



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume L

Number 4

April 2025

Randall Baxter, Editor

Stockton, California

Calendar

April 9, General meeting, John R Williams High School. Meadow Ave., Stockton. 6:30 pm. (pg 1).

April 16, Board of Directors Meeting, Oak Grove Nature Ctr, Eight Mile Rd., Stockton, **Temporary New Time: 7:00** (pg 2).

April 23, Open fly tying (and casting later in the year), Oak Grove Nature Ctr. . 6pm. (pg2)

April 26, Third Annual Fly Casting Day, Panella Park, Stockton, 10 am to 2 pm. Free for members and non-members: instruction, skills development and more (details, pg 2,5, flier to share pg 13)

Club Announcements

April General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 9

Time: 6:30 PM, doors open; meeting begins at 7 PM.

Location: John R Williams High School, 2450 Meadow Ave. Stockton

The program: To Be Determined

Upcoming Events with Delta Fly Fishers

By Bob Fujimura

General Membership Meeting – Wednesday April 9: More details will be provided in this issue. Our monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the John R. Williams Elementary School, 2450 Meadow Ave, Stockton, CA 95207 off Hammer Lane, near I- 5. Doors open at 6:30. Club business begins at 7 pm. Presentation at 7:30. Open to the public. Contact Dena Mason for more information on this session.

Women's Bass Outing – Sunday April 6 & Monday April 7: Host Mary Midget has arranged a guided fly fishing trip on Lake Oroville with Ryan Williams. This trip was described by all participants last year as "Epic!!!". Giant bass all day long. The guide fee is \$313. Contact Mary on (209) 660-1892 for information or to sign up. This trip is a good experience for anglers of all experience levels and the physical demands include pulling so many bass into the boat your

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And on Face
Book at

<https://www.facebook.com/Delta-Fly-Fishers-Inc-265097290192284/>

arms will get tired! This is a must go trip for sure!

Saturday April 12 - Free Casting Lessons at SF Park: Come to San Francisco's Golden Gate Park and take free casting lessons from skilled and talented volunteers. Participants can take classes at four skill levels led by the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club. This event is held every second Saturday morning of the month from 9:00 am to noon. Participants must preregister online via the GGACC website. Contact Amy Terra or Bob Fujimura for more information on these clinics, DFF's connections, and how they can improve your fly fishing.

Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday April 16: Come join these dedicated club officers run and develop the activities and events that we enjoy. All club members are welcome to attend at the Nature Center at Oak Grove Park, Eight Mile Road, Stockton starting at 7:00 pm (**NEW STARTING TIME**). Contact Vice President Dena Mason for more information on this meeting.

Open Fly Tying Session – Wednesday April 23: Join other DFF members as they meet at Nature Center every fourth Wednesday evening for a no-host fly tying session. It will be a monthly opportunity to tie with your fellow members, sharing the latest fishing stories, and hang out with new and old friends. This will be a free event and open to club members from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at the Oak Grove Regional Park's Nature Center, Eight-Mile Road, Stockton. Check out an upcoming email announcement for the featured fly although it will likely be a bass float-n-fly pattern. Contact Bob Fujimura at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com for more information on this event.

Fly Casting Day – Saturday April 26: Join this annual casting clinic held again at Panella Park in Stockton (5758 Lorraine Ave, Stockton, CA). Details on this year's event should be included in this issue of the newsletter. Instruction will include support for first time casters, casting practice for those looking to develop fundamental casts and for advanced caster working through the Fly Casting Skills Development Program. Morning session is open to any female angler regardless of club affiliation. 2025 DFF club waiver required. Free to all participants. Lunch will be served at noon and the casting clinic will continue for all members and the public until 3 pm. Loaner rods will be available for use. For more information or to sign up, call Amy Terra on 209-329-4801.

Women's Fly Fishing Weekend – Friday May 9 through Sunday May 11: Spend the weekend at Dena Mason's cabin in Arnold. We will explore local waters and fish the One Fly Contest on Saturday to raise funds for the Calaveras Fly Fisher's scholarship program. More information to come or check out the related articles in this issue of the newsletter. Let Dena know you want to stay at the cabin and what equipment will be needed by calling her on 209-662-3079.

One Fly Contest – Saturday May 10: Join the fun with the Calaveras Fly Fishers in a friendly angling contest - how many or the biggest fish caught with a single fly. Your entrance fee helps a local scholarship fund. If you are an advanced fisher, you can help

DFF Officers



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Vacant

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Dena Mason

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209-368-5767

209-482-8742

209-200-9739

Committees

Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)

Chair needed

Casting

Amy Terra

Catfish Derby (June)

Chair needed

Conservation/Restore the Delta

Ron Forbes

209-368-5767

Education/Outreach

Dena Mason

Monthly Raffles

Chair needed

NCCFFI Representative

Bob Fujimura

Outings

Bob Fujimura

Programs

Chair needed

Property/Historian

Charlie Reames

Refreshments

Mike Dempewolf

Rx Fly Fishing!

Randy Baxter

Trout Bout (November)

Charlie Reames

Webmaster

Amy Terra

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FLY FISHERS
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retain one of the awards for our club. If you are new to stillwater fly fishing, watch our best anglers and learn their secrets. More information is in the article in this issue of the newsletter. Please RSVP Bob Fujimura by email at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or (209) 329-1692 by May 5 if you are planning to attend or if you have questions.

Saturday May 10 - Free Casting Lessons at SF Park: Come to San Francisco's Golden Gate Park and take free casting lessons from skilled and talented volunteers. Participants can take classes at four skill levels led by the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club. This event is held every second Saturday morning of the month from 9:00 am to noon. Participants must preregister online via the GGACC website. Contact Amy Terra or Bob Fujimura for more information on these clinics, DFF's connections, and how they can improve your fly fishing.

General Membership Meeting – Wednesday May 14: Our guest speaker will be fly fishing guide Lance Gray who will sharing his knowledge on fly fishing Mount Lassen National Park. More details to come. Our monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the John R. Williams Elementary School, 2450 Meadow Ave, Stockton, CA 95207 off Hammer Lane, near I- 5. Doors open at 6:30. Club business begins at 7 pm. Presentation at 7:30. Open to the public. Contact Dena Mason for more information on this session. Together before the meeting and have dinner with Lance at B.J.'s Restaurant & Brewhouse, 5733 Pacific Ave, Stockton. RSVP Ron Forbes [phone: (209) 712-4903] by Tuesday May 13 if you are planning to attend this dinner.



The One-Fly Contest, White Pines Lake on May 10

By Bob Fujimura

The Calaveras Fly Fishers (CFF) are hosting again this annual friendly fishing competition during the morning of Saturday May 10. For our new members, this is a fun fly-fishing tournament between our club (DFF) and the Calaveras Fly Fishers. We have participated in this event for many years, and it has been a popular gathering of members from both clubs.

Most of the details of this event can be found in the official rules that will be available later in April. In summary, the registration and contest fee are paid prior to the start of the contest between 7:30 and 8:30 am. The contest starts at 9:00 and ends at 1:00 pm. Afterwards, CFF will host their famous tri-tip sandwich lunch as part of the usual \$25 contest entry fee. During lunch, the winners of the biggest fish and most trout caught award will be announced and recognized.

CCF needs an accurate head count and the names of our club's participants prior to the contest. **Please ASAP Bob Fujimura via email at**



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deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or call or text (209) 329-1692 by May 5, if you planning to participate. DFF participants must have a 2025 liability waver on file with the club's Secretary and use a PFD if they fish from a personal watercraft.

White Pines Lake (WPL) is near the town of Arnold just off Hwy 4. WPL is a small and beautiful lake. No power boats are allowed, it has free public access, and the park is well maintained by local volunteers. The lake is relatively safe to learn how to fly fish from a personal watercraft. Typically, CFF arranges a special delivery of hatchery trout prior to this event. In addition, the lake has a nice population of wild trout and warmwater species of bass and sunfish.

The contest helps fund a scholarship effort for local high school students interested in studying Biology or Natural Resource Conservation. The entry fee also includes coffee and donuts in the morning as well as lunch. Lunch for non-competing attendees is \$10 per person. All attendees can enjoy the Awards Ceremony and sharing of "fish stories." If you are a new fly fisher, watching the best stillwater fishers is a quick lesson on how to fish for hatchery trout in lakes. Members of the Women's Fly-Fishing Weekend during May 9-11 will participate in this event. For members who have extra time, this area has some excellent small and larger rivers and other reservoirs nearby to fish.

Last year DFF members won both awards for Most Trout and Largest Fish – let's continue last



year's tradition and help make this event another DFF celebration!



Casting Corner —
By Amy Terra

**Delta Fly Fishers are happy to present
our third annual Fly Casting Day on
April 26th**



Join us from 10 to 2 at Panella Park (5758 Lorraine Ave, Stockton, CA 95210) in Stockton for a day filled with fly casting fun. All levels are welcome. If you have ever been fly-curious come out and give it a try. If you already fly fish, come by for a tune up. If you are working through the fly casting skills development program, all levels will be available to work on or assess. Come and enjoy this free day. There will be a station for throwing bass bugs as well as a saltwater practice course. Gear is provided. Water is available for roll casting.

This is a free event— Only a signed liability waiver and eye protection are required. There will be a raffle with tickets given for attempting casts. Bring a friend and join certified casting instructors for a day filled with all things fly casting!

This Month's Fly Box

FLY TYING

Mike Mercer's Gidget



Photo by The Fly Shop

I discovered this Mike Mercer pattern when I read The Fly Shop's Still Water Report earlier this year. The report recommended the Gidget to imitate either a midge or Blue Wing Olive mayfly nymph for Baum Lake. In the past, I have swung either a slightly larger (#16) Mercer's Micro Mayfly or Lance Gray's X-Mayfly nymph as the weighted lead fly of a two-fly rig. The smaller dropper fly, usually a black WD40 or a Mercury Black Beauty nymph (#20), delivered most of trout caught and landed using this two-fly swinging rig.

I was intrigued with the smaller Size #18 Gidget and tied a few to try there. To my surprise, most

of the trout caught on my last trip were caught on this new pattern. I adapted The Fly Shop's recipe that is published online for the olive version of this fly in their fly sale catalog at <https://catalog.theflyshop.com/mercers-gidget-18/> using the materials available in my collection. However, I omitted the brown midge tubing and settled for a brown thread abdomen with fine gold wire as ribbing on the brown version – it fished equally as well as the olive version.

My modified olive recipe from The Fly Shop's catalog is:

Hook: TFS 3769, size 18

Thread: UTC 8/0 olive

Tail: Partridge fibers, natural

Bead: Tungsten, gold – 2.5 mm

Abdomen underbody: Krystal flash, pearl

Abdomen overbody: Midge tubing, olive

Bursting wingcase: Krystal flash, pearl - looped

Legs: Partridge fibers, natural

Head collar: Superfine Dry Fly Dubbing, olive

-Bob Fujimura

Mettler

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Rx Fly Fishing! Advertising Rates

2 column inches each newsletter issue for the year for \$400 or in-kind goods and services, six months \$200, quarter \$100, one month \$40. The ad may include artwork and will link to the advertiser's website.

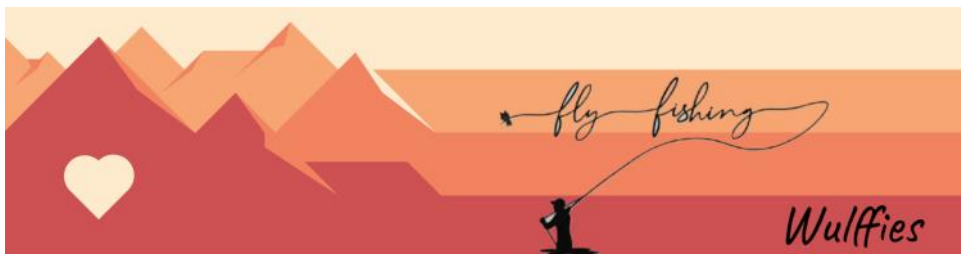
Additional column inches of ad space may be purchased at \$200 for the year, \$100 for six months, \$50 for a quarter year, \$20 per month.

Included:

A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

Permission to post specials and other advertising on the [club's Face book page](#), 2 per month.

For additional information please phone or



Wulffies: Spring events

By Amy Terra

This spring the Wulffies have a number of fun activities thanks to the creative genius of our very own Mary M. and Deana M.. Mary is leading a second year of amazing bass fishing with Ryan Williams on Lake Oroville. Last year all participants walked away with tired arms from roping in numerous giant bass. Ryan gave excellent instruction on the float and fly method and, as always, was an amazing guide. A trip with Ryan is highly recommended and Mary has arranged two days for this amazing adventure.

April 6&7, Bass on Lake Oroville with Ryan Williams hosted by Mary M.

This trip was described by all participants last year as "Epic!!!". Giant bass all day long. The guide fee is \$313. Contact Mary M. at 209-660-1892 for information or to sign up. This trip is a good experience for anglers of all experience levels and the physical demands include pulling so many bass into the boat your arms will get tired! This is a must go trip for sure!



Bass as big as the laughs and smiles with Ryan Williams on Lake Oroville!

April 26th- Fly Casting Day

Join us from 10 to 2 at Panella Park (5758 Lorraine Ave, Stockton, CA 95210) in Stockton for a day filled with fly casting fun. All levels are welcome. If

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you have ever been fly-curious come out and give it a try. If you already fly fish, come by for a tune up. If you are working through the fly casting skills development program, all levels will be available to work on or assess. Come and enjoy this free day. Only a signed liability waiver and eye protection required.

In May, the Wulffies combine a DFF tradition with a Wulffie tradition with our One Fly Weekend in Arnold. Dena is hosting at her cabin in Arnold. Wulffies start arriving Friday evening and we enjoy a nice evening of food and fly tying. Saturday we will participate in the One Fly Contest. One fly to catch the most or biggest fish on White Pines Lake. This is a great time with two amazing clubs. It is beginner friendly and just hit up Amy or Dena if you need any equipment to participate (float tube, fins, personal flotation device, 5 weight rod and just one fly). Sunday we fish or shop after a yummy breakfast. Such fun in a beautiful place with amazing people!

May 9-11th, One fly weekend in Arnold hosted by Dena

Spend the weekend at Dena's cabin in Arnold. We will explore local waters (and shops) and fish the one fly contest on Saturday with the clubs to raise funds for their scholarship program. A great cause, great accommodations and great company! The only cost is the entry fee into the one fly contest. The fishing during the contest is on a lake so a float tube or other flotation device is recommended. Let Dena know you want to stay at the cabin by calling 209-662-3079.



White Pines Weekend highlight! The One Fly Contest.

Contribute to the club's welfare

I was asked to put this box in the newsletter so that those club members that live at unreasonable travel times to the club's monthly meetings might have a way to contribute to the club's welfare. At their request, I've set up a group of alternative contribution amounts. Those who participate will receive a tax deductible receipt via email.

[\\$5](#) [\\$10](#) [\\$25](#) [\\$50](#)

Or send a check to:
DFF C/O Brenda McIntosh, DFF Treasurer
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Salmon in the Classroom
C/O Brenda McIntosh, DFF Treasurer
5 North California Street
Lodi, CA 95240

Make checks payable to DFF, Salmon in the Classroom. Please include your email address. You will receive a receipt online, when the check is received.

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Tabeaud Brown

By Amy Terra

Spring is springing with sunny days and rain taking turns. It is easy to find a beautiful day to get out and fish. The next day a storm will force you inside to tie flies or go through gear indoors. I

was lucky enough to find a sunny Saturday and snuck up to see a friend near Jackson. So, before I met my friend for dinner, I snuck over to Lake Tabeaud. The club has had several outings at Lake Tabeaud. The lake is routinely stocked with rainbow trout but also holds some native brown trout that are a true prize to be caught at this little lake. Fishing the lake can be prolific and it can also be frustrating. I know amazing anglers who have kicked around the lake and gone home empty handed. I have also seen newbies haul in double digit fish. It truly is fishing- no guarantees except for a beautiful place and the chance to catch some fish.

A few years ago, our very own Jerry caught a gorgeous brown trout near the inlet of the lake. It was



A Tabeaud Brown Trout on a beautiful spring day; not nearly as impressive as Jerry's catch.

an amazing catch and well deserved for someone who has done so much for our club and fly fishing over the years. Saturday I was kicking in the area where Jerry caught this amazing fish, recounting that day from a few years ago. I clearly remember Jerry hooking up with the fish. He was in his little pram and, if memory serves me, had been fishing a wooly bugger. Jerry fought this fish for a long time. We were all around the area and collectively held our

breath until he landed the fish. There was also a collective "Wow!" when he held up the magnificent fish with its big kype jaw. I think Greg R. had kicked over to serve as photographer. The memory was firm in my brain- although there is a chance I have some details wrong. The gist of the day was an amazing angler caught an amazing fish with a crowd of his peers cheering him on. It was a good day!

As I kicked and reminisced about this moment, I

hooked a fish. I almost laughed out loud when I scooped a beautiful

brown trout into my net. It was like an encore to Jerry's catch- summoned by the mere memory of the day. While my brown was nowhere near as impressive as Jerry's, it was as appreciated. What a beautiful way to spend a sunny day- remembering great days fishing while having a great day fishing!

Make Your Reservations for the October Lower Sac Drift

The annual guided group float trip on the lower Sacramento River is now taking early reservations. Head guide Scott Sugimoto and Bob Fujimura will be co-hosting another fall guided float trip on this exceptional wild rainbow tailwater on Saturday October 11, 2025. For those who have attended past DFF outings, we are planning the usual feature packed full day of guided drift boat fly fishing at the same price (\$300 per person) as last year. For members who are new to this annual outing, contact Bob Fujimura for more information on this outing and



to register to attend; Bob's email address is deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or cell at (209) 329-1692.

Why register early? Early registration ensures that members reserve their guide and their space onboard your drift boat. Last fall, a couple of DFF members were unable to participate due to waiting too late to register. Fall is the prime guiding season on the Lower Sacramento River and guides were booked up earlier that season. If we have open spots, we will also offer seats to other fly club members to ensure the group has enough participants. Don't be the person who misses out on their opportunity to fly fish one of the best tailwaters in the West.

CONSERVATION

By Ron Forbes, Conservation Chair

*There is no use in walking five miles to fish
when you can be just as unsuccessful near
home. .*

— Mark Twain

The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is Complex: Part One

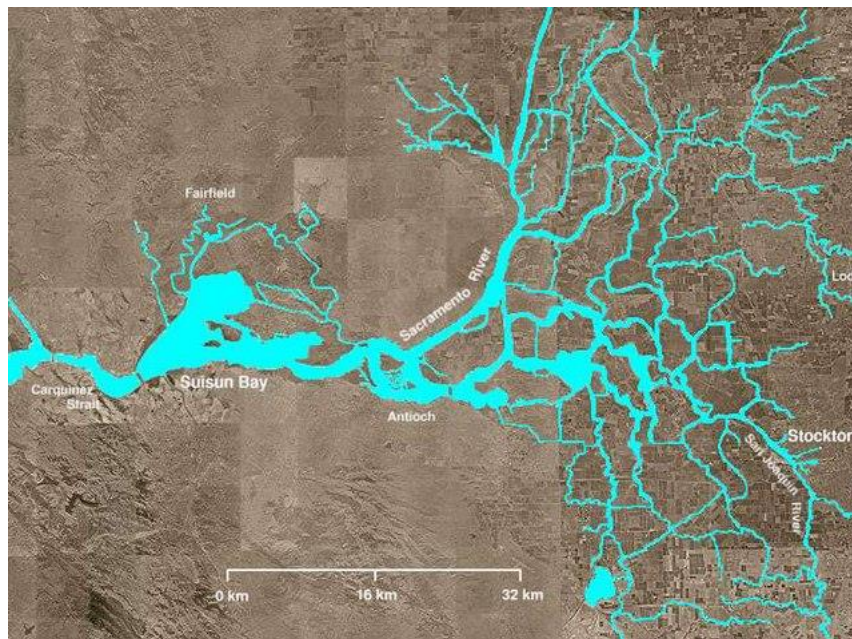
Several years before the pandemic, a Stockton Record reporter wrote a series of excellent articles regarding several serious issues facing the San Joaquin Delta. He waited for the controversy he was sure the articles would generate. It didn't happen. After some introspection he decided to do a "man on the street" survey in Stockton. Although the survey was simple in nature, answers to his questions were mind boggling. Much to his chagrin, a majority of people he surveyed could not tell him where the Delta is located nor explain anything about the Delta or its importance. They were also unaware the Delta is the keystone of California's water infrastructure and a critical part to our state's agricultural economy.

In early March, Dena Mason and I attended a meeting hosted by Restore the Delta (RTD). RTD's Executive Director, Barbara Barrigan Parrilla, expressed the urgency of actions within the RTD community that needed to be taken immediately. I believe this was Dena's first meeting with

RTD. She expressed being overwhelmed with the Delta Issues, their complexity, and what we have to do to address these problems. Her response of being overwhelmed after learning the issues facing the Delta is typical.

Over the years the complexity of Delta issues and their importance within the state has become more complex. For over twenty years our newsletter has carried conservation articles about serious issues within the Delta. This month I decided to begin a series of articles about the nature of the Delta starting with what the Delta is, its geologic formation, its early history, and its changing structure and environment. Today's Delta bears no resemblance to the original Delta. The Delta of today is in a constant state of flux.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the most unique estuary on the west coast of North or South America. Our Delta is large. It is 1,100 square miles in area. Of its 780,000 acres, about 500,000 acres are farmed. Almost 50% of all water flowing in California flows through the Delta.



Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Bay to the west.

The Delta has just over 700 miles of waterways and 1,100 miles of levees. Five counties are included within its boundaries. It's home to just over 500,000 people. About 25 million Californians get some or all of their drinking water from the Delta. Just over 750 species of plants and animals are found within its borders. Of this flora and fauna 185 species are alien species. The Delta

is also home to 55 different species of fish. About 80% of all commercial fish either live in or pass through the Delta.

Geologically, the Delta is a very recent event. It came into existence after the last ice age about 10,000 years ago. During the last ice age the sea level was 300 feet lower than it is today. In this period the California watershed would flow directly into the sea. As the glaciers melted, the sea

(Continued from page 10)

level rose and ocean water flowed into the Carquinez Strait. The Strait was narrow and tides were now pushing inland greatly slowing the water flowing seaward.

The slowing water began depositing its sediment. About 8,000 years ago the intrusion of seawater diminished. This allowed wetlands flora to considerably increase within the Delta. As the sediments increased and plants flourished, decaying plants formed massive areas of peat deposits. Some peat deposits were 60 feet in depth in some areas of the Delta. These deposits made up the Delta islands. Geologists feel the Delta reached a point of stabilization around 2000-3000 years ago. This era of stabilization continued until the mid-1850's. With increasing human intervention, things started changing. Today the boundaries of the Delta are very roughly defined as just below Sacramento to the north, Stockton and Lodi to the east, Tracy to the south and the eastern edge of the coast range to the west.

Before it became the Delta we know today the area was an enormous flood plain of over 1000 square miles. It had become a brackish marsh affected by tides. It had many channels and also contained freshwater marshes. Its source of water is from 5 watersheds although only two are of significance. These rivers are the Sacramento and the San Joaquin rivers.

The Sacramento River Watershed encompasses most of northern California and is 27,500 square miles in area. It is also the longest river in the state, flowing just over 400 miles to the south. Its watershed encompasses a low-lying valley to tall mountain peaks. It now flows through over 300 square miles of agriculture and densely populated urban areas. Its landscape has changed radically in the last century. First, the land was exploited for gold mining then the grasslands were modified for farming. The landscape was modi-

fied for water supply development with dams and diversions destroying over 20 steelhead populations and habitat for salmon. Now, much of that farmland has been urbanized.



Lower Sacramento (upper left) and San Joaquin (lower right) river channels just upstream of their confluence at Chipps Island.

The San Joaquin River Watershed is about 15,600 square miles. The San Joaquin River is the second longest river in California. On the east it is bordered by the Sierra Nevada's and on the west by the Coast Range. The river flows to the west from the crest of the Sierras for about 100 miles then northward for 260 miles where it joins the Sacramento River. It, like the Sacramento River,

has been greatly modified with dams and diversions. The river has 95% of its water diverted at Friant Dam. In the past these diversions caused the river to run dry for 60 miles of its course. Like the Sacramento's watershed, the San Joaquin's watershed is diverse. From the Sierra's crest it flows to below sea level. It supplies about 3,000 square miles for agriculture within the San Joaquin Valley.

The Delta has been inhabited by Native Americans for about 4,300 hundred years. These people were predominantly of the Miwok and Maidu language groups. They lived in groups of between 200 to 1,000 people mostly within the higher eastern Delta. The Delta provided abundant food for these first settlers. They ate wild fruit, acorns, seeds, and tule roots. Fish and game were also a major part of their food supply. Deer, tule elk, beaver, and otter were plentiful. They also fed on Delta shellfish and salmon. When the Spanish first explored the Delta they thought the tule elk and deer trails were so wide that cattle formed them. Grizzly bears also roamed the Delta.

In 1772, the Spanish first saw the Delta from Mt. Diablo. Evidently, both of the Delta's major rivers

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

were flooding so the Spanish interpreted the flood as a large inland sea. Spanish colonists had little impact on the Delta as they looked for mission sites. The relationship between Native Americans and the Spanish, and later the Mexicans, was poor. Many of the Miwok and Maidu moved deep into the Delta to avoid conscription by the Spanish to build missions. Unfortunately, the Spanish also introduced malaria to the Delta. The malaria was intensified by the Delta's marshy, mosquito-intensive environment and, by 1833, the local populations of Native Americans were devastated.

The natural history of the Delta was irreversibly changed when gold was discovered in California. Farmers quickly realized fruit orchards would thrive in the Delta's terrain with available freshwater and simple irrigation methods. Crops were much less expensive to produce in the Delta compared with other areas. The Delta's 500,000 acres of peat soil and abundant water make it arguably the finest farmland in the world.

Waterways within the Delta are major transportation routes. The Port of Stockton on the San Joaquin River and the Port of Sacramento on the Sacramento River are the most important inland ports in California. Initially the Sacramento water corridor was only 7 feet deep. It is currently 30 feet deep. The depth of water to Stockton's Port is 37 ft. deep. The Delta is also home to the port of Benicia. Benicia's port is a petroleum, bulk, and automotive shipping facility.

The Delta is an important site for recreation. It offers a variety of recreational opportunities including fishing, hunting, water skiing, houseboating, sailing, and windsurfing. It hosts more than 100 marinas and 25 yacht clubs. It's a world class recreation location hosting 12 million people annually. Brannan Island State Recreation Area on Highway 160 south of Rio Vista provides

campsites, areas for picnicking, and a variety of trails to allow its visitors chances to explore Delta marshes and local islands. The Delta is a major stopping point on the Pacific Flyway and hosts a wide variety of migrating birds. Bird watching is another major pass-time in the area. The area supports over 160 public and private duck clubs. Visitors also enjoy visiting interpretive centers including the Delta Meadows, the Port Chicago Magazine National Memorial Centre, the Locke Building, and the Old Sacramento State Historic Park.



Remnant marshes forming mid-channel islands in leveed channels, which protect acres of farmland that exist below water level.

My entire life has been spent living adjacent to the Delta. In my youth I looked at the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as nothing more than farms and a place to go catfish fishing. As I matured, I became increasingly aware of my naivety. The Delta first became important to me when Jerry Brown tried to push his Delta Canal Project on us in

1983. It was resoundingly rejected. When my wife became involved with the then newly formed San Joaquin County Historical Museum I met its first director Medora Johnson. She was the first to introduce me to the real Delta and its importance to California. We were repeatedly taken into the Delta and shown many of its many facets and intricacies. The more I learned about the Delta, the more obvious it became how much more there was to learn.

Almost twenty years ago Restore the Delta had its first organizational meeting. Some 35 to 40 people attended the meeting. During the meeting I met Bill Jennings who was known as the "Father of the Delta" for his life-long study and work within the Delta. Jennings graciously took me under his wing and for over nine months tutored me about the Delta. At first, I felt my learning curve would probably be about a year long. I was wrong. I'm still learning.

Next month's Conservation article will look further into the Delta.

Presented by Delta Fly Fishers

Free Fly-Casting Day



April 26, 2025

10am—2pm

Panella Park

5758 Lorraine Ave, Stockton, CA 95210-3607

Open to the Public.

Liability waiver and eye protection required.

All levels welcome. Certified casting instructors will be there. Beginners welcome!

Fly Casting Skills Development assessment available.