \$65 and includes lunch, cooked by Al Smatsky. For more information contact Al at (209) 368-9261. For more information on the Kelsey Bass Ranch, look at Al's Excellent Adventures web site at <http://www.excellentadventures.org/>

## April General Membership Meeting

Delta Fly Fishers' Wed April 11 program will be a presentation by Bill Carnazzo of Spring Creek Flycraft and Guide Service entitled Nymphing Techniques for Pocket Water. Bill has 45 years experience fishing for trout, steelhead, salmon and warm water fish plus 8 years guiding experience on the North Yuba, Rubicon, Upper Sac and McCloud Rivers. He is also the author of several articles in the California Fly Fisher Magazine as well as the Fly Tier's Corner for 15 years. As a result of years of guiding anglers and teaching fly fishing skills, Bill has been able to distill "nymphing" down to a few basic principles and techniques which if practiced regularly, will enable fly fishers to consistently catch fish with nymphs. Bill's program will be presented 7 pm at **BROOKSIDE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL, 915 ROSE-MARIE LANE**. Program is free and open to the public. Information Marty Kjelson 477-9618 or John Keagy 369-5690



## Annual Shad Attack is Close!!



Come to the Shad Clinic at Oak Grove Park to find out how to catch these great sport fish on fly equipment. The date is May 2nd Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Nature Center Building.

There will be a basic tackle discussion and fly tying demonstration on fly patterns for Shad in our local waters.

For more information call Bob Souza at (209) 478-8344, cell 209-607-6604 or e-mail at [suzasbs@clearwire.net](mailto:suzasbs@clearwire.net)

### DFE Annual Club Shad Outing Saturday May 19th

Delta Fly Fishers Shad outing will be held at Goethe Park on the American River. There will be fishing buddies and extra tackle for the first timers. You will be helped with the proper presentation to fish for these great sport fish on fly tackle.

Directions for this outing are, from Stockton north on hwy 99 to east hwy 50 , take Bradshaw Rd off ramp ,left at stop light, then right at Folsom Blvd to Beaudry Dr. at park entrance gate you will have to pay \$4.00 per car. Then drive to the horse area sign make a left turn at the sign follow road back to the fishing area.

Contact person, Bob Souza 607-6604 or [suzasbs@clearwire.net](mailto:suzasbs@clearwire.net)

## Conservation - By Ron Forbes

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch has ruled in favor of the California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance (CSFPA) in their suit against the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Thursday, March 22nd, Judge Roesch ruled that the DWR must have a permit under the California's Endangered Species Act (CESA) if they plan to continue killing fish, in the Delta, by pumping water south. In the CESA, fish such as winter and spring-run salmon and delta smelt are protected as being endangered or threatened. The DWR has a federal permit but has never received one from the State of California. The CESA is evidentially more complete than its Federal version. CSPA contended that the DRW and Department of Fish and Game (DFG) have been acting illegally in their actions. Judge Roesch agreed. He has given DWR a 15 day comment period. If his ruling stands, the DWR has 60 days to comply or the pumping of all water to Southern California will be stopped. This is a major victory for CSPA and hopefully our Delta.

Lester Snow, the director of DWR, complains that 60 days is not enough time to comply and that shutting off the water would cause a huge blow to the economy. CSPA finds the DRW's response "arrogant" since in 2005, the Senate Natural Resources Committee made it clear the DRW needed to get the required permit rather than a group of "alleged agency agreements" that DRW said meets the laws requirements. DRW did not comply with the Committee findings and claims they have tried to make the system better by putting more water into the system. In truth, they have exported water at historic high levels. This is in spite of DFG's studies showing all time lows in the pelagic species. CSPA expects the DWR to ask for a 4-5 years extension rather than the 60 days required by Judge Roesch.

This ruling will affect 23 million people in Silicon Valley, Alameda County, and Southern California. What is going to happen has yet to be determined? But, the ruling brings to the public's attention, once again, the complete disarray of DWR's ability to manage a cohesive master water plan rather than their typical "band aid" approach. It's going to be interesting to see what happens!

Another non-native has reared its ugly head. It's the Quagga mussel and is from the genus *Dreissena* which includes the better known zebra mussel. The zebra mussel was discovered in the Great Lakes in 1989. The Quagga mussel has been positively identified in California at Lake Havasu and in the Colorado River systems water. It has also been discovered about 19 miles north of Lake Havasu by divers from the Metropolitan Water District. The Quagga mussel effects the environment by rapidly reproducing and in very large numbers. They attach to underwater objects such as water intakes, fish screens, piers, and pilings. This causes maintenance problems that are hard to deal with for raw water systems. They have no known natural predators in California. A task force has been started to continue to inspect the lake's shoreline, pilings, boat hulls, dock and launching areas and anchor lines for buoys.

DFG has asked all boaters who are in the area to:

- 1) To thoroughly wash your boat once you leave the water
- 2) Drain any water through the boats plug
- 3) Make sure the boats lower outboard unit is drained and dry
- 4) Clean and dry any live well
- 5) Any boat moving from an affected area should remain dry for at least 5 days

DFG wants to keep this mussel from our Delta. They feel that it could have a very destructive influence in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. At this point this is Southern California problem. Let's keep it there.

Tight Lines,  
Ron Forbes

## The Lizard Gurgler

by Larry Dextraze

I was first introduced to the gurgler style popper a few years ago back east in Boston when I watched a buddy fishing with a popper amongst a number of silverside



minnows breaking the surface, which were trying to escape some marauding stripers. I had a hard time distinguishing the minnows from the popper so I immediately thought it was great. Because the popper creates a subtle water spitting action, it mimics breaking baitfish well. It doesn't really pop unless you really pull hard on the strip. The pattern, first created by Boston fly tier Jack Gartside, has been modified in many ways to create new versions ever since.

I have modified it here not for stripers but for surface fishing largemouth bass, which is a fun, visual way to fly fish. The idea came about after seeing my conventional bass fishing friends using rubber lizard baits in the spring. They mentioned that lizards often swim down onto shallow water bass nests to rob the eggs. I got my first chance to use it in this fashion at Salt Springs Valley Reservoir in Copperopolis, Ca. It worked great there and then later at Kelsey Bass Ranch in Snelling, Ca. Because the fly pattern has a subtle action and drab colors, it's easy to sneak up on bass and cast to them in really shallow water without scaring them. The pattern is not big, about 4 inches so it's easy to cast and doesn't hit the water hard. The majority of the pattern is a tail made of olive and black ostrich herl with some flash from rainbow angel hair. The herl when wet gives it a great action in the water. The other ingredients are listed below and a photo is included to show its profile from the side and from below.

My favorite time as I mentioned to fish this pattern is when the bass get on their spawning beds. Being territorial at this time of the year, the bass attack it viciously making the scene really fun to watch. In fact the pattern a lot of times draws fish to it. For example, fishing along the bank on foot I routinely cast to water only inches deep and slowly pull the pattern along the bank. Numerous times I will see bass come in from deeper water, throwing a wake, to attack it. That's surface fly fishing at it finest! Give it a try this spring and you will hopefully be pleasantly surprised.

### Ingredients

**Hook** – TMC 7999 Black Salmon Hook with upturned eye Size 2-4

**Thread** – Black Kevlar or MonoCore

**Body** – Black ethafoam body cut in the shape of a thin egg

**Flash** - one strip of pearl flashabou, rainbow angel hair for tail

**Legs** – Jay Fair grizzly saddle hackle in olive, burnt orange or black

**Tail** – 3 to 4 strands of olive and black ostrich herl

### Tying Instructions

Tie in the strands of ostrich herl and rainbow angel hair flash just up from the bend of the hook facing away for a tail.

Tie in the thinner section of the oval foam body onto the top of the hook first and throw some half hitches to secure it. Use a strong thread.

Tie in one long strand of pearl flashabou. I use the wide saltwater kind.

Tie in one grizzly saddle hackle. Use the webbie, longer stranded section, not the tip.

Wrap the hackle up to just behind the eye and tie in.

Take the flashabou that is hanging in the back and twist it into a rope. Then use it to wrap in between the strands of hackle as you go forward. This will secure the hackle making it tougher to pull out and add flash. Tie in flashabou where hackle was tied in.

Bring the black foam over the back as in a shell and tie in. Make sure you go out of your way to create a lip of foam facing upward. The upturned hook will help here but by cinching down on the foam hard it will cause the foam to arc up. Throw some half hitches in to secure.

Finally, throw some wraps of thread under foam and around the double shaft of the salmon hook eye to fill in that gap. Whip finish.

Seal exposed thread wraps on top with a flexible cement.

More information can be found at Al Smatsky's web site at:

<http://www.excellentadventures.org>

## Delta Fly Fishers Official Club Merchandise For Sale

## Membership Meetings

### DFF Officers

#### President

Herman Spalinger 209 - 477-3412

#### 1st Vice President

Charles Edwards 209 - 951-0391

#### 2nd Vice President

(Open)

#### Secretary

Steve Von Berg 209 - 327-6161

#### Treasurer

Bruce Rollans 209 - 274-0448

### Directors

Joe Balderston 209 - 474-8515

Steve Cooper 209 - 956-1032

Ron Forbes 209 - 368-5767

Harvey Hamlow 209 - 467-8370

Marty Kjelson 209 - 477-9618

Bill Laughlin 209 - 477-6644

Doug Ridgway 209 - 957-0170

Bob Souza 209 - 478-8344

Dean Watson 209 - 474-9776

### Committees

#### Education

Joe Balderston 209 - 474-8515

#### 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

Steve Cooper 209 - 956-1032

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

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

See Jacob Loyko 468-2664 for info on

merchandise and videos at all the meetings. The deadline for the May issue is April 25th.

### The Umpqua's Moby Dick

The trip to Grants Pass, Oregon March 22 took less time that I had allowed. So Sallye was able to shop Harry and David's and we could have lunch at McGrath's Seafood Restaurant next door.

Our guide, Gino Bernero, picked us up Friday morning for the short trip to our put in spot on the Applegate River near Murphy. It was our task to "guide" the drift boat down a small side channel while Gino moved his vehicle and trailer off the private access property. This task proved more daunting than anticipated. The river flow has dropped about 50 cfs overnight, which made for a lot more pulling, pushing and lifting than guiding. Sallye thought for certain Gino was hiding somewhere in the bush videotaping. I could conjure up only images of the marsh scenes from "The African Queen." Sallye quickly decided this was not the way to start her birthday. We finally got to the main river channel and started the day's fishing.

Regulations permit fishing the Applegate River from the riverbank only. The section we fished is accessible only over private property so we had the river to ourselves. This river holds some very nice wild steelhead (see photo 1). We even got to use 3 different spay rods which really afford access to much more water than a single-handed rod.

The next day, Saturday, we did a float on the Rogue River, putting in at Dodge Bridge. This was a picturesque float with short sleeve weather, but the fish did not cooperate. We only saw one steelhead landed by a bait fisherman.

Sunday we drove North to Canyonville for a short float on the South Umpqua River. Rain had started coming down hard at 4 a.m., but finally let up about 2 hours into the float.

This was a day reasonably full of big fish (see photos 2 and 3). About half way through this float I was indicator fishing from the bow using a one handed 9' 10 wt. rod the indicator made a leisurely dive. Immediately I thought rock or tree and began variously lifting and bouncing my line in effort to free the flies.

Suddenly, the indicator came up then started rapidly upstream. The lights came on! This was a big fish than just realized it was hooked. Gino said this river holds some 20 lb. fish. As he began rowing for the bank my line suddenly turned, moving downstream in great haste. My drag was set pretty tight, but before I could get out of the boat my fly line was gone and I was watching white Dacron backing spool off my reel.

I stumbled downstream in effort to recover the backing and even got part of my line back on the reel. Moving up stream, I got maybe 20 feet and came to a sudden halt. This bad boy had spanked me good. My line was wrapped around a rock head. Moby Dick had gone back to sulking in the Umpqua. This never seen fish proved a source of conversation for the next 3 hours.



## The Rancho Seco Outing

On March 17th, members from Delta Fly Fishers and California Fly Fishers United met in a fierce battle for the ownership of the lake at Rancho Seco. As you may know Chuck Bucaria of CFFU has claimed ownership of the lake and demanded Delta FF members refrain from fishing Rancho Seco. After we received a huge number of insulting e-mails and phone threats, Delta FF decided to challenge CFFU to a contest to decide the lakes ownership.

The 17th was a beautiful, warm day, with gentle breezes, no cloud cover but few fish. However, I am very proud to announce that as no great surprise to anyone, we won the day. Bucaria claims to have caught a 500 lb. marlin. Go figure! Our club responded to their pathetic challenge by showing up with 20 of our typical outstanding fly fishers. They could barely scrape up 10, (the usual bottom of the barrel types). Interesting since we have 127 members and they have 258. However I must assume some responsibility for their poor turnout. I didn't read the TV section of the Sacramento Bee. Had I done so I would have realized that it was the weekend of the marathon Lavern and Shirley reruns! So many of them were busy.....go figure. The contest was to be a fundraiser for NCCFFF's Conservation Fund and we raised \$320. This was due to the generosity of the Delta FF. Actually the CFFU members almost cried when informed it would cost them \$10 to fish against us. Rather sad actually.

Since UCCF is a less than honorable group, a sign was placed at the launch area to remind them that:

- 1) Fish with bullet holes would not be counted.
- 2) Fish with gill net marks would not be counted
- 3) Fish with freeze burn would not be counted.

A sign with a gentle reminder for the honorable Delta FF brought to their attention that "ILLEGITMI NON CARBORUNDUM". And we didn't!!!!

UCCF was impressed by the lunch served them. Very special thanks to Earl and Nancy Summers for their outstanding work. Bruce and Sallye Rollans pitched in and added greatly to the gourmet effort. And Grady Lee again showed his skills making the road kill presentable. (UCCF members had no idea what they were eating, but they ate it anyway). After the lunch, Earl served Chuck a large portion of humble pie so skillfully that Chuck decided that possibly CFFU might want to show up again next year (with their \$10 in hand) to get their butts kicked again.

By the way Rick Green...was that the shadow hovering near your boat? All in all, a good day!

Ron Forbes

### Davis Lake Update

DFG announced in early February that it, and the US Forest Service (USFS), will try to eradicate the predatory non-native northern pike from Davis Lake after September 4 this year. As most people know the pike are an invasive species that has all but ruined the once outstanding Davis Lake trout population. DFG and the USFS explained their plan in Portola early in February. The lake and two US Forest roads will be closed during this time. DFG plans to use the piscicide (a fish killing liquid) rotenone. At this point DFG feels that the lake can be best poisoned at a level of between 45,000 and 48,000 acre-feet. As you know the 1997 attempt was a failure. One of the greatest concerns DFG has is of the possibility of pike escaping from Davis Lake and into other waterways. During the heavy runoff last year Davis came within 27 inches of overflowing. If the pike escape they would cause ecological and economic damage almost beyond control, especially in the Delta. DFG and the USFS feel the longer they wait, the greater the danger. As more pike are caught, the chance of the fish escaping is greater. Last May two fishermen were stopped at a DFG check point and had two live pike they were taking from the area.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Every Wed (except meeting nights)	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	<b>FLY TYING</b> Contact: Jim Rich 477-6404
Every 2nd Wed (except July & Aug) 7:00 PM	John R Williams School Stockton	Membership Meeting Contact Steve Cooper 956-1032
Every 3rd Wed (except July) 7:00 PM	Nature Center Oak Grove Park Stockton	Board Meeting All Members Welcome
April 7th	Kelsey Ranch Snelling, CA	Kelsey Ranch Bass Fishing
April 11th	Brookside Christian High School 915 Rosemarie Lane Stockton	Membership Meeting Nymphing Techniques for Pocket Water Bill Carnazzo Spring Creek Flycraft and Guide Service
April 18th	Nature Center Oak Grove Park	Board of Director's Meeting
April 28th	All Over California	Opening Day of the General Trout Season
May 2th	Oak Grove Park Stockton	Fly Casting With Jim Rich and Rick Greene
May 2th	Oak Grove Park Stockton	Shad Clinic at Oak Grove Park
May 19th	Goethe Park American River	Goethe Park on the American River Goethe Park on the American River
May 5th	White Pines Lake	One Fly Contest With The Calaveras Club
May 2th	Oak Grove Park Stockton	Fly Casting With Jim Rich and Rick Greene

## Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

### Fishing tip:

The Eastern Sierra weather pattern this past winter is nonexistent with one minor exception, that the snow pack over the crest is 30% – 40%. February is when the big blast always hits the Sierra and it hit again around the 22nd but with very little snowfall. March started out unstable, with a light dusting of snow and rain. Finally it started to warm up by the 10th. Spring is here if you haven't noticed.

OK, for once Punxsutawney Phil was right, and I turned in my hunting license on rodents for this year only!

Spring runoff has started in some areas and the flows are slightly up with West Walker, East Walker, Hot Creek and Owens running with good clarity. Bridgeport Reservoir is full but release won't increase until full-on thaw starts. There's always a bright side, but this year probably won't have one due to the low water, so we'll have water through most of the summer and fish food will be plentiful.

If you plan to fish the Eastern Sierra, within the next few weeks, bring extra layers of clothing as weather can be unpredictable. If you plan to fish the Bishop area, bring bug juice, they are hungry and seeking new meat. Just when you think it's too early, you'll become part of the food chain.

Be safe if you walk in and around desert brush, watch for snakes. As it's warmer than normal this time of year and the diamondbacks are creatures of temperature, be alert and prepared, don't take chances unnecessarily.

### Legislation

The State's Wild Trout program, has received funding through AB7 which was signed into legislation in 2006 has hired 12 biologists and a Coordinator for their threatened trout position. Other than that, everything in AB7 will remain as signed by the Governor.

The Department of Fish and Game, according to their press release regarding the mud snails in Hot Creek Hatchery, has been working overtime to reallocate and reorganize where the added 40,000 pounds of fish will come from, to stock the mud snail negative waters in Mono County. A bit of juggling is being done to accommodate the anglers for the 2007 season.

Fish and Game Commission lost Michael Flores to R. Judd Hanna of Mill Creek, and Mr. Hatoy, the new President recently passed away, and at the time of this writing the President's position had not been filled.

### Fishing Report:

Remember to check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water that is new to you concerning limits, size, etc.

**ROCK CREEK** – The Creek is frozen and the road crew will probably start on the road earlier than due to the lack of snow.

**HOT CREEK** – Water is clear, with comfortable temperatures and midges are hatching. Bring a bevy of midges to be prepared. The point is being prepared with all your midge imitations. The breezy afternoons always prevail so come geared up for everything. Please stay out of the water to prevent the spread of the New Zealand mud snail. Fish over 20" were the norm last week with sub surface flies. It's been an unusual year for snow patterns, and we haven't seen much in the way of precipitation. Use your arsenal and if you've got the "stuff", you'll get the "fish".

**CROWLEY LAKE** – The Lake is ice free and ready for the opener.

**MAMMOTH BASIN** – Is still under snow and ice and the Lake Mary Road should be open earlier this normal.

**JUNE LAKE** – The Lake is ice free and the loop road is open. June Lake marina cage culture program will be releasing some great fish for this opener. Tubing will be great as water temps will only increase, eliminating bladder and long hot-chocolate/coffee breaks once the season opens.

**GULL LAKE** – The Lake is 20% ice free.

**SILVER LAKE** – The Lake is thawing fast and 30% ice free.

**GRANT LAKE** – The Lake is ice free.

**TIOGA PASS** – Discussion has begun as to what their target date to start the road. The Park Service will start on April 15th, and you can drive all the way up to Ellery Lake. If temps increase everything will change accordingly.

**LUNDY** – Road is open and the gate is still up, but there is less than 8 inches of snow on the ground. The lake is 50% ice free and lake is low due to maintenance.

**VIRGINIA LAKES** – The road was plowed to Rand Rd on the March 16th, a record for my 32 years of operation. The lakes are free of snow and only the ice remains, it's dark and Little Virginia has a small pocket of water open. Trumbull is the same, with only a small opening at the east side of the lake.

**EAST WALKER** – The flow is at 90cfs and won't increase until the Bridgeport Reservoir (Rez) fills to capacity which should start in about 3 weeks. I scouted the area and found midges everywhere. Midge cache needs to be in tow in order to hit the right combination when you arrive and switch often because what hits this morning probably won't be getting tugs tomorrow. Bring everything and try it all. You won't be disappointed. San Juan worms worked one day, and birds' nests the next, but tiny zebra midges, rainbows, WD40's, Tail-water Tiny, and Mercer's Midgling in root beer. A reliable source reported 26 fish last weekend, with one topping 23".

Piranhas (no-see-ums) are not here as yet, but it's early. Don't give up hope that you will be able to make your annual blood donation to their drive, they'll be very appreciative.

**BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR** – The Lake is ice free and the water is fairly high and clear. Water has not been stocked as yet but DFG bows will be arriving in about 3 weeks.

**WEST WALKER** – The flow is 190 cfs but it's early, it will get higher as the temps increase and run-off kicks in.

**SONORA PASS** – Road crews are considering a start date to start plowing the road, waiting to see what the next series of storms will produce. Night temperatures are warm and the likelihood of snow is nil unless we get winds in excess of 80 mph to push out the high system for the barometric pressure to return winter conditions. Optimum temps for snow at 8138' on Conway Summit is 28° - 32°.

**MONITOR PASS** – The Pass is closed with no date on opening set.

See you on the water, CJ

For updates you can email me at [vlr@qnet.com](mailto:vlr@qnet.com)

## One Fly Contest

The Calaveras Club has set the date for the One Fly Contest on May 5th. Circle that date on your calendars. We have a great time with these guys and they serve a great lunch. More on this next month.



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# The Fly Shop's Opening Day Party Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007

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- Fly Fishing industry reps
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Tim Fox's Fly Tying @ 1:00 pm

Mike Mercer's Fly Tying @ 3:00 pm

Justin Miller's Fly Tying @ 5:00 pm

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