



# Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume XLIII

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August 2019

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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## Calendar

August 9—Fly Day Night Tying

August 14 General Membership meeting

August 17 Lake Alpine Outing

August 21, BOD meeting

August 25, Lake Tulloch outing

August 30 Open casting practice

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## Putting the wheels back on...



It's time to fire up the club engine and get things moving for the fall. We start off the season on August 9th, an open tying session at the House of Coffee, Ham & Lockeford, Lodi, August 9th from 5pm to 7pm.

Next comes the President's meeting at Oak Grove Park, 2nd Wednesday of the month, (August 14th) at 7pm. We'll cover some Sierra bugs that everyone should be able to identify, both at the larval and adult stages. It will be a multimedia presentation with video of the little buggers in the water as well as hand outs of some ID sheets for take home studying.

Dues. Yes, it's time for our annual dues drive. Our renewal month is August and all of you should have received invoices via email or in a few cases, snail mail. As an incentive to pay your dues on time, the BOD has authorized a \$100 gift certificate drawing for payment of your dues before September 1st. Several options are available for payment. You can pay cash or check to either Dena Mason, Membership Chair or President Jerry at any time, you can mail a check to our treasurer, here's the address:

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

Or, you can pay by credit card on line by responding to the email invoice you've received. If you've lost that email, either ask for it to be resent by emailing [gneuburg@gmail.com](mailto:gneuburg@gmail.com) or just wait until a second copy will be sent to all members who have not paid, sometime around August 20th. For those that have forgotten, here's the dues structure: Senior \$25, Individual \$30, Family \$35.

Remember, if you pay before September

1st, you'll automatically be added to the \$100 gift certificate drawing to Sportsman's Warehouse.

As a part of putting the wheels back on, the club is holding two outings during August. The first is to Lake Alpine on Saturday, August 16th. Fishmiester Sam Thompson has provided an outing description posted both in this newsletter and posted on our website, [DeltaFlyFishers.Com](https://DeltaFlyFishers.Com).

The first BOD meeting of the fall season will take place on Wednesday, August 21, 6:30pm. Oak Grove Park.

A second outing, this one to a brand new location, Lake Tulloch, is on the books with our VP, Amy as fishmiester. We'll be targeting smallmouth, a super aggressive little fish that hits both topwater and streamers. Again, an article is included in this newsletter and is posted on the website.

The first Casting Practice of the fall will take place on August 30th, Legion Park, Hutchins and Vine, Lodi, from 5pm to 7. (Amy spaced on the July session and was a no show. Is that a nomination for Incomplete Angler?) She apologizes to anyone showing up.

Finally, the club thanks Mike Dempewolf for his \$100 contribution to Salmon in the Classroom. Because of his and other very generous contributions by club members, we have over \$2,000 earmarked for expenses to keep that program going in our local school districts. Every time we sponsor another classroom we create a group of kids that are more aware and respect and appreciate our environment and our waterways. And committed kids make for good citizens.

Time to go fishin'...

Amy's coming out party

# First Fish on the Fly

My first fish on the fly was a striper on the Delta. Almost four years ago, President Jerry Neuburger answered my Facebook message to DFF and took me out to the Delta on his boat. I had never fly fished before and didn't even know that you could fly fish off of a boat. Jerry showed me how to cast, motored over to some weed beds and had me cast up near them and strip the line in. A solid striper erupted from the water, taking my topwater fly in an explosion of water and fish. Somehow, I set the hook, landed the fish and caught my breath. I was instantly hooked on fly fishing.



Jerry and I fished the Delta on a regular basis over the next three years. Through these trips I learned about this amazing waterway, caught lots of fish, spent time with my dear friend Jerry and had a ton of fun. I think fishing the Delta helped me stay hooked on fly fishing while I navigated the steep learning curve of fly fishing rivers. It is easy to keep trying when you go out on the Delta and have double digit fish days. I was getting skunked on rivers for quite a while. I would begin to feel frustrated and a day on the Delta was just the fix. Nothing better than catching a bunch of fish to help fill your motivation bucket.

When Captain Jerry hung up his guide hat and sold his boat, I knew that I was going to miss the time on the water. I would miss our long conversations, beautiful views and catching all of those fish. The largemouth, smallmouth and striped bass

that grabbed my flies helped solidify my love of fly fishing and I will be forever grateful.

I didn't necessarily realize how much I missed fishing the Delta until I went fishing with Captain Bryce Tedford this last week. I actually booked two days of fishing, two days apart. The first day, DFF member Debbie Cott and I went for largemouth bass. Fishing for largemouth involves a couple of things. First off, it starts really early or finishes really late. We chose an early start. We arrived before dawn and ventured out of the marina to an amazing sunrise. The fish began hitting right when we started fishing. There is nothing quite like a topwater bass take. The bass suck the fly down and almost taunt you to be quick enough to set the hook. It is a challenge to set the hook and land these fish. The larger bass are smart. They run for cover and try to get lost in the weeds. The shake their heads hard and try to lose the hook. Fishing for largemouth has a smaller percentage of fish to hand when compared to hits on the fly from smallmouth bass but the high from that aggressive topwater take is like a hit of a drug- you just want another and another and another. Luckily, Captain Bryce put us in water that gave us many chances to land fish. We had ample hits on our flies and many fish to hand.



Debbie had never landed a largemouth bass before and she was a natural bass fisherman. Largemouth bass requires effi-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## DFE Officers



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Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)

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209-339-0683

Trout Bout (November)

Charlie Reames

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Amy Terra

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The Delta Fly Fishers Inc.

PO Box 77862

Stockton, CA 95207-7862

## Your dues are due. Pay before September 1 to be included in the drawing for a \$100 gift certificate from Sportsman's Warehouse

Paying your dues is now easier than ever with three ways to pay. You can pay online, responding to the email invoice the club sent you, and paying by credit card mail in a check, or pay in person by check or cash.

If you were a member this previous year and have your email address on file you should have received an email with an invoice around July 19 or 20. To pay by credit or debit card, open the emailed invoice and click on the make a payment

icon. It will take you to a secure site where you can enter your credit card info and even store the card for future purchases if you want. The software will automatically provide an online receipt and the treasurer will be notified to enter your name in the drawing.

If you want to mail in a check, mail it to: Jeanette Neuburger, DFF Treasurer  
5 North California Street  
Lodi, CA 95240.

The third option is to hand over a check or cash to Dena Mason or president Jerry at one of the club functions during the month.

The dues schedule is: Seniors \$25, Individual \$30 and Family \$35.

Remember, to be eligible to win the drawing, you must have your dues paid by August 31. The drawing itself will be held at the membership meeting at the John R. School on September 11th.

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## It's all about the bugs. The August membership meeting will feature a multimedia show about the most frequently found insects in the Sierras that trout love to eat.

Have you ever approached new water, be it a lake or stream and wondered, "Where do I start?" If it's in the Sierras you're probably targeting trout. And most trout are insectivores. (They eat insects).

So, a basic knowledge of the most common marine insects can be a great help. If it's a stream, you'll probably want to wade in and turn a few rocks. If it's a lake, you'll want to find the "littoral zone" (where the plants grow) and see if you can find any hatches or surfacing fish.

Even if you are unlucky enough to be skunked when doing your basic stream or lake research, a knowledge of the likelihood of finding certain types of "bugs" in the water will help.

The program will be presented by the club's president, Jerry Neuburger and will feature, a PowerPoint presentation of both photos and videos of common Sierra insects and where and when to find them. Handouts will be available as well.

The program will take place at the NATURE CENTER, Oak Grove Park, on

August 14 at 7:00pm. For those new DFF members who have never been to the park, just mention at the gate that you are a DFF member and you'll be admitted without a fee. The Nature Center is just to the right of the admission booth.

Historically, this meeting draws only a portion of our regular membership so no raffle or refreshments will be offered. Remember, if you haven't paid your dues, you can do so at this meeting and be part of the early bird raffle for the \$100 gift certificate from Sportsman's Warehouse.

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## We do more than hold meetings and sponsor outings...

Have you taken advantage of all of the activities the club provides. We have people involved in lots more. Even as we just shake the rust off after the summer break, we have two August activities worthy of your attention. The first is the FlyDay Night fly tying sessions at the House of Coffee, Lockeford and Ham, Lodi. The tying session takes place the second Friday of every month from 5 to 7pm. It's

open tying with each member bringing their own gear and materials and tying a few of their favorite or needed flies to fill out their box. Even new tiers participate and in the process, learn new ties and techniques from more veteran members. August's session will take place on Friday, August 9th.

The second event is the Friday night casting practice, scheduled for the last Friday

of the month. The event takes place at the northwest corner of Legion Park, west of the tennis courts. Either Amy or Dena provides support, setting up a casting course and showing some of the techniques and skills they learned in their classes with Gary Turri. This month, the event will take place on August 30th, again, from 5 to 7pm.

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## A mid month, August 17th, outing to Lake Alpine

Lake Alpine is a put and take lake on Highway 4, about 110 miles from Stockton. Director Sam Thompson has volunteered to act as fishmeister for the outing and offers the following information.

Meet at Lake Alpine off Hwy 4, Saturday

7:30 am at the East Shore parking lot. Plan to walk or float along the south shore of the lake working towards the dam. Nymphs on floating or intermediate lines for Rainbows or Browns. Sandwiches and soft drinks will be served for lunch. If your planning on going please

email [Sam Thompson](#) for further details and a head count for lunch.

A bass outing on new waters, Sunday, August 25, 5:30am until the fish stop biting

# Smallmouth fishing on Lake Tulloch

By Amy Terra

Club members have reported that Lake Tulloch is producing some fun small mouth bass action. The fish vary in size and fight hard. As a result, the club is shifting its monthly Delta bass outing to Lake Tulloch for August.

Lake Tulloch is nested just below lake New Melones and 30 min east of Oakdale CA, In fact New Melones feeds Lake Tulloch daily with its water supply. This lake is very small yet holds tons of shoreline to fish. The lake is loaded with rainbow trout, German brown trout, small and largemouth bass, crappie and bluegill. The morning and evening bite are the best. This lake has four main areas, the main body, Black Creek, Green Spring and the River arm. The main body is full of rocky points, ledges and a few boat docks. Black Creek has flats, grass beds, creek guts, coves, ditches rocky points and ledges and a ton of docks. Green Spring has weed beds, laydown trees, coves and rocky shorelines. The river arm leads to the bottom of Lake New Melones and is a canyon type river arm filled with giant boulders and steep bluff walls and is all a 5 zone. The Black Creek and Green Spring Arms hold the better population of Largemouth Bass on this lake. The main body holds plenty of Smallmouth Bass and the river has a ton of Red eye Bass. Lake Tulloch Rises and falls daily so be careful of water levels when going to this lake.

The lake can be fished from shore, from small personal watercraft or a boat can be launched. Recommendations from those that have fished Tulloch include being on the water by 5:45. The topwater bite can be very early so if you want to go out before that it's not a bad idea. As for equipment, this lake has a lot of small fish

in it. There are some big fish but there are a ton of fish in this lake. So, a 5wt capable of throwing a small popper or other small topwater flies is a good rod. Streamers would be small white and olive and white. Members have used the "float and fly" technique all the time on this lake and can be some of the most fun action. Fishing from a boat would be nice but small float tube or kayak would be fine. There are even areas where people could bank fish and find fish.

Assistance and advice will be at the boat ramp at 5:30 to help people figure things out. We have people who have fished there and are willing to share hot spots to catch.

Launch fees are \$15 per vehicle on

weekends and \$10 on weekdays.

If you don't have a boat trailer, the price is as above. With a trailer, add \$5 for the trailer.

No other fees, except for pets. \$3 per day per dog.

Not interested in bass fishing? Prefer river trout action? Then venture downstream and explore the Stanislaus River if flows are safe- but plan on joining us for lunch after!

[Drifters Restaurant](#) opens at 11 am on Sundays and would be a great place to grab lunch after fishing!



(Continued from page 2)

cient and accurate casting. Strikes are often not converted into fish to hand but the fish that are landed tend to be bigger and beefier than the smallmouth bass.



fishing. Small mouth fishing is easier on the fisherman too. You cast up near rock walls and strip the fly in and the small mouth gladly eat it. The hook rate is much better than with largemouth and the casting requirement is much more forgiving to the angler. Anglers with little or no experience can go smallmouth fishing and land fish. This is often a great first-time experience for a newer fisherman and smallmouth fishing is a wonderful experience for anyone who just enjoys catching fish. Leo and I found fish all day.

Smallmouth are fun because they tend to aggressively hit the topwater fly. They put on a show reminiscent of a miniature shark week by jumping up around the fly when they take it. A small sized smallmouth will fight hard and they put a bend in the

Our day wrapped up with some subsurface striper action. We were tired, our arms were sore from casting and we were satisfied with our catches. I was reminded of all those times I fished the Delta with Jerry and why I fell in love with fly fishing.

Fast forward to Monday. This was my last day of vacation before heading back to work and founding DFF member Leo and I headed out with Captain Bryce to fish for smallmouth. Smallmouth bass fishing starts a little later in the morning. We set out well after sunrise and began

sweet Fenwick I was fishing every time I hooked one. When we finally called the day, I felt like I had caught more than enough fish to feel satisfied. As Captain Bryce brought us to the marina, I felt that feeling I had felt when I first started fishing with Jerry on his boat- a great reminder of why I love to fish the Delta.

The Delta is not only the namesake of our club but is an amazing fishery in our own backyard. However, it is large and, while it holds a bunch of

fish, their location at any given time can vary. Fishing it with a guide will increase your chances of fishing in areas where the fish are plentiful and eating at that time. We are fortunate to have a Delta guide as a DFF member in Bryce Tedford. He fishes stripers in the spring and fall and large and smallmouth bass all summer. As a courtesy to club members, he also offers a club discount. Give him a call and check it out yourselves- If you are looking for a challenge with a big fish potential, get up early or stay up late and fish for largemouth. If you are more interested in a sure thing with a gentleman's starting time, ask for the smallmouth focused trip. Or, even better, ask Captain Bryce what is working at the moment and he will guide you in trip selection. And, if you want to split the trip, give me a call. I can't wait to get back on the Delta and will gladly join you!



Conservation by Ron Forbes

# Green water and giant swamp rats

*"Angling may be so like mathematics that it can never be fully learned."*

Izaak Walton

**WATER IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE GREEN IS IT?**

Stockton is having a cyanobacteria bloom. Cyanobacteria is also referred to as blue-green algae. Why is this bloom

happening and why should we be concerned? Cyanobacteria bacteria is a single-celled species that lives in fresh, salt and brackish water. It thrives in a warm nutrient-rich environment like our Delta. Despite its common name, blue-green algae, it is more closely related to bacteria. The bacteria is the origin of all plants. On the positive side, it produces nitrogen fertilizer used for beans and rice.

However, cyanobacteria blooms can be

harmful. They can easily become toxic to the environment, humans, and animals. When they become toxic, scientists refer to them as cyanobacteria harmful algal blooms (CyanoHABs) or (HAB). Freshwater HABs use up much of the available oxygen in the water and kill fish. They also block the sunlight that aquatic organisms need to survive. HABs produce dangerous toxins that are capable of affecting

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warm and that threatens to exacerbate the problem. The Delta's waterways have the potential of becoming a "toxic soup." Our elected officials need to be made aware that constant Delta maintenance must be made mandatory. RTD's Barbara Barrigan-Parilla urges us to 'Write letters, make calls, and tell City and County that you expect basic maintenance to protect our waterways for public health. Be respectful, and get moving before we lose control of the situation.' With more heat in store for the valley, our algae blooms will only intensify.

**NUTRIA UPDATE: DELTA FLY FISHERS CAN HELP CDFW AS NUTRIAS DESTRUCTION OF THE DELTA WORSENS**

Last September's Newsletter contained my Conservation article about the Delta's invasion by nutria (*Myocastor coypus*). This month's article updates the current status of the nutria infestation. As members of the Delta Fly Fishers, we are in a unique position to aid CDFW in locating and helping to eradicate the nutria. Many of our members spend hours in the Delta fishing and are keen observers of the Delta environment. With our observations, we can watch for signs of nutria activity and report these observations to CDFW so the nutria can be eradicated. You probably will not see a nutria, but you can observe tell-tail signs of their presence. This information can be passed along to CDFW.

The nutria is a giant water rat from South America. They were introduced into the United States in the 1890s for their fur. They were introduced to our Southern Coast and the Central Valley in the 1940s and 50s as fur farms. When the fur trade collapsed, the nutria was promoted as an effected way to manage aquatic vegetation. It was soon discovered their release was having a disastrous effect on the environment. Eradication programs were initiated. Once they were in 30 states and are now found in 18. California had nutria

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both the brains and livers of humans and animals. They are a major concern when occurring in drinking, recreational, and swimming waters. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers them such a high risk that HABs are now included on the EPA's Drinking Water Contaminant List.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has listed HAB poisoning that dates back to the late 1800s. HAB toxicity usually occurs in three ways. The first is by drinking water that contains cyanobacterial toxins. The second is by swimming in water that contains either the toxins or contains high levels of cyanobacterial cells. The third route is via respiration of the cells or toxins. An example would be using contaminated water when watering your lawn.

There are multiple health effects humans can receive from being exposed to high levels of cyanobacteria toxins or cells. These include:

- . Neurotoxic reactions
- . Intestinal and stomach illness
- . Liver damage
- . Respiratory issues
- . Allergic reactions
- . Skin irritations

Cyanobacteria can kill fish, dogs, young children, and wildlife. However, this is a subject with insufficient scientific research. Recent evidence suggests there may be links between these exposures and chronic illnesses such as liver cancer and digestive-system cancer.

The Stockton Record recently reported

Stockton's bubble system is broken. The system was installed to circulate water at the upper end of the Stockton's Deep Water Channel. In 2006 the city installed a system of pipes on the channels so the water could be oxygenated and disrupt the algae masses. This system works in conjunction with another system that acts as a spillway. These systems are located just west of the Hotel Stockton. Both functions are to keep the water "moving and churning." Connie Cochran, Stockton Public Relations Officer, has recently informed the city the system has malfunctioned and is inoperable. Unfortunately, the malfunction is on the channel's floor and divers will be needed to access the problem. According to Cochran, "They dive and tell us what repairs need to be made and determine how long it will take and how much it will cost. We expect the divers in the next week or so. In the meantime, the Deep Water Channel has taken on a green hue, typical of HAB's, from the Interstate 5 overpass to the end of McLeod Lake.

Restore the Delta (RTD) has become involved with the HAB. Maintaining high-quality water standards in the Delta is a prime concern of RTD. Both the state's Environmental Protection Agency (CALEPA) and the Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) have been informed of the cyanobacteria algae bloom and it will be monitored for toxicity

RTD points out that Stockton is a prime location for Cyno-HABS. We are at the bottom of the state's watershed and have low water flows. The Delta's agriculture provides a nutrient-rich warm water environment. Our climate has become increasingly



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tem of boroughs that will reach a depth of almost 20 feet! The potential loss of river banks, levees, irrigation systems, is enormous.

A recent article by California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) gives more information about the nutria and what we can do to help. When I wrote last September's article, 200 nutrias had been killed in the Delta. Almost a year later, as of July 3rd, only 589 have been destroyed. In early July of this year, 69 nutrias have been taken in San Joaquin County. This becomes

we have to know how to identify the nutria. They are large nocturnal rodents. They can weigh in excess of 20lbs and can reach a length of 2.5 feet. Their tails are from 12 to 18 inches in length and are round with sparse hair. They usually have a dark coat with lighter guard hairs. The front feet have 5 toes but leave a track showing 4 toes. The 5th toe is residual. The hindfoot has 4 webbed toes and the 5th toe is webbing free.

Other species can be confused with nutrias such as beaver (they can weigh 60lbs with a flat tail) and muskrat (triangular tail and weigh 5 lbs.). The American mink (with a fully furred tail, dark whiskers, and has a body resembling a weasel) and the river otter (long body and a thick fully furred tail).

The nutria is found anywhere near estuaries, freshwater, rivers, canals, lakes, ponds, sloughs, and wetlands. The Delta is the perfect environment for them with its huge area of interconnecting waterways. The water-rat leaves tell-tale signs that are easily seen.

- . They are destructive eaters and only eat the lower section of the plants. The upper sections are not eaten.

- . They create "runs" between their boroughs and feeding sites.

- . They take cuttings and create platforms for feeding or grooming.

- . The entrance to their boroughs is below the water level but may be seen as the tides change.

- . Their scat has distinct grooves and floats on the water. The scat is about 2 inches in length.

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populations in Stanislaus, Fresno, Merced, and Tuolumne Counties. Then, in April of last year, two nutrias were found in San Joaquin County.

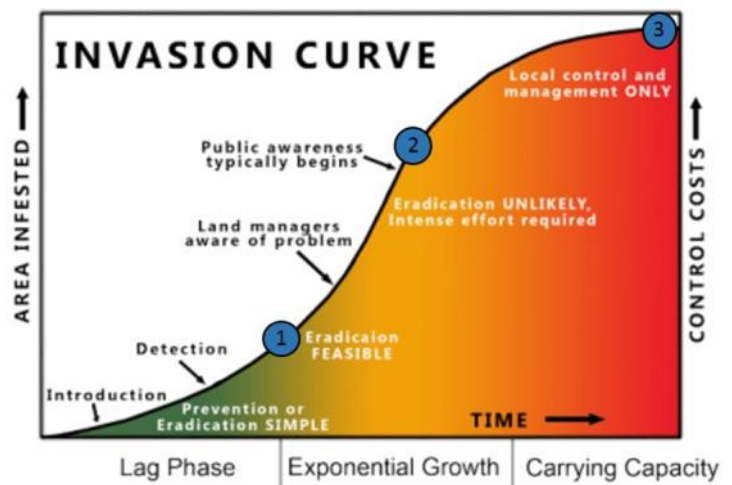
Both water interests and farmers in the Delta have good reason to be terrified of this invasive species. Nutria are nocturnal invasive swamp rats. Today they are wreaking havoc with the Delta's environment. They are voracious herbivores. Every day they consume up to 25% of their body weight with plants growing above and below ground. Because of the nutrias feeding habits, they destroy an additional 10 times more of plant material than they consume. This causes a devastating loss to existing plants, Delta crops, and to the integrity of the soil. The nutria will burrow over 160 ft. into levees and banks to create a vastly complex sys-



Trevor Sheffels, Portland State University

alarming when you understand that a female nutria becomes fertile within eight months of birth and can produce three litters a year. Each litter will produce 12 or more offspring. Their populations increase exponentially. In May, a population of nutria was found near Rough and Ready Island. That is 16 miles distant from any other known population of swamp rats and a sign that the species is migrating rapidly. Despite all the dangers the nutria threatens, the CDFW had only assigned 6 people to cover 2 million acres for several months "due to funding problems."

CDFW asks for our help eradicating the swamp rat. First,



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Pictures are worth a thousand words. The CDFW has published an "Invasion Curve" graph (see picture). Without a lot of talk or explanation, it visually describes the longer we wait to eradicate, the more area will be infested and the more it will cost eradicate the nutria. Unfortunately what the graph does not show is where we are on the graph in real-time and how much CDFW initial delays have cost us and if their delay has made eradi-

cation impossible.

This is how we can help CDFW. When you are fishing the Delta, if you have a sighting or potential sign, photograph it. Immediately:

. Report it to CDFW's Invasive Species Program online.

. By email: [invasive @wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:invasive@wildlife.ca.gov)

. By phone at 866 440 9530

Although good photos are improbable, if

you can get pictures of their whiskers, front and rear paws, or tail, CDFW would appreciate that information. They would also appreciate size, reference points, or objects nearby.

I am always impressed with members of our club who fish the Delta frequently. Their skills in observing are truly amazing. When we fish the Delta keep our eyes open for signs of the nutria. Eradication of the nutria is critical. And we can make the difference!

C.J. Webb's

## Eastern Sierra Focus

**CalTrans has had their "STAY ALERT DEER MIGRATION"** on their overhead lighted signs since opening of Trout Season and want drivers to be aware that the Mule deer are **STILL** migrating to their summer grounds at lower elevations and crossing the roads. This seasonal event causes accidents and death, so please stay vigilant and watch out for deer browsing near or along the roadside.

**Weather Conditions** – Early July weather was great and continued with constant threats of thunderstorms, but to date nothing but red sky at night in the higher elevations. Rain hit Lee Vining Tuesday and Bridgeport Wednesday night. **THEN Thursday, the Virginia's were swallowed in a deluge for about 4 hours, woo-hoo!** Guessing that the added rain will make add to the run-off with a lot of

areas making it difficult to maneuver in some streams. There is still a lot of snow in the backcountry so it will most likely be a couple more weeks until it slows to safer conditions. Flows on streams still need to drop and it won't be long until they level off, probably in another couple weeks. The monsoonal moisture has returned to the eastern sierra. This week we can expect some afternoon thundershowers that will cool us down during the hottest part of the days. Most areas are fishing exceptionally well whether stillwater or moving water. Bug-Bugs, bugs and more bugs, so get your best "stuff" ready and hit the great waters that hold the Mono County Trophy Trout.

Fishing Tip:

The first thing I always suggest to everyone when they arrive at any water, lake or stream, is take some time to scan the area and get a good sense of where fish are holding/feeding ei-

ther by observing at lake-side or if necessary to gain elevation to see the lake's structure as to depth, channels, or obstructions. This is done to avoid wasting time in areas that do not hold fish. Trout tend to move around in high elevation lakes as they are the recipients of the best airborne food available and learning to watch the surface is mandatory in a lake. This is never a waste of time and you will become better at this if you do it enough. In streams it takes time to train your eyes to become proficient at spotting trout. They're experts at camouflage and often hold out of sight to avoid detection. It's impossible to spot every fish in a stream and the majority of us catch most of our fish blind casting, but it's the really smart trout, where getting a visual on them really pays off. Lastly, always

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**BYRCE TEDFORD**  
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**Stockton Store Hours**

**Monday - Saturday**

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**Sundays**

**10:00AM - 6:00PM**



**10536 Trinity Parkway**

**Stockton, CA**

**Tel. (209)851-7400**

**Store Manager: Aric Emery**



(Continued from page 8)

scan the areas where you can clearly see the bottom first and this will eliminate a lot of “dead” water.

**Legislative News – CA Legislature is on a one month summer vacation and will resume August 12<sup>th</sup>; at that time all standing bills not resolved will be heard. Good news is that the “Bill” is not dead.**

**AB1387** - Assembly member Jim wood of Santa Rosa authored Assembly Bill 1387 that will transition California's calendar-based fishing license to one that is valid a full 365 days from the date of purchase. The bill, sponsored by the California Sportfishing League (CSL), is co-authored by Assembly member James Gallagher of Yuba City and a bipartisan group of 12 other legislators.

**CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**2020 Proposed Fishing Regulations**  
**- UPDATE**

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland/Trout-Plan/Regulation-Simplification>). No change.

**Kern River Fish Hatchery Changes Focus**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) has announced that the Kern River Hatchery has reopened to the public with a new mission: To stop raising put-and-take stocker trout and to begin raising solely the Kern River rainbow trout and to re-stock the native fish throughout the Kern River Basin, high in the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

New facilities recently constructed at the Kern River Hatchery in Kernville are designed to breed rear and facilitate the planting of the Kern River rainbow trout, one of the 12 subspecies of trout native to California. The goal is to plant the native strain of trout instead of other domesticated strains of rainbow trout, which are the focus of the vast majority of fishermen in California.

“This program integrates genetic science, hatchery management techniques and common sense,” said Gerald Hatler, California Department of Fish and Wildlife regional fisheries program manager. “It is an innovative and exciting new project.” Unfortunately, it will not provide more angling opportunity for the majority of California anglers, but less opportunity.

The hatchery, located in Kernville, Kern County, is open daily to the public from 8am to 3pm.

**CDFW ‘Buy a Stamp’ to help a Game Warden**

Officials at the CDFW are urging anglers to contribute to a Warden Stamp Program that helps game wardens and the enforcement of fish-and-wildlife laws. According to the CDFW, pur-

chase of the \$5 stamp will “procure vital equipment, protective gear, and training for wildlife officers and enhance the department’s K-9 Program.” Information on how to make a donation is available at:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/wardenstamp](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/wardenstamp)

**CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION**

The next meeting is August 7-8, 2019 for the California Fish and Game Commission. For their agenda go to: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=170994&inline>. Please refer to the agenda for important meeting information and deadlines. See ITEM 15 below.

**15. Strategic planning**

This agenda item will be held in a workshop format,

where commissioners and members of the public will

engage in dialogue about the Commission’s strategic

plan. The item will begin at 2:00 p.m. or 30 minutes

after the last agenda item heard today, whichever is

later.

(A) Review adopted vision, mission, and core values

(B) Discuss and make initial recommendations for

(Continued on page 10)

**Mettler**

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potential goals

(C) Discuss next steps in the planning process

**CA Fish and Game Commission** is seeking a talented and exceptional executive Director to take the helm of a high performing team to support and carryout the mission of the Commission. The deadline for applications is August 14, 2019 and interviews will be held in Sacramento on August 28, 2019. For more information and instructions on how to apply for this exciting opportunity, please see the recruitment flyer at <http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=171096&inline>

Questions regarding the position should be directed to Program Manager David Thesell at (916)654-9903 or David.Thesell@fgc.ca.gov

### **Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Stocking**

Updated trout releases will be on their web-site (<http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FishPlants/>) or call their specific region (Inland Deserts 855.887.1275)

**CDFW has an updated free downloadable app for** Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations application at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/regulations>. It tracks your current GPS location and will tell you the regulations of the water where you are standing and regulations for waters within a designated area or approximately a five-mile radius. Take a look, it's very handy.

### **TIDBIT'S – Dick Dahlgren - Eastern Sierra fly-fishing crusader, dies at 80.**

He was one of the most iconic men of the last 45 years plus for supporting fly fishing in the Eastern Sierra. His contributions were many and known as the “father of year-round catch-and-release fishing in the Eastern Sierra and one of the pioneers in fly-fishing the region.

His many pursuits were the flows of Rush Creek vs. LADWP, two signifi-

cant changes in Crowley Lake and the Upper Owens River drainage; Heenan Lakes' continual stocking of brook trout.

His life was based on protecting fishery resources for future generations and always felt that if no one knew of some places they would be easier to destroy. He also battled with cattle grazers so all the water wasn't diverted out of the little streams around Crowley in an effort to protect the fry that has been naturally produced in those waters.

He fought against more geo-thermal plants near Hot Creek, fearing it would harm that amazing fishery or ruin the DFG's Hot Creek Fish Hatchery. He battled against ranchers who sought to block access from public fishing on several Sierra rivers. Dahlgren helped rescue trout when a cattle rancher turned off the water into an irrigation ditch, leaving trout that had collected there for over two years to die. He was a constant thorn in the DDFG's, U.S. Forest Service's, and LADWP's side if they did anything that might threaten one of his -- one of our -- fisheries. And he was great at sharing his enthusiasm and getting others involved. His large presence will be missed.

### **AT THE BENCH: New materials Just Add H2O Polar Dub**

Polar Dub, made from Just Add H2O's popular Polar Fiber, features a subtle UV flash. Similar to Senyo's Laser Dub, this new material can be used for wings, collars, dubbed bodies, and many other fly parts. Highly versatile, Polar Dub (\$2.99 per pack) is widely applicable for trout patterns, but also ideal for a variety of panfish, carp, and bass patterns, and even for bonefish flies. Choose out of 27 colors at [www.rdflyfishing.com](http://www.rdflyfishing.com)

### **Lively Leg Brushes**

An ingenious compilation of Just Add H2O original synthetic fibers, micro rubber legs, and ultrathin steel wire, Lively Leg Brushes facilitate a whole range of possibilities in creating innovative and effective patterns with wiggly, buggy bodies. Baitfish

streamers crab and shrimp patterns, Woolly Buggers and leeches, creative bass bugs, and a variety of other flies get a major facelift from these easy-to-use brushes, and the time required to tie on individual rubber legs is a thing of the past, simply palmer the brush along the hook shank and tie off. Each package (\$6.99) contains two 12-in-long strands; the streamer-style brush is available in 32- and 3-inch-diameter sizes, and the crustacean-style brush is available in 0.5- and 1-inch diameters. Each is available in 44 colors. Order direct at: [www.rdflyfishing.com](http://www.rdflyfishing.com) or at your favorite dealer as listed on the R Distribution website.

**Barnyard genetics - Whiting 4B hen neck – ginger.** I associate Whiting with fine, sharp dry-fly cock capes, narrow bristling feathers – and plenty of them – and similar for Whiting hen capes: soft feathers, with finer and sharper fibers than, say, an Indian hen cape. Whiting capes are always in beautiful condition and a product of generations of selective breeding. This is all aimed at producing the idea dry fly hackle – with hen, obviously, as a by-product. Feather quality if excellent: no stress marks, no peck damage. I'd describe the color as medium ginger. It's nice that Whiting have included more than the neck, given the type of feather and tying this is for, these body feathers are a perfect addition.

### ***Fishing Report***

**LOWER OWENS** - The flows are steady at 399.7cfs as of 7/25. The flows have dropped dramatically from the 5th of July as the runoff continues. It seems that they are holding back on the flows out of Crowley because of the high flow going into the Owens downstream but with Crowley coming up a foot every 4 days they will run out of options soon. The water flowing into Pleasant Valley Reservoir is still moving through fast. Early am try midges followed late morning with caddis and mayfly hatches.

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Stoneflies start around noon. The only catch is that the most productive times are not consistent from day to day. Surface activity is starting to happen so be vigilant and check the bugs

**Recommended DRIES:** Griffith's Gnat #20, Extended Body BWO #20-22, Para Adams #18-20, Elk Hair Caddis #16-20, Parachute Caddis #16-18, Brooks Sprout baetis #18-22, and Yellow and tan Stimulators #14-16. **NYMPHS:** Zebra Midge #18-20, Baetis B/H #18-20, Barr's Uncased Caddis #14-16, Tungsten Caddis #14-18, Birds Nest Olive or Natural #12-16, Stonefly nymphs - #14-16, Barr's Flashback BWO #18-22, Chamois caddis for the crane flies and #12-16 for the stoneflies. **STREAMERS:** Big and ugly, always. Pick your favorite large streamer and chuck it everywhere. You will catch fewer fish but there's a chance to catch much larger fish this way.

#### **ROCK CREEK LAKE -**

Some great action near the inlet and trophies also arrived this week. Try Woolly Buggers in Dark olive, Black or Burgundy size 8 even toss a purple in the mix. Also try caddis patterns, small stoneflies, moths and the balanced leech. Walk up the stream and see what's happening where the MOSQUITOES and every bug that knows the area resides. You'll be surprised once you walk the bushy areas and it will give you a better appreciation of what you've been missing.

**UPPER OWENS** – Current flow is 164cfs. Fishing Conditions and Hatches: Fair to Good: The Upper "upper" Owens River has been fishing well. The flow is a bit high. Below the confluence of the Owens River and Hot Creek the water is fairly muddy so try and fish above the confluence in the clearer water. The wind in the last few days has kept the mosquitoes away along with the caddis

hatches. The midday PMD hatches have improved since the last report has been very effective in areas with clearer water especially small dry fly imitations size 14-18. Streamers and nymph rigs have also been successful. Recommended Flies:

**DRIES:** Stimulator #16, Extended Body BWO #16, Elk Hair Caddis #16-18, Parachute Adams #16-20.

**NYMPHS:** #12-16 Bead Head Prince Nymph, #16-18 Pheasant Tail, Flashback Hares Ear #14-16, Olive birds nest #14-16, zebra midge #18-22, Juju Baetis #18-22, Splitcase BWO #18-22, Olive WD-40 (standard or flashy) #18-22.

**STREAMERS:** Meat Whistle, D's Hoover Mover, Tan Sculpzilla, Olive or Black Woolly Bugger, Olive Slumpbuster, Olive Baby Gongga, Olive Double Gongga. A sink tip or full sink type 3 is **recommended**; otherwise add some splits hot to help your bug get down in the water column.

**CROWLEY LAKE** - The bite is in full swing as we are now finally able to make the transition from deep water to shallow channel fishing. It has been a pleasure to rig up a 13' leader again after going over 20' for the last few months. Heavy damselfly migrations have some real hawks busting the surface throughout McGee Bay as the annual migration of fish move into the bay from the depths. Fishing in the deeper water is still producing some nice fish and they are eating everything from midges to perch fry imitations to damselfly imitations. You will find them over the weeds on the submerged channel banks and inside the trenches over the mud bottoms. The smaller browns seem to start out the morning, followed by a few cutthroats, and then the bigger rainbows move in big time! Copper Tiger Midges, Parallel Perch dark and light, Parallel Assassins dark and light, Assassins dark and light, Zebra Midges, Gillies dark and light are all

number one flies for both Bridgeport and Crowley Lake right now. **Recommended Flies:** Copper Clown, Albino Baron in grey or black. Also the larger blood midges have started showing up in the north end.

**HOT CREEK** - The flows are up to 110cfs as of 7/25. These flows are the flows at Mammoth Creek; Hot Creek flows out of the hatchery are constant. Water clarity is leveling off right now and the flow is dropping due to cooler night time temperatures so we might get a little relief. Really good action here on dry flies in the mornings and evenings. You will see fish rising all over the creek here and it is as good as it gets for dry fly fishing. I still can't believe how well this place has bounced back from the effects of the drought years. This is one of the best spots to really learn fish feeding behaviors and how they react to your presentation. Sizes range from 10" up to 22" currently. Go with small nymphs, midges, and worm patterns. PMD's, Caddis, midges, are coming off daily and the fish are all over them. Nymph it up with some SJ worms, SD Crawlers, gold and black head pheasant tails, and an assortment of midges for some good success!

**DRIES:** Parachute Adams #16-20, Griffith's Gnat #18-20, High-Vis Hatchmatcher #18-20, Brooks Sprout Baetis #18-22, Parachute Extended Body BWO #18-22. **NYMPHS:** Flash back Tungsten Black Beauty #18-22, Tailwater Tiny Olive #18-20, Micro Mayfly Olive #20-24, Tungsten Psycho #16-20, Radiation Baetis 18-22, Olive Scuds #16-18, WD40 #18-22, Zebra Midge #18-22.

**STREAMERS:** Slumpbuster Olive, Crystal Bugger, Olive Bopp leech.

**CONVICT LAKE** – Same report. Marvel wet flies are perfect for catching the big ones in the lake. The best way to use the fly is to thread your line through a 1 1/2 in. plastic bubble and a swivel large enough not to be pulled through the bubble. Attach a 5

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to 6 ft. leader to the swivel using 4 to 6 lb. test line. Tie your fly to the leader and fill the bubble completely with water. Cast your fly out into the water. The bubble will sink about 3 inches per second. Reel the fly in slowly with a twitch from time to time. Strike any unusual pull or drag as fish sometimes bite softly. Marvel flies are available to purchase in the general store. This is a good method for that fly, but standard streamers should also work. The resort is also loading the lake up with nice trophies.

#### **MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN –**

The road to Lakes basin is open and it's a total zoo of people on all roads with loads of them fishing and/or enjoying the water via other means. Serious anglers need to find less active areas for fishing these waters. Mamie is seeing some action with good reports if you know the area. The Town has put a lot of money into trophy trout this summer so get up there if you can handle the crowd to toss a fly and pull out one of the Oregon beauties.

**SAN JOAQUIN –** Currently the river is running at **371cfs as of 7/23** and the shuttle is running unless you can get past the gate before 7:30am or call the **Visitor Center for current status at (760) 924-5500 for updates.**

**JUNE LOOP -** Stop in at Ernie's for the latest info on all lakes. When you see fish feeding on the surface mostly in the mornings when it's calm roll with dries including gnats, mosquitoes and caddis. You'll get more hits in lakes anywhere when stripping in with the fly slightly submerged. As the day goes on switch to streamer and buggers deeper with sink line or add some split shot dragged and twitched along. Also try a bead head wet fly with a nymph dropper.

**JUNE LAKE –** Periodic plants of the Oregonians have been put in by Ernie's Tackle and Ski Shop's Trout Fund and the individual Marinas/Resorts.

**SILVER LAKE -** The fishing at Silver has been doing well even with run

-off going into the lake. The cooler weather for the past couple days with rain has improved the catch rate in most of the loop.

**GRANT LAKE -** The Lake is full up and over the spillway. Best approach is by boat for better access. When it's this full some of the shore fishing gets cut down in particular along the west or highway side. The east or back side is accessible via dirt roads. The bite should improve as the run-off slows and less food is being pushed into the lake via Rush Creek.

**RUSH CREEK -** Rush is still high and starting to slow down in some stretches. There are folks fishing it so you may be able to work some slower spots or try a jig hook fly or even a balanced leech. These new flies are getting a lot of attention.

**LUNDY LAKE –** Water level is rising but still no date as to when it will reach capacity. Check in with Bob Owens at the resort and get the latest fly info when you hit the water. This bug thing is crazy, and they are coming off consistently with terrestrials, ants, hoppers and small gnats. Check the water's edge and also the bushes for bugs and try your luck with some dries. Man cannot live on streamers alone. Bob still says most anglers hitting the water in boats are trolling large streamers. Stake out your area and be observant to what's fluttering around. You might even carry a small pair of "binos" to check out the bugs over the inlet.

**VIRGINIA LAKES –** Great weather so far to date with very little wind. A few breezy days put a nice ruffle on the surface. The BFEF dumped some nice tagged fish this last week and they are still being caught. Also the County Trophy Trout program dumped a load in Big Virginia and Little Virginia on Tuesday the 23<sup>th</sup>; didn't get to see the fish as that's our early day and the birthday for one of our young Chinese students. The thermometer hit a high around the 18th thru the 21<sup>st</sup> with no prediction of moisture in the forecast but rain did hit both towns north and south and

more on the way. Flies working at black, dark olive, white and dirty doc woolly buggers size 8 or 10. Olive Matuka's size 8, grey ghosts, callibaetis, black elk hair caddis, any moth pattern, Hale Bop leech in olive and a couple standard dries. Also try seal buggers, leech patterns, Matukas, and soft hackles.

**Little Virginia** is starting to see more surface action over the past week or so due to the cooler mornings, but since the am temps are around 52 degrees things have changed. Flies working have been my Dirty Doc #10, Prince Nymph #16, hare's ear (no weight) under an olive bugger or leech. A few large terrestrials are starting to appear, and beetles have hit the area hard. Try and find a pattern with the belly the color of peacock herl. They are every where especially on our banister, thus the "banister beetle". Also, try black woolly buggers with and without a bead depending on the type line you're using. Only dry action has been on a black gnat parachute and a black elk hair caddis. Still tossing Hornbergs and they are taking a lot of fish now that I've treated the upper section of the head and top of the wing with a bit more head cement.

#### **BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR –**

The fishing on the Reservoir has been a little up and down due to the water temperature, but a good heart strip and a tug should produce some nice fish, the surface temperatures are a bit high but there is still a lot of cold water coming into the reservoir from the rain today and snow melt. The fish are a little deeper than usual and more scattered. There has been some pretty good fly fishing lately and stripping leech patterns down near the dam has produced some nice browns this past week and there are some fly anglers doing well up in Buckeye Bay stillwater nymphing.

*(Continued on page 13)*

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**EAST WALKER** – The flows on the East have been come down to about **337cfs as of 7/25**. The East has been lowered to about 333cfs this week. We've been getting some very good reports from the river lately, there are lots of anglers doing very well down there, both on the California and Nevada sides of the river. This flow can still be a little difficult for some anglers so of course not everyone down there are doing well but most seem to be. Most of the action has been with nymphs but it seems like the streamer action has picked up a bit as well. As usual one of the keys to success down there is to get your flies near the bottom where the fish are hanging out, add some weight to get them down and get a good dead drift and you should be able to hook up. Recommended Flies: Rainbow warrior, flashback emerger, silver streak, zebra midge, WD-40, buckskin caddis, z-wing caddis, deep sparkle pupa, San Juan worm, squirmy wormy, shock collar leech, slump buster, zuddler, sculpzilla, peanut, dead drift crayfish.

The gauge might be damaged as the visual gauge on the river shows a cfs that is 100-50 cfs different than the online flow rates. Whenever the water is high one of the keys to success is to get your flies down towards the bottom where the fish are hanging out, so don't be afraid to add some weight to your rig.

**Recommended flies:** Big flies to get fish to come up and eat them. Stimulator #8, Parawolf Purple #10, Chernobyl Ant #6-16, and #20-22 dark mayfly patterns. **NYPHHS:** Copper Zebra #16-22, BH Prince Nymphs #12-16, Olive Birds Nest #10-16, Caddis Larva #10-18, Stonefly Nymphs #6-10, Hogan's S&M #16-20, Pocket Water Baetis #18-20, black Two-bit Hooker #18-20, Kin-grey's Cold Turkey Baetis #18-22, rubber leg stonefly #8-12. **STREAMERS:** Meat Whistle #2, D's Hoover Mover Rust #4, Hornbergs #10-12, and White Woolly buggers' #10-14, and Orange Jawbreaker #10. Additional patterns to try are Sculpzilla, Double Bunny, Moal leech, Zuddler, Hell Razor Craw, Prince, Pheasant Tail, Rainbow Warrior, Rainbow As-

sassin, Wd-40, Flashback Emerger, San Juan worm, Squirmy Wormy, Silver Streak. Courtesy of JR at Ken's.

#### **TWIN LAKES BRIDGEPORT**

Fly anglers have been doing well from tubes or kayaks with Twin Lakes Specials, wooly buggers, Matukas, seal buggers, soft hackles and Zug bugs.

**HONEYWELL POND** – The clients we had on the pond this week were able to get into a dozen or more fish for a half day, fishing all dry hopper patterns! Seems there was good action on the surface for them this trip. The ranch staff has started the weed mowing operation for the summer to try to keep the weeds at bay. When you're tubing around out there it's good to search out the areas that are not too weedy and focus on.

**SCEIRINE RANCH** - We haven't had any clients on the ranch this past week, like the California side the fishing can be difficult but could definitely be worth the trip!

**KIRMAN LAKE** – We didn't have any news from Kirman this week again, if we get any info we'll pass it along

**WEST WALKER** – The flow is 666cfs as of 7/25 and starting to get some decent reports from there. The water is still a bit high but if you search out the calmer stretches you should start catching some fish. We've had reports of some fish caught up to 4+ pounds lately. Fly anglers will likely do the best with wet flies like prince nymphs, soft hackles, pheasant tails, hare's ears and wooly buggers. The dry fly fishing will likely get better when the water flows get down to 300 cfs or so.

**TRAFFIC ADVISORY from Caltrans:**

**Lane closure for the week of**

**7/22 – 7/26/19**

Southbound Long Valley Thin Blanket Project – On US Highway 395, from 1.3 miles south of South Landing Road overcrossing o the junction of US Highway 395 & State Route 203, crews will be placing a new asphalt surface on the road-bed. Tuesday, July 23 from 9:00am to 10:00am, the SR 203 southbound on-ramp to US Highway 395 till be closed and a detour will be available.

**Conway Guardrail Project** – On US Highway 395, 6 miles south of Bridgeport to State Route 270, crews are reconstructing the guardrail system along this stretch of the highway. Traffic will encounter lane and shoulder closures with no anticipated delays. Monday through Thursday – 6:00 am to 8:00 pm, and Friday, from 6:00 are to 3:00 pm.

**Aspen/Walker Shoulder Project** – On US Highway 395, from the junction of State Route 108 to 2 miles north of State Route 108, construction crews are widening the highway. Traffic may encounter up to 30 minute delays as vehicles are piloted through the active work zone. Monday through Friday from 6:00 am to 4:00 pm.

See you on the water and keep 'em wet.  
CJ 19/7

Lots of stuff happens between newsletters

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While you're there, read some of our [webmaster's musings](#). They are award winning articles on the thinking fly fisher's appreciator of our sport.

And check into the [DFF Facebook page](#) as well. It has a list of coming events and some great articles on fly fishing.

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