



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume XLIII

Number II

February 2019

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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Calendar

February 8, Flyday Night tying, 5pm-7pm, House of Coffee

February 10, Club Casting Lessons with Gary Turri

February 13, General Membership Meeting, 7pm John R. Williams School

February 20, DFF BOD Meeting, 6:30pm Oak Grove Park

February 23, Class IV, Fishing the Dry Fly, 9am Van Assen Park

February 27, Fly of the Month, Hare's Ear Nymph, Nature Center, 6:30pm Oak Grove Park

March 2, Bob McMillan Trout Bout, 6am Oak Grove Park

March 8, FlyDay Night tying, 5-7pm House of Coffee

March 9, DFF Fly Fishing Day, 9am-3pm, Sportsman's Warehouse

March 13, DFF General Membership meeting, 7pm, John R. Williams School

March 20, DFF BOD meeting, 6:30pm, Nature Center Oak Grove Park'

March 22-24, DFF Crosby's Lodge, Pyramid Lake Outing

March 27, Fly of the Month, Grey Ghost Midge, 6:30pm, Nature Center, Oak Grove Park

Karen Keagy, Fly Fisher of the year... long overdue and well earned.



Over 80 people attended the club's 43rd annual Installation Dinner and all of them rose to their feet to give Karen Keagy a standing ovation at her receiving the Fly Fisher of the Year award. President Jerry Neuburger pointed out in presenting the award that it, "is not for the best fly fisher but for the one that has consistently, over time, given back to the sport and the the Delta Fly Fisher's Club. Karen certainly fills the bill, She and her husband John have been stalwarts in the club's activities for a number of years, attending outings, lending a hand at numerous other club activities, giving direction and leading the group in the club's three County fishing derbies, (including washing the equipment and utensils after) and serving as the club's secretary for many administrations.

age of about 90 members to over 115 in the last year.



Dena and Amy, a powerhouse team. Photo by Bob Fujimura.

And oh, how the mighty have fallen. Last year's Fly Fisher of the Year, Bob Fujimura, won the Incomplete Angler's award. He entered contention for the award on the first day of the year, January 1, 2018, when he laid his brand new spey rod in the water while unhooking a nice steelhead at Van Assen Park. When he looked up, his rod, reel and line were drifting away, only to be recovered by another DFFer, further down stream. Bob, like most of the past recipients, was proud to receive the award, since it made it a Grand Slam for him, winning each of the club's annual awards over the years.



Karen receives the Fly Fisher of the Year Award. Photo by Bob Fujimura

The team of Amy Terra and Dena Mason, two go getters, received dual President's Club Service awards. Under their guidance, the club has taken on numerous new activities and have grown the club from an aver-



Grady Lee presents Bob Fujimura with the Incomplete Angler award. Photo by Jeanette Neuburger.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

The dinner itself was outstanding. The caterer stepped up with the improved menu featuring a choice of prime rib, stuffed chicken breast or eggplant parmesan with served with strawberry salad, fresh roasted vegetables, Fettuccini Alfredo with carrot cake for dessert. And to start the evening off, she served five large platters of appetizers, Swedish meatballs, salami and cheese rolls and stuffed mushrooms.

After the dinner and before the awards ceremony, Conservation Chair Ron Forbes introduced Ed Rible, senior biologist for EBMUD. Ed wowed the crowd on the current returns for Chinook salmon on the Moke. EBMUD, in the past 20 years has led the state in innovative and successful approaches in preserving the huge salmon runs that were once the jewel of the valley.

Following Ed, Chris Shutes, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance FERC expert, spoke on CSPA's efforts to block further exports and the construction of tunnels in the delta's plumbing system. The club donated \$1,000 to assist them in continuing their good work.

The last guest to the podium was Barbara Barrigan Parrilla of Restore the Delta. She had been unable to attend the previous year's dinner where an award was to be awarded RTD for good stewardship. She was presented with the overdue award and a check for \$2,000 to help her in continuing the fight.

The audience was given time to stretch its legs and then the giant drawing began. With Amy Terra and Jeanette Neuburger calling numbers and Amy's son, Rocky and Jeanette's grandson, Nathan Chaney,

acting as runners, the whole thing went rapidly. In the mean time the silent auction was closed and the bidding sheets called off for bidders to pick up and pay.



Jeanette, Rocky, Nathan and Amy starting the giant raffle. Photo by Bob Fujimura

As for the financials, the dinner, hall, security, awards and other expenses came to about \$2,700 while the sale of dinners totaled about \$2,500, a \$200 loss. However, the raffle and silent auction income topped \$3,900 while expenses were under \$1,700, a net gain of \$2,200.

As a final thought, while the dinner was a success, it was a shame more members did not participate. The officers, directors, committee chairs and a cadre of volunteers worked hard throughout the 2018 year to make the club the best that it could be. This same group has committed to even more activities, outings, and events for the coming year. The annual dinner is more than just a give away of raffle prizes and silent auction, a dinner and speakers. It's a way of thanking those volunteers for their efforts. Although eighty people attended the dinner, they, along with their spouses, represented just over a third of the club's membership.

Next year's dinner will welcome in a new club president. Let's see if we can welcome in him or her by having a club wide PARTY.

New to fly tying but don't have time to commit to a series of five fly tying sessions? Show up at the DFF FlyDay Night tying sessions and ask for some help.

A small group of fly tiers show up every second Friday of the month at the House of Coffee, at the corner of Lockeford and Ham in Lodi. They meet from five to seven, some tying flies, others just showing up to talk to fellow fly fishers. All of them are willing to help the new fly tier in learning the techniques necessary to tie "fish catching" flies. Flyday Night Tying will take place this month on the 8th from 5pm to 7pm or closing.



Jerry Neuburger and Ron Forbes tying at a recent FlyDay Night tying session. Photo by Bob Fujimura.

DFF Officers



President

Jerry Neuburger

209-327-5993

Vice President

Amy Terra

Secretary

Karen Keagy

Treasurer

Jeanette Neuburger

Directors

Ron Forbes

209-368-5767

Larry Schmidt

209-482-8742

Sam Thompson

Gary Tecklenburg

Thomas Mason

Dena Mason

Nancy Baker

Mike Dempewolf

Randy Baxter

Committees

Beginner's Fly Tying

Amy Terra

Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)

John and Karen Keagy

Catfish Derby (June)

Chair needed

Conservation/Restore the Delta

Ron Forbes

209-368-5767

Education

Dena Mason

Fly Tying/Fishing Mentor Program

Neuburger/Terra/Mason

Membership

Dena Mason

Monthly Raffles

Jerry Neuburger

Outings

(Volunteer needed)

Programs

Al Smatsky

209-368-9261

Bob Sousa

209-368-2683

Property/Historian

John Keagy

Publicity

Steve VonBerg

209-327-6161

Rod Building

Bob Fujimura

209-339-0683

Trout Bout (November)

Charlie Reames

Webmaster

Amy Terra

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February's Program, Bronzeback Fever II, Ontario Canada, the new frontier



The province of Ontario Canada is home to over 250,000 lakes and 62,000 miles of river systems. Many have yet to be explored. Bronzeback Fever II is a fly fisherman's guide to exploring this incredible fishery that Steve calls the best small-mouth fishing on the planet. The Atikokan region of Ontario is uncrowded, easily accessed and very affordable. In most cases these waters seldom see a fly and

the fishing is truly outstanding. Steve promises to share all the information needed for a do it yourself adventure of a life time... including his favorite lakes, lodging, flies and travel information This program will surely add one more stop on the adventure seeking fly fisher's bucket list.

Steve, himself a Delta Fly Fisher is a dynamic speaker, and has presented several programs to the club including a guide to fishing the Owyhee River, in Oregon. Don't miss this presentation.

Following Steve's presentation, the club will hold it's regular monthly raffle with some great prizes, this month's raffle will feature a Rio Fly line, value \$90, some tying capes and a pair of unused, in the box, stocking foot waders, XL size, value \$100.

The February meeting of the Delta Fly Fishers will take place on Wednesday,

February 13 at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Avenue, Stockton California. Doors open at 6:30, meeting starts at 7. The public is invited and welcome.



The Bob McMillan Trout Bout will take place March 2, Calling all Delta Fly Fishers, your help is needed

The first of our three community support projects will take place March 2, at Oak Grove Park when we provide the manpower for the county's Bob McMillan Trout Bout.

The county provides the fish and one employee, Sandy Costa, to help with the event. The rest of the duties are taken on by our club, we help with registration, fish weighing, organizing the prize list of winners and the big one... the snack bar.

Because of some of our old veterans, the operation of the snack bar seems almost automatic but they just can't do it by themselves. We need people to help pick up the supplies and actually man the different jobs of cooking the hot dogs and chili, warming the nacho cheese, filling the drink coolers with ice and drinks, setting up the coffee and hot water pots, laying out the donuts, manning the electric carts, and a few other chores, I've forgotten.

New members, look at this event as a means to get to know your fellow fly fishers. Meeting them at the general membership meetings is tough but sharing an

electric cart, delivering food to the kids and adults fishing is a good way to start a fly fishing conversation. Working in the boat house, helping with the serving and cooking jobs is just as rewarding.

Fly tyers, we need you to set up and tie flies at the event. Your tying generates interest in our club and leads to memberships. People moving from conventional fishing to flyfishing tend to start the practice of catch and release, and are more conservation minded than the average power bait user.

The schedule for the day is as follows.

5:45am. About six members meet at the club's storage shed in the parks corp yard, load up the day's equipment and haul it to the boat house at the west end of the park's lake.

6:00am. Another four or five volunteers show up to assist in the unloading and setting up of the hot dog cooker, chili and cheese warmers, stock the ice chests and set up the carts for delivery. Some early anglers show up to register for the event and they are taken care of by the registra-

tion crew.

7:00am. The snack bar is ready for sales and the carts are manned and off to sell food items to the public. A few more volunteers show up.

8:00am. The fly tiers show up along with the weighmasters to weigh catches and record them for later prizes. A few more DFFers arrive to help

12:00pm. The event starts winding up. Awards are passed out. The snack bar is torn down and supplies repacked and hauled back to the storage shed.

1:00pm It's over.

Some things to remember. Those arriving at 5:45 enter the park through the corp yard access at the east end of the park. The public entrance is not open.

Those arriving later should be aware that on some of the events, the lines of vehicles waiting to enter through the park gates can be long. Please allow for that when planning arrival time.

February FOM will be Hare's Ear Nymph, second in the Bronze FFI fly series

DFF fly tiers will take on the hare's ear nymph at this month's fly tying session. The fly imitates a number of aquatic insects and has been a staple in western fly boxes for many, many years.

The instructions for tying the fly are shown via a video and then newer tiers are assisted by more veteran tiers in their

efforts.

All materials are supplied. The club does have some fly tying tools to lend if needed. The fee for the class is \$5 to cover the materials necessary to tie three to five flies. This month's class will take place on February 27th at the Nature Center, Oak Grove park. Start time for the class is 6:30. The class is



expected to run about an hour and a half.

Come to the DFF's first Fly Fishing Day in a number of years, March 9th, Sportsman's Warehouse

Mark the date, March 9th, Sportsman's Warehouse, 9am to 3pm.

This will be the club's biggest outreach event of the year and we need all of the participation we can muster to make this event a winner. Sportsman's Warehouse has been good to us with monthly donations to the club's raffle and this year the company provided the grand prize for the club's installation dinner.

Even more, they've turned over the store to us on Saturday, March 9th and given us space to hold the first area Fly Fishing Day that the club has put on in a number of years.

We need people to man the following:

Two fly tying tables: It doesn't matter if you are skilled or a beginner, it's a chance to tie some flies and answer some questions from the visiting public.

A knot tying and Q and A table: Show people how to tie some fly fishing knots from provided diagrams and answer questions on fly fishing.

A kid's fly tying table: Help kids tie woolly bugger broaches on safety pins.

A club membership table: Pass out club brochures and answer questions about the Delta Fly Fishers.

Help with the Casting Pond: We plan to set up a 50 foot casting pond in the parking lot in front of the shop. We'll need people to help provide instructions. How about those 12 members that have just

completed lessons with Gary Turri. I believe Jim Rich will manage the pond but he can certainly use some help.

Presenter's tables: Four of the presenters (see below) will have tables where they can engage the public about their seminar topics.)

In addition to our tables and casting pond, the club has arranged seminars by four of our own members and one guest, with Al Smatsky in charge of scheduling. The seminars will be:

Water Safety—Larry Schmidt, DFF

Fishing the Lower Sac at Redding—Scott Sugimoto, On the Riffle Guide Service

Beginning Fly Fishing—Jerry Neuburger, DFF

Fly Fishing the Delta—Bryce Tedford, Bryce Tedford Fly Fishing, and DFF

Fly Fishing for Valley Shad—Al Smatsky, Excellent Adventures and DFF

We will pass out flyers at the Bob McMillan Trout bout advertising the

event as well as notifying the five nearby fly fishing clubs of the event, Calaveras, Amador, Stanislaus, Tracy, Tri-Valley and Diablo Valley.

If you've not visited the store as of yet, you will be surprised at their commitment to fly fishing, especially their fly tying section. They also have a large camping section as well as guns, clothing, and other outdoor sports related areas. If you attended the annual dinner, you found two discount coupons in your dinner envelope. A \$30 off \$150 can be cut and used from this newsletter. (Ignore the expiration date) Additional discount coupons will be passed out at the February general membership meeting.

And what would any DFF event be without a drawing? Both DFF and Sportsman's Warehouse will donate a number of items for a "must be present to win" drawing, to be held at the end of the event, about 2:45 in the afternoon.

Save the date, and plan to participate. Let's show Sportsman's Warehouse we appreciate their support.

Complete this form to receive updates from Sportsman's Warehouse.
Or sign up at sportsmanswarehouse.com

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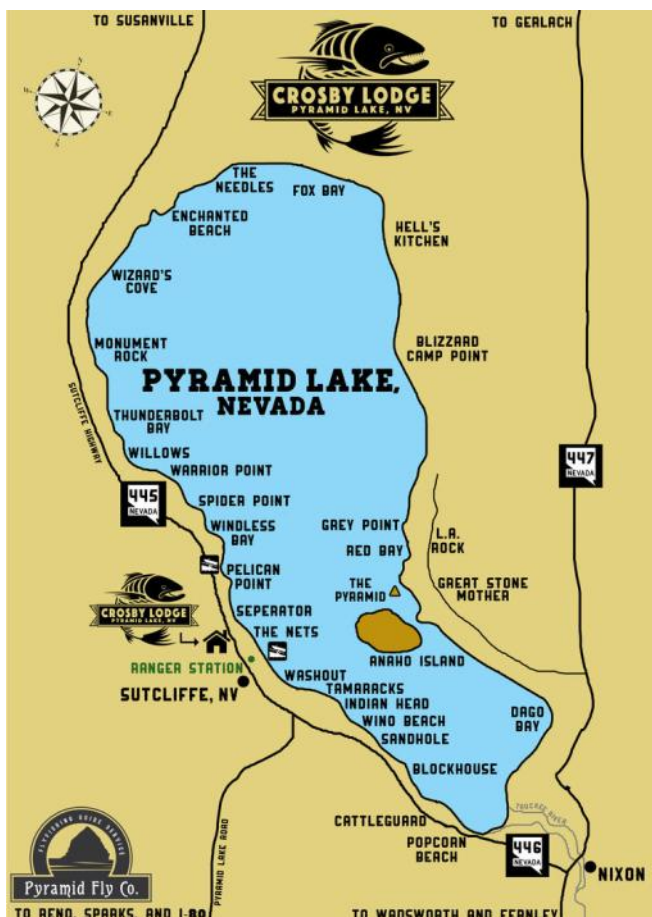
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1338

Is a 25 pound trout in your future? It could be if you attend the club's first annual Crosby's Lodge Weekend at Pyramid Lake, March 22-24, 2019

Still 5 spots out of 10 open. Sign up online or by check



Pyramid Lake is an anomaly in an otherwise diminishing angling environment. The Paiute tribe that owns the lake has managed it for trophy trout for over 30 years and has recently introduced some of what they believe to be the lake's original species of Lahontan cutthroat trout. While the previous species grew to up to twenty pounds, these new fish are breaking that record on almost a weekly basis.

The lake is located about 40 miles north of Reno. The town of Sutcliffe is located on the west side of the lake and features [Crosby's Lodge](#), a hotel, restaurant and store almost entirely devoted to fishing for these monsters.

Fly fishers fish a variety of methods. Some wading, some fishing perched on ladders in about three feet of water and some from various personal floating craft.

The basic requirements to fish the lake are a decent cast, a 7 or eight weight rod, both sinking and floating lines, and a box of flies that includes woolly buggers, tad-

poles or beetles, and a supply of #8-12 midges in various colors in sizes 6 through 14.

This is social fishing with a line of ladders in the water at the most popular beaches. Most of the fish caught are in the two to four pound range but almost every day, fish above 12 pounds are landed.

The club has made reservations for ten at Crosby's, utilizing the trailers they have for rent. If we need more space, we can try to accommodate more if room allows up until the lodge has no more rooms.

This is the deal, all for \$90 dollars!

- Two nights lodging in real beds, no sleeping bags necessary, bathrooms, showers and full kitchens.

- Friday night spaghetti, French bread and salad dinner.
- Saturday cold breakfast, coffee
- Saturday lunch fixings, make your own
- Sunday cold breakfast, coffee.
- The lodge has a full service, well rated dining room, a club banquet is planned for Saturday night, (cost not included in \$90 deal.)

Because your sign up is a com-

mitment and takes up a bed, members can transfer any purchase but no refunds will be given. In the event of inclement weather, the club can cancel with 24 hours notice. If the event is cancelled, refunds will be available.

Female members, we currently have two twin bed rooms booked. As long as we can put two females or a married couple in a room, we can make it work. If a problem arises we can try to make things work including exchanging trailer reservations.

You can book this trip NOW by either charging on your credit card or paying by check or cash. Remember, no refunds unless the event is canceled. You can transfer your reservation to another member.

We have five signed up for the lodge and another two signed up for just meals and fellowship since they will be staying at the lodge's RV park nearby.

We still have space for five more members.

Follow this link to pay by credit card.
[Charge my card for this outing.](#)

Send checks to:

Jeanette Neuburger, Treasurer DFF
5 North California Street
Lodi, CA, 95240

Note on checks: Pyramid Outing



Guide Doug Ouellette with a Pyramid Lake monster. Photo from Doug's bio at a past DFF club meeting presentation.

Trump's Department of the Interior, Governor Brown, back room deals and the California Delta. Do money and water mix?

Fishing provides that connection with the whole living world. It gives you the opportunity of being totality immersed, turning back into yourself in a good way. Some form of communion with levels of yourself that are deeper than the ordinary self.

... Ted Hughes

IT STARTED WITH A SIMPLE QUESTION

During the monthly meeting of our club's Board of Directors (BOD), I normally discuss several current conservation issues. Usually there are questions or comments and I try to answer the questions or respond to the comments. At the November meeting I was discussing the secret, behind closed doors meetings, that included former Gov. Brown, Senator Feinstein, and Republican members of the House of Representatives. During the discussion, a new director, Randy Baxter, asked me, "What is the source of your information?" My answer was the [LA Times](#), [SF Chronicle](#), [Sacramento Bee](#), [Mercury News](#), and [Maven's Notebook](#). When I was driving home, I started thinking about Randy's question. The more I thought about being questioned the more pleased I was. What a great question! Just because an individual is interested in an area does not mean they are well-informed. Listen to their answers and then decide if the answer is credible. Just because a person uses a lot of facts and has the ability to memorize those facts does not mean they are a critical thinker.

Good critical thinking is fundamental to the preservation and restoration of our

environment. This is especially true of the Delta. Critical thinking is essential to both science and our democracy. It is also crucial for self-reflection. In the past several years there has been a dumbing down in our population regarding the usefulness of science and technology in our lives. This is abundantly evident in the current federal rush to throw out laws protecting our environment. The results of losing environmental protection has stated to become apparent in areas of public trust such as air and water. When asked to defend irrational anti-environmental actions the federal government now responds with clichés rather than well thought out reason.

Last week I saw a cartoon online that pretty well sums up the current federal mentality. Two men, one an individual who puts business profit first, was talking to an environmentalist and asking him, "Why is it that you environmentalists can't seem to understand that you have to destroy the planet to have a healthy economy." "That seems to be our governments current mentality.

IN CALIFORNIA AND ACROSS THE NATION WATER WILL BE A MAJOR ISSUE IN 2019

Several major water issues face us this year. States will have to address new limits placed on the federal Clean Water Act, our declining water infrastructure, and increasing problems from climate change. Maven's Notebook recently outlined key issues that will be fought over this year. In the last weeks of 2018 several actions by the Trump Administration have guaranteed water will be one of the major

environmental issues in 2019. The Trump administration is trying to eliminate protections formerly granted under the Clean Water Act that protects wetlands and waterways and is important to both wildlife and drinking water. A major decision will be reached this

year that will define the use of the Colorado River. The Colorado supplies 40 million people with drinking water and irrigates 5.5 million acres of farmland. In California several key issues will be decided, including water flows from the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project. Recently the state initiated increased water flows for the Delta which will help prevent the loss of the Delta, its fishes, a \$5.3 billion farm economy and prevent economic chaos for the 5 Delta counties.

Trump's Clean Water Act actions will guarantee major court battles. Under the Obama Administration the Clean Water Act was extended to protect wetlands and ponds that are near protected water ways. Formerly, tributaries of a navigable river would be judged on a case by case basis. Under the Trump Administration, rules for protections are limited to major water ways, their tributaries, and adjacent wetlands. Trump's current rule will remove Clean Water Act protection for almost 20% of all streams and over 50% of all wetlands. There is grave concern that President Trump's final rules will provide even less protection than the initial rules. The American Farm Bureau Federation hails President Trump's actions as the, "Christmas gift of a lifetime." Groups representing environmental protection take the opposite viewpoint. They point out that the state of Nevada will lose protection for 85% of their streams, and Arizona and New Mexico will lose protection for more than 50% of their streams. According to Dan Estrin, general counsel for the Waterkeeper Alliance, "The roll-backs to the Clean Water Act that the Trump Administration is proposing are the greatest threat to the nations waterways in 50 years. "He also noted President Trump's action will, "incentivize polluters to move upstream, where they won't have to worry about federal or citizen enforcement."



On January 28, Restore the Delta released

(Continued on page 7)

Stockton Store Hours
Monday - Saturday
10:00AM - 8:00PM
Sundays
10:00AM - 6:00PM



10536 Trinity Parkway
Stockton, CA
Tel. (209)851-7400
Store Manager: Aric Emery

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and article written for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) by Doug Obegi. The article is entitled, "Will State Agencies Let CA's Bay-Delta Get

Trumped?" On Thursday, January 31, the Trump Administration has said they will be announcing their new operating plans for the State Water Project (SWP) and the federal Central Valley Project (CVP). It is thought that administration will propose to totally gut or greatly weaken any environmental protection for California's salmon, the Delta Smelt, and other endangered species.

Currently, these protections are required under California law. In the last of 2018 Governor Brown and the Trump Administration negotiated in secretly held meetings and came up with an agreement they refer to as the "grand bargain". Under the agreement, Brown reportedly gave California's water rights to the federal government and received assurances for financial aid to help facilitate construction of his twin tunnels project. The agreement was anti-environmental in nature. Currently the Department of Water Resources (DWR) maintains that the state has not agreed to the "grand bargain." "With Governor Brown now out of office we will have to wait and see if Gov. Newsom agrees to continue with the "grand bargain" or rebukes it. Obegi noted, "The answer to that question may well determine how many of our native species go extinct, and whether California sustains a salmon fishery supporting thousands of jobs for future generations." As this article was released it should be noted that the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association (PCFFA), the

North Coast River Alliance, and the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, have filed suit against the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to protect salmon.

Obegi's article points out that former Westlands Water District's (WWD) former counsel, David Bernhardt, now works for the Dept. of Interior (DOI). He was appointed under the Trump Administration. Bernhardt filed suit for WWD challenging biological opinions and lost those cases. Now at the DOI, he is using the same flawed legal arguments for the Trump administration. Currently he ap-



David Bernhardt, former counsel, Westlands Water District, now working for the Department of the Interior.

pears to be using the biological opinions that he used when working for the Bush Administration. The Bush biological opinions have led to the current extinction crises in the Delta.

When President Trump's proposed operation of the SWP and CWP details are released on January 31, there are 5 or 6 projects expected to be included. To quote the NDSA's article they are:

"1) To eliminate carryover storage requirements at Shasta Reservoir in the 2009 NMFS biological opinion and the 2017 proposed draft amendment that was

supposed to strengthen those requirements.

2) Eliminate the San Joaquin River inflow export ratio in the NMFS biological opinion.

3) Gut export restrictions in the Old and Middle River in both biological opinions and replace those that would kick in when most of the fish are dead at the pumps.

4) Eliminate the Fall X2 requirement in the Delta Smelt biological opinion

5) Put the Bureau of Reclamation and Dept. of Water Resources in charge of making the final decisions on real time operations, rather than requiring the state and federal fish and wildlife agencies have the final say as they are required to do now. (In several previous Delta Newsletters this environmentally flawed action was explained).

6) Will not require independent scientific review, unlike the last several biological opinions."

Thursday, Jan 31 is going to be interesting. It is expected that, once again, the Trump Administration will propose actions that favor special interest groups rather than assume his public trust obligations. His past history guarantees it. Governor Jerry Brown has done the same while in office. We have come to expect dealings that are both secretive and illegal from both of them. Their proposed projects have historically been opaque rather than transparent. What is going to be interesting will be how Governor Gavin Newsom responds. In any event, Thursday will probably be the genesis of a proliferation of litigation.

Ron Forbes

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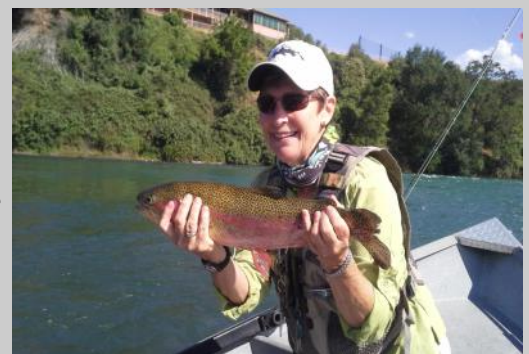
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Additional column inches of ad space may be purchased at \$200 for the year, \$100 for six months, \$50 for a quarter year, \$20 per month.

Included:

A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

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For additional information please phone or e-mail [Jerry Neuburger](#), Editor 209-369-5752



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