



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

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Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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Calendar

April 10, DFF General Membership meeting, 7pm, John RI Williams School

April 12, FlyDay Night tying 5-7pm, House of Coffee

April 17, DFF BOD meeting, 6:30pm, Nature Center, Oak Grove Park

April 20, Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing

April 20, EBMUD Kids Fishing Day, Camanche South Pond

April 24, Fly of the Month, Grey Ghost Midge, 6:00pm, Nature Center, Oak Grove Park

May 11, The One Fly Contest, Pinecrest Lake, Arnold

The April raffle features a complete 7 weight outfit, reel, rod, floating line, twisted leader, and a popper. Two silent auction items as well, two days at Bailey Creek Lodge and four hours casting instruction with Sam Yee, FFI certified casting instructor.

Yipee!!! Spring is here, but it's still raining...



Is it just me? I'm getting so frustrated. I want to go fishing but where? Other than a 160 mile drive to Pyramid Lake in Nevada, fly fishing opportunities are slim. The delta is thick with mud and the local rivers are well over their banks. It's at the point where I'm thinking of going to one of the pay for play lakes, Pardee, Amador or Camanche.

Years ago, Pardee was fishable by float tube and pontoon boat but the regs have changed and it is now a no-body-contact lake. Doesn't bother me though, I fish from a pram. Hmm, maybe Thursday or Friday?

In any case, the Sierra trout season opens the end of this month and the delta should be clearing. Local rivers may still be a little high but foothill lakes will be prime for smallmouth and largemouth.

What we lose this spring will be a bonus this fall with enough water in local streams and rivers to provide plenty of cover for what would otherwise be spooky fish. Lakes will still be full and cold enough to keep fish feeding all day long.'

If you're new to fly fishing, this year should provide a good start to what could become a passion. My grandson is nine, turning ten in mid June and I'm committed to getting him started as a fly fisherman. Earlier attempts with a closed face spinning rod were less than successful. I'm hoping to do better with a fly rod. I have him practicing every weekend. Hey, if a 15 year old girl can be a world champion caster, a healthy ten year old boy has more than a chance to be successful.

On to club business. Because of the unpredictable weather, only one outing is scheduled for the month, Kelsey Bass Ranch on April 20th. This is likely to be the last year that the club fishes this private water since

the property is being sold and the new owners are not interested in maintaining the lake. The fee for fishing the lake is \$85 dollars, payable to Al /Smatsky.

Those planning to fish the lake have the opportunity to prepare at a couple of club events. The April 10th general membership meeting will feature Delta Bass Bugs and a presentation on Delta bass fishing. Enough of a carry over exists that the same flies and presentations will work whether the water be the delta or Kelsey.

A second opportunity takes place at April' 12ths FlyDay Night Tie at the House of Coffees in Lodi. Jerry Neuburger will bring materials for those that want , to tie some gurgler style topwater bass bugs. The tying hours are from 5 to 7:30 or so.

Fir those that are not planning to attend the Kelsey outing, a community service project is available. EBMUD is holding a Kid's Fishing Day at the south pond at Camanche Lake on April 20th, the same day as the Kelsey Outing. Volunteers are asked to assist those parents with kids who may need a little help putting a fish on the stringer. More information will presented at the GM meeting.

The final membership activity is the April Fly of the Month, scheduled for April 24th. This month's tie, the Grey Goose Midge.

This month's GM meeting raffle will have a couple of "silent auction" items. The first a \$100 certificate off the fee of \$390 towards a two day stay at Bialy's Creek Lodge. The second, a certificate for four hours casting instruction by Sam Yee, a FFI certified casting instructor. The certificate is good from April to November this year.

And finally, a full 7 weight outfit, rod, reel, line, leader and fly, top prize at the raffle.

One of our own, Brian Pultz of Delta Bass Bugs to speak at the April 10th meeting

A complete 7 weight outfit, rod, reel, line, leader, fly and two silent auction items at the monthly raffle. OH MY!!!

Winner of the 2016 Costa Bass-n-fly event; Brian has been bass fishing the California Delta his entire life. He has over 30 years experience tournament bass fishing California waters, but his home and true love is the California delta.

Brian has been fly fishing for largemouth Bass for over 20 years and has developed strategies and flies for fly fishing the California Delta based off his vast knowledge of the conventional fishing world. The first fly he developed for Delta Bass Bugs was the Delta Stage Diver. Based off of a double wooly buggie with the addition of a rattle and a deer hair head. This fly suspends in the water column just like your conventional rip bait; one of the most productive baits on the California Delta from fall to spring. The second conventional bait conversion he tackled for DBB was the topwater Frog his answer to that was the DBB Howitzer Popper this fly was designed to be our 4x4 fly to be fished through and over anything. This fly has multiple largemouth over the 8lb mark in the last year including a 9.87lb largemouth taken in June of last year by Brian.

In recent months Brian's passion for swimbait fishing for Bass has leaked into our fly world with the development of some of our largest and most complex flies such as

the Shell Cracker and the Crowd Surfer. The wool shellcracker is our go to subsurface swimbait available in multiple size form the tiny 1.5 inch size 6 all the way up to a 10in double 5/0. The Largemouth bass in the California delta and all over the world eat birds and our Crowd Surfer is our answer to that.

In the future he plans to continue the chase of big bass with new and innovative fly fishing techniques and to educate current and new fly fishermen that largemouth bass should be on the list of top game fish on a fly.

The meeting will be held at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Avenue, Stockton. Doors open at 6:30. Meeting at 7pm, The public is welcome.



Brian making a cast. Notice the fly in the upper right hand corner.

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Come tie some bass bugs at the House of Coffee on the April 12, FlyDay Night Tie, 5 to 7:30pm

Going to Kelsey this month? Need some bugs? Come to the April FlyDay Night Tie at Lodi's House of Coffee, Lockemore and Ham from 5 to 7:30pm. Jerry Neuburger will bring some materials to tie gurglers of all different sizes and colors to the once monthly event. Jerry will furnish the hooks, foam, crystal flash, hackle and some rubber legs to make up some really scary creations. Tiers will have to furnish their own tying tools and thread, preferably flat waxed white or black.

Even if you're not interested in gurglers, the venue is a fun one with snacks, and drinks both beer and non alcoholic, available while tying.



The last dance at Kelsey, April 20th.

By Al Smatsky

After over 25 years of club outings, this will be the club's last outing at the ranch. The owners are in the process of selling the property to a buyer that is not interested in continuing the fishing business.

Every year this outing is very well attended by our Club members and I don't think that it will be any different this year. Kelsey Ranch is located about 28 miles east of Turlock, and east of Snelling, CA. Kelsey Lake is a 125-acre impoundment stocked with trophy size Florida Black Bass. The lake is full and in very good condition. Some early anglers this year are reporting very good fishing. When I receive a fishing report, it is posted on the Excellent Adventures bulletin board. By the time we fish the lake in April, the bass will have already spawned, and the water temperature should be in the mid to upper 60's. The lake should be perfect for all of those Leo's Poppers and Jerry's flip-flop poppers that you have been making.

In 2014 the lake record was broken by a conventional angler that hauled in a 16 lbs 12 oz bass in

mid-January, on the fly fishing end; one SoCa angler landed a black bass over 14 lbs on a woolly-bugger and a bay area angler landed a black bass over 8 lbs on a popper. The California State record for blue gill record was not reestablished but the lake did produce one 3 lbs 14 oz. The lake fished very well all through the summer months.

RECOMMENDATION: The following requirement applies to participants in Guided Float Trip Outings and those Outings where participants use owned, rented or loaned watercraft such as, but not limited to, boats, canoes, kayaks, prams, pontoon boats and float tubes: ***“Each participant should wear a Coast Guard approved protective safety flotation device (SFD) at all times while boarding, disembarking or on board the watercraft.”***

You may sign up any

time by emailing al-gofish@softcom.net or calling Al Smatsky at (209) 368-9261, please do so by April 16th. We will have a sign-up sheet available at the April meeting. Entry passes, along with gate code, will also be available to those that are attending. This year the main gate will be locked and you will need the access code for entry. The cost for the outing is \$85 per person. A barbeque lunch will be provided.

Hope to see you all there!



Bob Sousa with a LMB caught on April Fools Day. Photo by Al Smatsky

Did you find a box of shad flies?

Al Smatsky had a box of about 200 shad flies at the club's last meeting at the John

R. Williams School. When checking later, he can't find them and believes he may have left them on one of the tables or

benches. If you found same, Al would be very grateful for their return.

The April Fly of the Month, the grey goose midge, is a proven lake and stream performer

The April Fly of the Month, the Grey Goose Midge, is a proven lake and stream pattern and one that a tier can build on with a number of variations. The challenge in tying this fly is the size, the largest a 16, the smallest (that I tie) a 20.

After mastering the basic technique. Tiers can add beads, change the dubbing to thread or flashabou, use single and double wire ribbing, add a tail shuck or some emerger fibers at the head.

The class will be taught at the Nature Center, Oak Grove Park, on April 24, with a start time of 6:30. Materials will be available to tie the pattern in all three sizes, 16, 18, and 20. The class has a registration fee of \$5.00 to cover material costs.



Fish with the Best Stillwater Fishers— The One Fly – White Pine Lake, May 11

DFF member, Jean Fujimura crushed almost all the contestants at the Calaveras Fly Fishers' One Fly Contest held at White Pine Lake near Arnold last May. Can DFF dominate the Calaveras club members again? Come to this year's event and enjoy the friendly competition and watch the best stillwater fishers from two clubs display the basic techniques for catching trout from a lake.

White Pine Lake is a small lake with no power boats allowed, has free public access, and the park is well maintained by the local community. The lake is relatively safe to learn how to fly fish from a personal watercraft. This time of year, White Pine is easy to catch hatchery trout or local warmwater fish. Registration will start at 7 AM, fishing starts at 9 and ends at 1 PM. Prizes will be awarded to the persons who catches the most

trout or the largest fish using just one fly. Contestants pay a \$25 fee that goes toward a local education fund. Included in the fee: coffee and donuts in the morning and a huge BBQ Tri-tip lunch afterward the contest. If you don't participate in the contest, you can join the lunch for only \$10.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Bob Fujimura at the April membership meeting or by email at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com by May 5. The CFF organizers need an accurate head-count to ensure that there is enough food for lunch. Bob will pro-

vide more information on the events and suggested gear recommendations in the May issue of the Newsletter or by email attachment.



It is time to rethink California's Waterfix

"My wife said that I have so many rods and reels that I can not possibly use them all. My reply was that I have rods and reels to fish, rods, and reels to tinker with and then my fine crafted rods and reels to "fondle and admire," while dreaming of fishing during the cold winter months. You can imagine what kind of look she gave me."

.. Jimmy D. Moore

California's last two gubernatorial administrations wasted 16 years by not defining viable solutions for the state's water crisis. For almost two decades our water policies have been generated by political and self-interest groups rather than policies that best serve the public interest. With the election of Governor Newsom, we are hopeful for more positive actions for the state's water issues.

This March, 10, public interest organizations sent a letter to Wade Crowfoot, the Secretary of Natural Resources and Jared Blumenfeld, the Secretary of CalEPA. The 10 public interest organizations included Restore the Delta (RTD) and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA). The purpose of the letter was to draw attention to five key issues that previous administrations have ignored. First, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) needs to examine and consider the required reasonable alternates the Twin Tunnels project. Second, we now have to face a new reality with the federal government that is committed to increasing the export of Delta water to southern agribusinesses. Third, we must have an honest cost-benefit analysis of any statewide project. Fourth, a new project will require a new EIR and that EIR should be made available for public comment and review. And finally, the environmental justice com-

munities must be included in the water decision-making process.

The letter points out that Gov. Brown refused to consider or develop an alternative to his Twin Tunnels Project. Brown ignored the fact that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) required reasonable alternatives. He failed to do so for 8 years. The National Academy of Sciences said that Brown's drafts of the Twin Tunnels Project was "Choosing an alternative project before evaluating alternative ways to reach a preferred outcome would be a post hoc rationalization--in other words putting the cart before the horse. Scientific reasons for not considering actions are not presented in the plan." The final WaterFix Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact statement did nothing to correct Brown's consistent failure. Brown's proposed alternatives were actually nothing more than the same pig wearing different lipsticks.

The letter's authors noted they were unsuccessful in getting Gov. Brown to include alternations that would increase much needed freshwater flows through the Delta for over seven years. Finally, in 2016 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a lower courts decision and gave full consideration to the reduced water flows out of the Delta. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals determined these exported flows were, "In large part reflections of a policy decision to promote the economic security of agriculture users, rather than an explanation of reducing maximization contact quantities was so infeasible to preclude studies of the environmental impacts." That was the incident when the Bureau of Reclamation (BR) nearly destroyed the states salmon population. The letter's authors suggest that Gov. Newsom administration now has the opportunity to dem-

onstrate common sense and look to real alternatives as opposed to former Gov. Brown's WaterFix Project.

Unfortunately, we now have to face a new reality with California's water. Under President Trump's direction, the federal government is fully committed to maximizing water export from the Delta to southern San Joaquin Valley agribusiness regardless of the consequences of that action on the Delta. In October of 2018, the President issued a Presidential Memorandum on Promoting a The Reliable Supply and Delivery of Water in the West. In a previous newsletter, you will recall his orders to the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce to rapidly expedite the water transition. The president also ordered secretaries to identify procedures and regulations that "burden" the implantation of his water transfer. In the memorandum "burden" means "to unnecessarily obstruct, delay, curtail, impede, or otherwise impose a significant cost on the permitting, utilization, transmission, delivery, of water supply resources and infrastructure."

The authors are concerned that under the Constitution, the federal government can overrule California law. The federal government wants to supersede California environmental law and state water allocation protections. The only protection we have is if the state does not build or proceed with a tunnel project.

A major concern of the public interest groups is that the DWR has never prepared an honest benefit-cost analysis. An accurate analysis must be prepared for any proposed Tunnel Plan. All former plans were focused on the economic interest of water agencies. This policy is dishonest and continued throughout Gov. Brown's tenure in office. The authors expressed optimism Gov. Newsom will require an

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

honest statewide analysis. They point out that it is essential for a well-informed decision on a water project that will cost taxpayers billions of dollars. The authors noted Gov. Brown's WaterFix had no provisions for clean drinking water for a million Californians.

Hopefully, Gov. Newsom will enact the authors "A Sustainable Water Plan (SWP)". The SWP was presented 4 years ago after the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and the WaterFix were shown to be non-feasible by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corp. of Engineers and the National Science Foundation. The SWP suggests: "1) reducing exports from the Delta to 3,000 acre-feet, 2) spending funds on such measures as water conservation, 3) Water recycling, 4) groundwater storage and treatment, 5) desalination, 6) agricultural water conservation, 7) conversion to drip irrigation in export areas, 8) annual crops in export areas be fallowed in drought years, 9) removing from production of drainage-impaired lands in export areas that worsen water quality by such consequences as selenium discharge." They also want any new state or federal policies to be made available for public discussion and public review.

The authors emphasized that it is the well past time environmental justice communities be included in California's water decision-making. They pointed out it is time to view water issues through the lens of the Human

Right to Water and environmental justice. "The Delta includes large environmental justice communities that would be harmed by the construction and operation of the WaterFix Tunnel. Harm would include worsened water quality and toxic algae blooms." They comment that regardless of what the current governor has been told he should view all reasonable alternatives and evaluate them in a fair and open comparative process.

In discussing Gov. Newsom's water policy and agenda with RTD's Barbara Barrigan Parilla and CSPA's Chris Shults both expressed guarded, we-will-have-to-see, optimism. Unlike his predecessor, Gov. Newsom does not seem to agree with the president's attempt to export the Delta's water to corporate agribusiness with

total disregard for its consequences. Shults and Barrigan Parilla are right, we will have to wait and see.

Ron Forbes

Changing tunnels

State officials say the redesigned water tunnel project would reduce impacts on the landscape and soften visual and environmental impacts. Here are some of the changes:

1. Eliminate the pumping plants, permanent power lines, and sediment basins at the intakes.
2. Use gravity rather than pumps to feed the tunnels.
3. Reduce visual impact near Hood.
4. Remove permanent transmission lines near Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge.
5. Consolidate pumping plants planned at the three northern intakes to two new pumping plants at the southern end of the tunnels at Clifton Court Forebay. From there, water would be pumped by existing water-export pumps to canals heading south.

KEY

- Tunnel route
- Main construction shaft
- Vent structure
- New river intakes
- New or expanded forebays
- Tunnel material areas



Source: California Natural Resources Agency The Sacramento Bee

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More of the webmaster's musings...

By Amy Terra (late at night)

The club went on an outing to Pyramid Lake this last weekend. Twelve members joined in the fun- 8 men and 4 women. This was not just an overnight outing but 2 nights and three days of fishing and hanging out at a mystical place that has big and often elusive fish.

The weekend began with everyone arriving and touching base. Many of us ended up on the same beach. A few fish were caught and lots of jokes, stories and camaraderie was present on the beach. The scenery was striking but most participants were focused on their indicator. The evening wrapped up with a few drinks at Crosby's and a great family style dinner made



Amy didn't mention that she and Dena led the outing group in fish caught with two each. Bob Fujimura caught more but he was at the lake for several more days and used a guide part of the time. Here's a photo of Amy's biggest.

by our fishmeisters. Family style is a great description of the meal. The banter felt like family- jokes and teasing combined with heartfelt inquiries about life were plentiful. Saturday brought amazing bonding as fishing often does. There were rescues and nettings. There were pictures and

congratulations on catches. It was super cool. While fishing wasn't on fire, fish were caught. People caught fish for the first time at Pyramid. Some did not. I think we all had a great time. We definitely caught the best catch possible- time laughing and enjoying each other!

Mettler

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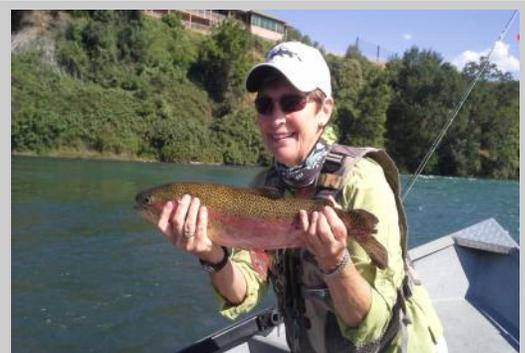
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