



# Rx Fly Fishing!

*The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!*

Volume XLIX

Number 12

December 2024

Randall Baxter, Editor

Stockton, California

## Calendar

December 11, General meeting, John R Williams High School. Meadow Ave., Stockton. 6:30 pm. (pg 1).

December 18, Board of Directors Meeting, Oak Grove Nature Ctr, Eight Mile Rd., Stockton, 6:30 (pg 2).

December CANCELLED.  
Open fly tying and casting, Oak Grove Nature Ctr. and ponds. 6pm.

## Club Announcements

- **December 7, Fly Tying Day with Ben Byng (pg12)**
- **January 1, Mokelumne River Club Outing. Starting at Dawn, located at the first parking lot of the day-use area. Hot dogs and chili provided.**
- **January 25, Delta Fly Fisher Annual Dinner, Elks Club Lodge, Stockton. Menu being developed. More information in the January newsletter and by direct email.**

## December General Meeting

**Date: Wednesday, December 11th**

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

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

**The program: Club members' 2024 fishing stories/presentations**

This is the opportunity for DFF Club members to share pictures and stories of their 2024 fishing adventures. Speaker slots are still open for the meeting. **Contact Bob Fujimura (209 329-1692) about making a presentation.** Mike Dempewolf will have some coffee, cookies, and soft drinks, and the BOD with the help of director Nancy Baker, our treasurer, Brenda McIntosh, and VP Dena Mason will have a few raffle prizes to give away so bring a few bucks extra to participate. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting is open to the public.

Prior to the meeting, a speaker's dinner will be held at BJ's Brew House on Pacific Ave., Stockton starting around 5:15, **If you plan to attend the no-host dinner, call Ron Forbes (209-712-4906) by Tuesday evening** or email him at [ronforbes65@gmail.com](mailto:ronforbes65@gmail.com) and let him know so he can reserve a seat for you. The dinner is open to anyone wishing to attend.

## Find DFF online at

<https://www.deltaflyfishers.com>

## And on Face Book at

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

# Upcoming Events

By Bob Fujimura

**Saturday Dec 7 – Fly Tying Day:** Let celebrate the resumption of a great club event and join others learn from our guest tyer Ben Byng. Ben will be demonstrating how to tie his favorite Delta striped bass streamers. Enjoy a fully catered breakfast, lunch, and dessert while learning and tying some of Ben's patterns with your friends and fellow fly tyers. We have a special gift for all participants and a fun raffle at the conclusion of the event. Open to all fly tyers and these sessions have been well attended in the past. Don't miss your opportunity to attend; register online soon. Go to the official website at: [https:// deltaflyfishers.com/dff-flytying-day](https://deltaflyfishers.com/dff-flytying-day) for more information and to sign up.

**Wednesday Dec 11 – General Membership Meeting:** Our members are invited to share their favorite fishing trip of the year at this meeting. A short presentation about 15 minutes is all that Program Chair Bob Fujimura is seeking. Contact Bob if you are interested in speaking at this annual event. More program information when it is available. We will meet at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Drive, Stockton starting at 6:30 pm.

**Wednesday Dec 18 – Board of Directors Meeting:** Held at the Nature Center, Oak Grove Regional Park, Eight-Mile Rd, Stockton starting at 6:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend and participate.

**Saturday Jan 1 — First of the year Mokelumne River outing:** Held at the Mokelumne River day use area, first parking lot. The club will provide hotdogs and chili. Access opens about first light.

## DFF Officers



President

Vice President  
Dena Mason

Secretary  
Bill Brown

Treasurer  
Brenda McIntosh  
Jerry Neuburger 209-327-5993

Directors  
Nancy Baker  
Ron Forbes 209-368-5767  
Larry Schmidt 209-482-8742  
Randy Baxter 209-200-9739  
Bob Fujimura  
Charlie Reames  
Norm Cassin  
Sam Thompson

## 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

Rx Fly Fishing! is the monthly publication of the Delta Fly Fishers, Inc. Delta Fly Fishers, Inc. is a public benefit 501c3 non-profit corporation registered with the California Secretary of State.

Any correspondence regarding this publication should be directed to:  
The Delta Fly Fishers Inc.  
PO Box 77862  
Stockton, CA 95207-7862



# The Dirt Cheap Angler: Quick release indicators

By Jerry Neuburger

You can buy a premade indicator rig for about \$4.95 or make ten of them for a little more than a dollar, but let's get started with first, the problem and then the solution,

**The problem:** I was fishing Heenan Lake using an indicator and chironomid at about six feet under the indicator. I had done well using this set up in the past but not today. In contrast, three guys in a white Hyde drift boat were pounding the fish, boating one about every five minutes. They were just beyond the visual range for seeing what they were doing differently than I was but close enough to shout to and from. I guess they could tell I was getting frustrated since, without me questioning them, one of them shouted, "Red #16, midge, 15 feet." Now there's only one problem using an indicator with 15 feet of leader below it, you can't reel the fish to anywhere near the rod tip to net it, especially if fishing from a kayak as I was doing. If I was going to mimic their success, I would need to re-rig with a sliding, quick-release indicator. Luckily I had some in my gear bags. Actually, I had a bunch of them since I had just made a batch up.

**The solution:** I reeled in my line, grabbed the end and snipped off the too short leader and replaced it with about 12 feet of #12 fluorocarbon. I then threaded the leader through the foam indicator and the black plastic peg that acted as both a stop and release mechanism. Once on the line, I pinned the release mechanism a foot from the end of the fly line. I then tied on a #6 swivel at the end followed by four feet of #6 fluorocarbon and finally a #16 red midge. Now this rig is hard to manage without fouling so I hung it in the water and roll-cast it, (after several attempts to bring it all to the surface) a few feet away. Within seconds the indicator went down. Fish on. A few minutes later I netted a nice 18 inch Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. The first of eight

before the wind came up and blew me off the lake.

Now, how to make and rig just described. First, you can buy the setup already made, but, being the dirt cheap angler, no way. Instead, I went to Walmart and bought a package of five foam



Pack of indicators.



floats with the accompanying black pegs with holes in the center. Now these are not the smallest floats but the smaller ones do not have the hole through the peg. At home I cut the floats in

half, turning the five into ten (Continued on page 4)

**BYCE TEDFORD**  
**FLY FISHING**  
  
Guided Fly Fishing Trips On The California Delta & Surrounding Watersheds.  
Captain Bryce Tedford Specializes In Striped Bass, Largemouth Bass & Smallmouth Bass On The Fly!  
Email: [brycetedford@gmail.com](mailto:brycetedford@gmail.com)  
Phone: (206) 696-2437

(Continued from page 3)  
and then used one of my wife's emery boards to sand the ends smooth. The floats cost a little more than a dollar for the five. So in making ten, their cost was about ten cents each and each would be good for about ten to 15 fish before the pegs



**Full sized indicator**

stretched the foam to the point where the peg was bottomed out in the foam. I also picked up some packs of swivels, different sizes from # six to # ten. The different-sized swivels would also act as weights, with the largest swivel matched with the smallest fly. The reasoning being that the heavier swivel would help carry the fly to the desired depth and keep everything almost vertical in a current. I've included photos of the packaged floats, the floats cut in half and a diagram of the complete setup for study and hopefully some adoption.



**Indicators cut in half**



**Indicator with line extended below the float and back up and through the anchor pin in a fashion to result in a quick release with a solid pull on the line extending through the pin.**

# Last Month's Fly Box

## FLY TYING

### Balance Leech or Fry



Photo from Flyfishfood.com

No new content, so reprinting last month's fly of the month.

Balance leech or fry patterns are my favorite stillwater patterns when cold weather causes wild or holdover trout to cruise the shallow banks for larger prey items. After the first hard freeze, water temperatures drop significantly and trigger the breakdown of submergent vegetation. Leeches, snails, dragonfly nymphs, and fish fry lose their cover habitat and become vulnerable to fish seeking to fatten up before winter. Balance leech or fry patterns can be deadly when fished suspended from an indicator.

There are many recipes and varieties of balance fly patterns, and most are effective in the right situations. I tend to use a black-red body and tail with a copper or black nickel bead head as my initial balance leech pattern – however, I also have tied and fished successfully rust, brown, and olive

leeches. Where fish fry is an important food item, I fish a balance fry pattern using UV purple collar, tan or white body, and light olive or tan marabou tail.

The basic techniques for tying balance leech balance can be learned by watching this tutorial video by Flyfishfood.com for its Midnight Fire Balance Leech at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkb-NAEbnv4>. An infinite number of different patterns can be created by changing the color or materials to suit your preferences or fishing conditions.

I recommend using a very slow retrieve when using these patterns in the fall. Unlike fishing in the Spring, movement seems essential for successful fishing. Another tip is to fish these patterns close to the shoreline. My latest trip to Wild Horse Reservoir, NV affirmed these tips using a balance fry pattern and resulted in landing rainbow and cuttbows in 20" to 24" range.

Bob Fujimura



## Mettler

**Tasting Room:** 7889 East Harney Lane  
Lodi, CA 95240  
Thurs to Mon 11am-5pm (209) 369-3045



### 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

## On the Riffle Guide Service

I am dedicated to giving you the most memorable day of fishing on the Sacramento River. My passion for fly fishing and the years of meticulously studying the river have helped me to put my clients in the best situation to catch



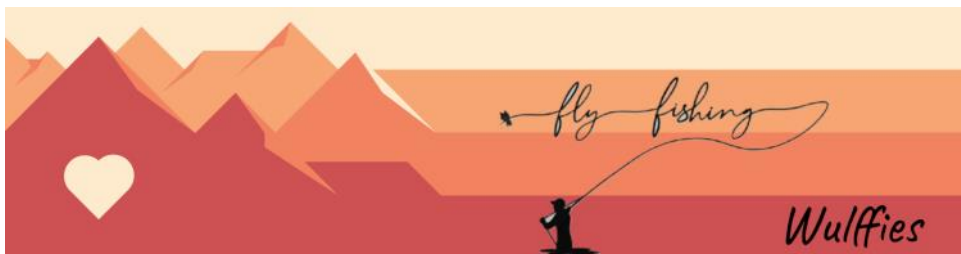
Scott Sugimoto

(530) 276-1612  
[scott@ontheriffle.com](mailto:scott@ontheriffle.com)

Follow me on Instagram:  
@ontheriffle

fish. Whether a beginner or experienced fly fisher, man or woman, you will have an incredible time.

"Make your reservations now!"



## Wulfies Happenings:

What a year it has been for the Wulfie's had wonderfully diverse activities hosted by amazing anglers. It is with so much gratitude that I thank everyone who has contributed to this amazing group whether it is through hosting activities, suggestions, participating or donating items for other anglers to use. As we wrap up our year with a tying table at the Annual Fly Tying day on December 7th, we will be asking for suggestions for 2025 through this [online survey](#) so click and share your thoughts for women's activities for 2025!

We will also be focusing on streamlining communications for our women's activities. Look for direct emails in addition to the newsletter articles and website information. Let's make 2025 the best year yet for women's fly fishing- Go Wulfies!

## Casting Corner—

By Amy Terra

Fly casting is a beautiful subset of fly fishing skills and experiences. I have always been mesmerized by the beauty of a fly line in the air and have quickly come to realize that improved casting can elevate fly fishing opportunities and experiences. This was part of what led me to pursue my fly casting instructor certification. After two years of study and practice and with the support of mentors and dear friends, I passed my certification exam in September. This was honestly one of the most intense exams I have attempted- including my doctoral defense! After the casting exam, I have been taking a break from casting to reset and this coincided with the ending of our Friday night casting sessions.

(Continued on page 7)



## Local Water Orientation Clinics

With Greg Vinci

Author and guide

[vinci.greg@gmail.com](mailto:vinci.greg@gmail.com)

(916) 719-6253



"My mission is to provide you with a total experience, not just a fishing trip."

Belize, La Ventana Baja, Pesca Maya, Xcalak Mexico, Picacho Lodge, Chile, Yuba River Shad, Club Presentations and Clinics

[www.excellentadventures.org](http://www.excellentadventures.org)

Al Smatsky, Proprietor

619 W. Pine Street, Lodi, CA 95240  
(209) 368-9261, (209) 601-0819 cell 1/14



Elevation 9770' Established 1923

Heart of the High Sierra  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Fishing, Hiking, Camping, Cabins, Restaurant, Lodge

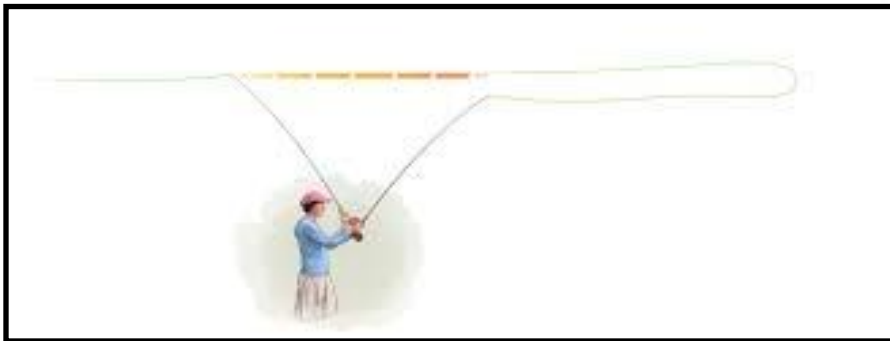
<http://www.virginalakesresort.com>

HC 62 BOX 1065,  
BRIDGEPORT CA 93517-9602  
760-647-6484 Tel/Fax 1/14

(Continued from page 6)

Now that I have had some time to relax, I am looking forward to moving forward as your local certified casting instructor. This includes being available for local group instruction, private lessons, as well as support if you want to achieve casting instructor certification. I also plan on writing monthly articles about the joys and principles of fly casting. If there is a way I can help you on your journey, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am happy to help others as so many have helped me on this fly fishing journey that has added so much to my life!

This month's fly casting tidbit is going to touch on the fundamental aspect of a well formed loop. The loop is simply the shape the fly line takes in the air as a result of rod tip movement. The loop is formed when the rod tip comes to a stop and the fly line moves past the rod tip. The path that the rod tip takes during the casting stroke determines the shape the loop takes. If the rod tip travels in a big rainbow-shaped path, the top leg (fly leg) of the loop will have a rounded (convex) shape and be wider. If the rod tip travels in a straight line path, the fly leg will be straight and the loop size will be narrower.



The path of the rod tip reflects the shape of the casting loop.

This is an example of a straight path of the rod tip during the casting stroke.

***Note the rod stop positions on forward and back stops!***

Narrow loops with straight fly legs are efficient, accurate, and great for distance casts. How do you get the rod tip to travel in a straight line path? You need to honor your forward and back stopping positions and the acceleration between these stops needs to reflect a smooth acceleration.

A smooth casting stroke is key to forming an efficient loop. This is something that is easy to practice anytime you can get out to a local park or waterway. You will know your casting stroke is smooth if the top leg of your loop is relatively straight. Think smooth and easy between those high stops!

## 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  
5 North California Street  
Lodi, CA 95240

Cal State Charity # 131478

Convert an urban student into a little conservationist. Consider donating to the club's tax deductible fund,

## Salmon in the Classroom

I'm in and want to donate  
\$5, \$10, \$15, \$25, \$50,  
\$75, \$100,

You will automatically receive a receipt, save it for tax purposes

Currently over 72 classrooms and over 2,000 students in San Joaquin County participate in the program. It takes about \$350 to equip a classroom. 100% of your contribution goes to the program with no overheads.

You may also participate by mailing a check to:

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.

Cal State Charity # 131478

# CONSERVATION

By Ron Forbes, Conservation Chair

---

*The traveler fancies he has seen the country. So he has, at least the outside of it at least. But the angler only sees the inside. The angler only is brought close, face to face with the flowers and birds and insect life of the rich riverbanks, the only part of the landscape where the hand of man has never interfered.*

— Charles Kingsley

---



**Omitted from last month's article: Historic picture of first Chinook Salmon recorded in 112 years in Oregon's Klamath River Basin (i.e., upstream of recently removed dams).**

---

## THE EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT SCORES A GRAND SLAM

For eighty four years the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) has been monitoring the annual salmon run on the Mokelumne River. From the Golden Gate to the Mokelumne's hatchery just east of Clements, salmon migrate 95 miles upstream to a 10 mile stretch of water to spawn just below the Comanche dam. A number of con-

servation articles in the newsletter have noted the remarkable change in the water district's attitude of the Mokelumne's environment and its fisheries. The district has become the most pro-environment and pro-fisheries water district in California. This year they have again shown why they lead the pack.

With the number of salmon declining within the state's hatchery system, EBMUD decided to initiate innovative, science-based changes to reverse the downward spiral. Starting about four years ago EBMUD's managing biologists, Jose Setka and Michaelle Workman have graciously provided the Delta Fly Fishers with information of what EBMUD is doing to reverse the negative trend. Their enthusiasm and hard work to initiate positive change with their new innovative projects is obvious. And for good reason. Their projects are successful. Using the Mokelumne River, EBMUD provides 1.4 million customers with excellent drinking water. At the same time they provide high quality river stewardship including excellent environmental and fishery enhancement.

During the Moke's 2022-2023 salmon run more than 20,000 fish returned to the hatchery. It was an outstanding run. In 2023-2024 they had a record-breaking all time high of 28,693 salmon return to spawn. They were overjoyed that their innovative projects were bearing fruit. In the 8 plus decades EBMUD has been keeping track of the Moke's salmon runs, they are now having the best salmon run in their history with 31,881 returning to spawn. I contacted the hatchery on November 25 to get the most recent information

.....  
(Continued on page 9)



**School of Chinook Salmon returning to Mokelumne Hatchery.**

*(Continued from page 8)*

available. So far the hatchery has harvested 6.7 million eggs with the harvest goal set at 10 million eggs. On October 16th of this year the biologists celebrated the best one day return in 30 years with 3,824 salmon being recorded. We still have another month remaining in this year's salmon return season.

This year's steelhead run is also outstanding with 345 juvenile and adult fish making it up stream so far. In years past, 90-fish steelhead returns were considered respectable. Hatchery staff emphasized accurate steelhead counts are premature since the fish will be returning for three more months.

Every year I contact the Mokelumne Hatchery and the Coleman Hatchery, near Anderson, for information on the returning salmon. The Coleman Hatchery is the largest hatchery in the state. The Mokelumne Hatchery is the smallest. California has 12 anadromous fish hatcheries. This year I also contacted the Nimbus hatchery about 15 miles east of Sacramento. Requesting information from the Moke Hatchery is a positive experience. The staff has always been straightforward and very helpful in getting accurate requested information. Unfortunately, getting information from the Coleman Hatchery is not easy. Last year I was questioned why I wanted the information, then put on hold for over 10 minutes and questioned for a second time why I needed the information. Last year Coleman's numbers were at an all time low. This year I was told by staff they didn't have the count immediately available and would have to find the file with the numbers. I was put on hold again. Finally responding, 10 minutes later, he said they had "about 6,000 fish." When requested more information on their eggs count or steelhead numbers the answer was, "I don't know." End of conversation. The Nimbus

Hatchery was called and twice left messages asking for the same information that I was given by the Mokelumne Hatchery. The Nimbus Hatchery has yet to respond to my calls. Unfortunately, it's difficult to retrieve this information online.

Michelle Workman, EBMUD's Manager of Fish and Wildlife, was elated with this year's salmon run. "We are delighted to have another robust salmon return that allows us to support all our

hatchery goals, including mitigation, enhancement and climate resilience, as well as meet our in-river spawning targets with enough fish to fill the habitat. We continue to face the challenge of climate variability with record air temperatures in July and October affecting our cold water availability strategies. Our investment in chillers in the hatchery enables us to support the Chinook population even when environmental conditions work against us. This year we are fortunate to have enough returning fish to also support the Coleman National Fish Hatchery with eggs to help sustain the fisheries of the Sacramento River and the broader Central Valley." The Coleman Hatchery has a 14-15 million egg goal. So far this year the Mokelumne Hatchery has given the Coleman Hatchery 3 million eggs

In 1964, EBMUD had just completed building Comanche Dam. To say the utility was not environmentally friendly would be an understatement. Negative environmental issues were commonplace. In the 1980's, trout and steelhead kills led to action. The Delta Fly Fishers and other organizations saw no option but to bring a lawsuit against EBMUD. We won. EBMUD was forced to agree to and sign a General Service Agreement (GSA) detailing what the district would be required to perform to come into compliance with the plaintiffs' complaints. If they didn't comply they faced very stiff fines. They did comply and have become the most progressive creative, environmentally friendly water district in California.

Five years ago Jose Setka, EBMUD's Managing Biologist of Fish and Wildlife, spoke to our club about the lower Sacramento River's rapidly decreasing salmon population. We were told EBMUD was devising new techniques to reverse the downward trend of poor salmon runs within the state. After Setka's retirement Michelle Workman became EBMUD's Managing Biologist of Fish and Wildlife. The EBMUD and Mokelumne Hatchery, working with the Woodbridge Irrigation District (WID), have continued initiating science-driven solutions. The Mokelumne River contributes just 3% of the water flow of the lower Sacramento River and has a spawning area only ten miles in length, but once again, the Moke's hatchery has overwhelmingly out performed the 11 other anadromous fish hatcheries in Califor-

*(Continued on page 10)*

(Continued from page 9)

nia.

The district and hatchery have started operations that support natural spawning along the river and support ocean fisheries. Their strategies are from a viewpoint of being long term rather than "quick fixes." Their habitat enhancement along the river is obvious to those of us who use the river often. They are now working with the US Fish and Wildlife Services Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (USFWS AFRP) to improve the 10 mile habitat that is the river's prime spawning area. It's common to see land areas being modified and to see large piles of gravel ready to be moved into the river to enhance spawning areas. Their efforts have greatly improved both the quality and quantity of the spawning environment.

Several years ago, despite being in severe drought, EBMUD released several pulses of cold water to initiate the salmon's return to the Mokelumne. The Camanche Dam's cold water helped support spawning, incubation and rearing habitat of the Mokelumne's salmon. Unfortunately, that did not happen at Lake Shasta. Instead, their cold water was only used to supply water for agriculture [Ed. — Shasta Dam operations are compelled to supply cold water discharges and meet downstream temperature limit through the summer-time spawning, incubation and early rearing periods of endangered Winter-Run Chinook Salmon; these periods coincide with the agricultural irrigation season. Cold water storage in Shasta Dam has periodically been insufficient to maintain cold water discharges through the Fall Run Chinook Salmon spawning and incubation periods, particularly during extended warm periods in past falls]. They are now facing the reality of their poor management. The Mokelumne Hatchery, working with EBMUD, brought in new chillers and ultraviolet light to increase egg survival. They also enhanced the survival of juvenile fish by not using existing antiquated release techniques. Working with the Woodbridge Irrigation District (WID), they are using enhanced fish ladders, located near Lodi Lake, that have helped both natu-

ral and hatchery fish.

The partnership of EBMUD, the Hatchery, and WID has worked well. A major problem with the loss of salmon has been the predation of fish in the Delta. Over the years I have seen large groups of fishing boats gather near Rio Vista and other areas where the young salmon were released. Huge numbers of striped bass would gather to feast on the Chinook salmon smolts. The fishermen caught the stripers, the stripers caught the smolt and we lost the salmon. In the late 1940's and early 50's other predators on the Mokelumne were common. In grammar school and early high school, my classmates would brag about how they and their parents would go to the shallows on the Moke above Clements and use pitchforks to "catch" as many salmon as they wanted. Fortunately, fishing groups, local game wardens, and judges took exception. In the late 40's and 50's stringent laws were passed and enforced. The "forking" stopped. When caught, the forkers faced heavy fines, loss of their fishing license, and very unfavorable press in local papers.

It's obvious the Delta is a complex water system. Salmon have a difficult task trying to navigate the estuary and find their way home. Research has shown that in some years half the Mokelumne's salmon end up in the American River. The EBMUD's cold water pulses helped the salmon return. Another aid is the use of limited closures on the Delta Cross Channel. Salmon face massive hurdles both leaving the Mokelumne and returning. Over the years it's been common to hear that

of 100 salmon released only one or two fish will return to spawn. EBMUD is now using a very successful method to raise the return rate. They "trap and truck" Chinook smolts when the Mokelumne River is stressed and requires help. The object of trapping and trucking the fish is to lower the loss of the fish when water temperatures are high and to prevent fish



**Woodbridge Dam near Lodi with enhanced fish ladders.**

(Continued on page 11)

mortalities from predation in the Delta. Fish from the hatchery are trucked to areas downstream from the Delta like Suisun Bay. In doing so the salmon have totally bypassed areas of high predation

Due to the low numbers of salmon for spawning at other hatcheries this season, there is a high probability of a third year of cancelled recreational and commercial fishing. Fishable levels of Chinook Salmon have dropped for a variety of reasons. The water users blame the problem on climate change, invasive species predation, and diminishing floodplain habitat. Fishing advocates blame poor management of water resources, lack of cold water pulses, low flows of warm water, over pumping, and climate change. Berry Nelson of the Golden Gate Salmon Association is blunt. "We have sterilized the lower Sacramento River. We have killed almost all the fish, and the number one rule of fisheries management is, if you kill all the baby salmon, three years later you don't have adult salmon."

The current salmon spawning season is near its end. By the end of December we will have a more clear understanding of where we stand. Recently EBMUD's Board President Lesa McIntosh commented: "I am proud of EBMUD sustaining the health of the Mokelumne River decades long dedication and investing in fish hatchery operations. This historic salmon run is a testament to our science-driven management, cooperative relationship with our neighbors on the river, and our collaboration with local, state, and federal partners to enhance spawning grounds, operate our hatchery effectively, and protect our natural resources.

Ms. McIntosh has every right to be proud of what EBMUD has accomplished. As a member of Delta Fly Fishers it has been enjoyable to watch the relationship between our club and the utility district grow. It's been exciting to watch the excellent management of the Moke come to fruition. It's also exciting to watch the removal of dams on the Klamath River being off to a jump start and in-

## December 7 Fly Tying Day

Delta Fly Fishers have reinstated a great tradition of an annual fly tying day. Our club leadership has found an amazing fly tyer to come and spend a day, sharing his tying and fishing knowledge. We are fortunate this year to be hosting Ben Byng for this event.

Ben Byng is a master fly tyer who ties at many of the fly fishing shows including the International Sportsman's Exposition and Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show. Fishing has been in Ben's blood since he was a young boy. His grandfather took him on many journeys from the Great Lakes to the Florida Keys.

His father took him on summertime trips to eastern Idaho for remote small stream fishing and high mountain adventures. These experiences have armed Ben with lessons that would follow him into fly-fishing. Having the California Delta in his backyard, Ben has spent many hours jamming in his boat through this 1200-mile waterway looking for Striped Bass. This is his fly-fishing wintertime playground. Ben has chosen the Delta Baitfish Rattle Clouser as the fly for our tying



**Ben with his super effective Delta fly in action.**

day. We will tie a variety of color patterns of this incredibly effective fly. These flies sell for \$15 each at local fly shops and you will tie minimally 2 of them during the tying day. This makes the cost of the day, \$30 seem like a heck of a deal. Especially when you consider that breakfast and lunch will be provided, a tying gift and a raffle will all be a part of the day.....

(Continued on page 12)

**Participants should bring their own tools (vise, scissors, bobbin, and bodkin).** If you need to use a loaner vise and tools, please let us know before the event (Amy at 209-329-4801 or [deltaflywebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflywebmaster@gmail.com)). Our tables will have electrical extension cords so bring your tying light if you need one. We will have written recipes and instructions for Ben's patterns, but you might want to bring a notepad and pen for Ben's tips



Some of the possible variations of the fly we will tie.

### The day's planned program:


8:00 AM Doors open, check in, breakfast  
9:00 AM Start of the Program  
9:20 AM Ben's first tying demo session  
10:30 AM 15-minute Break  
10:45 AM Ben's first session continues  
12:00 to 12:30 PM Lunch  
12:30 PM Ben's second session  
2:00 PM Second session ends. Closing of the day. Drawings held.

**This event will take place at the:**  
Fairfield Inn and Suites  
262 Rocky Lane,  
Lodi, CA 95240  
(see map below)




**Sign Up Today! Attendance limited to 25 people.**

[Follow this link to secure your spot!](#) \$30 per participant. Any questions? Email [deltaflywebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflywebmaster@gmail.com)



**DELTA FLY FISHERS  
FLY TYING DAY**

**December 7, 2024. 8am to 2:30pm**  
Spend the day, tying flies with expert tyer, Ben Byng. Ben will lead participants through a series of bass-focused flies. All tying materials and instructions will be provided. Tying tools will be available to borrow for the day. Breakfast, lunch and dessert included. Come and join the fun!  
Sign up <https://link.waveapps.com/baed4a-mnvt2>




SCAN ME

Explore bass patterns with tying expert Ben Byng!

**\$30 per person**  
Includes tying instruction, tying materials, breakfast, lunch, dessert, a thank you gift and entry into door prize drawing!

Raffle with great prizes



**FAIRFIELD INN AND SUITES**  
262 Rocky Lane  
Lodi, Ca 95240  
December 7, 2024  
8am-2:30pm  
For More information email  
[deltaflywebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflywebmaster@gmail.com)