



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume XLVIII

Number VIII

September 2023

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

Calendar

September 2, Free DFW fishing day

September 6, Special Fly tying for YubaFest, Nature Center, Oak Grove Park

September 13, Membership meeting, John R. Williams School

September 20, BOD meeting, Oak Grove Nature Center

September 22, Last Friday evening casting practice, Hutchins Street Square, Lodi.

September 27, Possible Open fly tying, Oak Grove Nature Center

September 30, YubaFest, Sycamore Ranch Campground, Brown's Valley

Alaska, the last frontier. Learn how to DIY Alaskan trips

Most fly fishers dream of fishing Alaska but for many the price is just out of reach with most trips running about \$4,500 to \$6,500 for the lodge and another \$1,500 in airfare. If you want a river float trip with guides, at least the same and the organizing can be much more complex. Many people give up even before they start.

Is the fishing worth it? Well, I've only fished Alaska once but I'd have to say, "Yes, definitely!" I probably averaged 15 salmon a day, a mixture of silvers and chums and could have caught many more if I really tried. But what about the costs?

Let's see if they can be reduced with a little effort and knowledge and that's what September's meeting is all about. Club member Mike Souza will cover DIY Alaska at the meeting and make the whole thing reachable for most members on a more than once basis. This is an in person presentation with no zooming so if you want to know, you'll have to attend.

To make the experience even more appealing, Mike Dempe-wolf will have a spread of snacks and drinks, tips appreciated. And of course, we'll have a raffle with both a spinning rod and reel and fly rod and reel as part of the give away.

To further sweeten the deal, Bob Fujimura will hand out free \$20 dollar admission tickets to the Yubafest to be held at the end of the month to the first nine members who are paid up in dues and promise to attend. Bob has ten tickets and I've already spoken for one.

The meeting will be held at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Avenue, Stockton on Wednesday, September 13th. Doors open at 6:30, meeting at 7:00. And the general public, is invited as always.

You're also invited to attend the no-host pre-meeting dinner at 5:15 at BJ's Brew House on Pacific. Just let Jerry Neuburger know you are coming.

See you there, brew house or the school.

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We really need some people to step up and volunteer to lead some outings. And it's a lot easier and a lot more fun than it sounds.

Do you know why no Bridgeport outing this year? Because there's no fishmiester. Same for future outings. In fact, the only scheduled outing in the foreseeable future is Bob Fujimura's pay-for-play drift down the Lower Sac in mid-October. Most of the previous fishmiesters have either become too old to lead or have gone to the great lakes and rivers in the clouds. We need new people to step up.

What does it take to be a fishmiester? You are not replacing a guide. In fact, doing so is in violation of Fish and Game regs. A fishmiester should have a reasonable knowledge of the water and area. If an overnighiter, either camping or other accommodations and that's about it. The outings can be midweek or on weekends and can be any length. If a pay-for-play outing, the fees, guides, and other necessary info.

How many people? Obviously, a popular close by location on a weekend will draw more people than one midweek, Maybe as many as 10-12 anglers may show up. More likely, 4-6. Midweek or some distance

involved including overnighiters? You might draw three or four.

You are NOT guaranteeing that anyone will catch fish or that fishing will be great. Especially since past success does not guarantee future results. You are not responsible for the weather either. You do have the authority to call off an outing because of ANY circumstance including personal reasons.

Becoming a fishmiester has some hidden rewards, gaining new friends and learning new fishing skills are high on the list. And don't be afraid of giving away "secret water", Let's face it, there are no secret fishing locations in California, In fact, if a floatable river, you're more likely to see a group of rafters than not or if a still water, a few boats trolling.

If you're so inclined and want to step up either call or email [Bob Fujimura](#) or [Jerry Neuburger](#) with your information. It's really fun and worth the effort.

Your dues are due September 1st. If paid before October 1 you'll be entered into the early bird drawing and eligible to win a 5 weight travel outfit.

The club renews its membership on September 1st, the beginning of the fall season. You have the ability to renew by either credit/debit card, online, or by mailing a check. Invoices were sent out in the middle of August and reminders are being sent out today. If you don't receive an invoice, either you've already paid, are a life member or the invoice has been sent to your junk or spam folder. If you don't see an invoice sometime today or tomorrow and don't think you've paid, check the two folders. If you prefer to pay by snail mail with a



check, please send it to DFF Treasurer C/O Jerry Neuburger, 5 North California Street, Lodi, CA 95240,

PLEASE DO NOT send your check to the P.O. Box listed on the email invoice. It will cause needless delay in recording your payment.

As an incentive to promote your renewal by the end of September, a drawing will be held for those paying their dues prior to 10/1. The prize is a 5-weight travel rod, reel, case, line, and fly box. About 30 people have currently paid. Pay before the end of the month and join them.

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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
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COUNCIL

October – Great Time to Fish the Lower Sac

By Bob Fujimura

2023 has been a difficult year for trout fly fishing with many rivers adversely affected by a cold spring and high flows caused by record precipitation earlier this year. However, the Lower Sacramento River has been consistently good trout fishery throughout this year. Currently, the Lower Sac is the only public river that they are rating as “Great” (<https://www.theflyshop.com/streamreport.html>) which is rating typical of this section year around. Field & Stream Magazine just recognized Redding as one of the top trout fishing cities in the U.S. and highlighted the Lower Sac as the major reason for fly fishers to go there: (<https://www.actionnewsnow.com/news/local/redding-ranked-no-5-in-the-us-for-rainbow-trout-fishing/>). Using experienced guides, fly fishing who float this controlled tailwater have good opportunities to hook and land wild resident rainbow up to +20” regardless of one’s experience level.

DFF will hold a hosted group float trip with experienced guides led by Scott Sugimoto on Saturday October 21. This is a full-day all-inclusive fishing trip with a group BBQ lunch included. October is one of the most desirable fishing periods and appropriate for new or experienced fly fishers. Cost is \$300 per person (based on double



boat occupancy; includes shuttle service, fly fishing gear, lunch, and guide tip). An online link has been set up for online payment at: <https://link.waveapps.com/47vbuu-wvymng> . A personal check may be

sent to DFF Treasurer, C/O Jerry Neuburger, 5 North California Street, Lodi, CA 95240.

Please email Jerry Neuburger at gneuburg@gmail.com if you are mailing him your check. A signed 2023-2024 DFF liability waiver is required for registering for this outing. Prior to this event, host Bob Fujimura will provide detailed outing information, fishing report updates, suggest local lodging, and will offer pre- and post-event dining out options for interested participants. Signups will close by October 1 or earlier if all spots are filled. For more information, contact Scott Sugimoto at scott@ontheriffle.com or Bob Fujimura at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com for more information on this event.



For Sale — 2000 16 foot Crestliner custom Aluminum boat with 25 Hp. Honda. \$6.500

Two depth finders, two downriggers, trolling motor, built in chargers, many extras

Yes, this ad is a little unusual for the newsletter. Paul Perkins, now 89, was a DFF member for a number of years. He donated a fully loaded roll top fly tying desk with a value of over \$3,000 to the club for a grand prize at our annual installation dinner. In addition, the club purchased Paul’s 8’ Outcast pontoon boat with a stainless steel frame, two Regal vices, a Finn Nor rotary vice, and his fly fishing library, all for \$600. Call Paul to arrange a viewing (209) 478-6029. Paul lives in north Stockton

Special Tying Session for Yuba Fest 2023

We are having a dedicated evening for members to tie and donate flies to donate for the silent auction at the upcoming Yuba Fest celebration on September 30th at the Lower Yuba River.

We'll meet at the Nature Center in Oak Grove Regional Park, Eight Mile Road, Stockton on Wednesday September 6th

from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. A light dinner will be provided for all participants. This a great way to help support this worthy fly fishing event and all donations will be recognized during the auction. Please RSVP Bob Fujimura at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com so he can have the right amount of food for this event.



Hook Someone New on California's Free Fishing Days



California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Did you know there are two free fishing days in California each year? September 2, 2023 is the second free fishing day of the year when anglers are not required to possess a fishing license*. As a licensed California angler, you can introduce someone new to fishing at no cost. This introduction will provide you and your new fishing partner with lifelong memories and give you a chance to share how

the contributions anglers make to conservation make a big impact in securing the future of fishing.

*All anglers must still abide by limits, laws, regulations and possess proper report cards and entitlements, if necessary.

By purchasing a fishing license in California, you are providing a dedicated source of funding for management and

protection of the state's fisheries and for fish hatchery operation. Purchasing a sport fishing license also helps support California's longstanding fishing opportunities for today and future generations.



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 Jerry Neuberger, 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 Jerry Neuberger, 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



Join Us for a Celebration of Fly Fishing and Protecting our Rivers with Great Food & Music - Yuba Fest 2023!

On Saturday, September 30th we will hold the fly fishing event of the year in Northern California! We're calling it the **Gathering of the Clan** - bringing like-minded people together for Yuba Fest. If you fly fish, love rivers, recreate on the water, or have an interest in conservation - **This event is for you!**



Saturday will offer a full day of fly fishing learning, casting with certified casters, fly tying with experts, and the opportunity to learn what is happening in Conservation from numerous organizations. Great food will be available for purchase during the day, along with drinks and you'll enjoy live music in the afternoon (details on the food & music below). In addition, there will be a raffle, silent auction for fly boxes and other great items & a live auction for selected high value items. Be sure to stick around for the Social Event from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM.

The food will be catered by the renowned Ryders Food Truck featuring delicious hand-crafted foods made from scratch.



- Breakfast will feature Mini Quiches, fresh baked goods (doughnuts, muffins, pastries), and Coffee or Tea for \$12.50
- Lunch will feature your choice of Pulled Pork Sandwich, Fried Chicken Sandwich (which includes produce & ranch dressing, garnishes, etc.), and choice of beverage for \$22.00
- Dinner will include BBQ Braised Brisket Sliders with Coleslaw, seasonal salad-crudite platter with dressing, and choice of beverage for \$25.00

You can order all meals in advance at the www.nccffi.org website when you click on the Yuba Fest online store!



For your listening enjoyment, the Harmony Groove Band will be playing throughout the afternoon. Harmony Groove is a professional band of multi-talented musicians from Grass Valley, CA who share a passion for singing harmony. Their "feel good" music covers an eclectic mix of nostalgic 60's and 70's classic hits and an expanding set of originals. Listeners will enjoy singing along & dancing to Crosby Stills & Nash, The Eagles, Byrds, Beatles, Beach Boys, Moody Blues and other favorites.

Details to follow soon on the Raffle & Auction, Fly Casting Skills Development and more! Sign up at www.nccffi.org to attend Yuba Fest for \$20, plus order the meals you want and raffle tickets. We look forward to seeing you there!

Nor Calif. Council, Fly Fishers Int'l (NCCFFI) Gold Country Fly Fishers Fly Fishing Traditions



Walk away- pretty far away

By Amy Terra

Having had the chance to fish some new waters recently, I was reminded of the importance of moving away from the crowds. Water is so inviting and so many people venture to the water for different reasons. People swim, sun, fish, pan for gold, play with their dogs, float on tubes, picnic and just hangout near the water. It is beautiful and cooler near the water during hot days. As an angler who is throwing around hooks, moving away from people in the water is important for safety but moving away just makes good fishing sense.

However, it is easy to pull up to a waterway and see fishy water just in front of your parking space and want to fish right there. This can be successful but you never know just how many people have parked there, walked the few steps to the water and fished, swam, trudged through the water that day or in the last few days. Easy access leads to high use which can diminish fish in

the area.

This happened at the Carlon Day Use area. We pulled up and it



Taking a walk on new waters.

looked fishy- really fishy. Easy access and easy wading pulled me in the water right at our parking space. I caught a few fish but there just wasn't a ton of fish activity. I moved upstream, wading upstream in the water past a locked gate on the road and along a land trail filled with thorny berry bushes that would prove difficult for land hikers. The farther I waded upstream, the better the fishing got. When I was

about 20 minutes upstream from the locked gate, I had the river to myself and hungry fish going for my fly in run and pool after run and pool. It was a bit of an ah-ha moment for me to explore beyond the immediately accessible.

Fishing conditions improved the farther I moved from parking lots and roadways. So when you have the chance on the water, walk away from the easy access if you can. Move into new spaces and explore. Chances are you will look up and realize you have a river with fish all to yourself!

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



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

"Make your reservations now."

Scott Sugimoto
(530) 276-1612
scott@ontheriffle.com

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Rx Fly Fishing! Advertising Rates

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

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

Included:

A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

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

A Van Full of Anglers... the Women's Yosemite, August 4th, Outing

By Amy Terra

On August 4th, the women's fly fishing adventure began in a van. The seven anglers met at the [Mountain Sage Coffee Shop](#) in Groveland bright and early. We had time to grab a coffee and bite to eat before heading to meet our guide from [EcoAdventures](#) at 8 am. We piled ourselves and our gear in a large comfy van with our guide Bryant and began our adventure. Being married to an amazing female angler, Bryant was excited to take this group of women fly fishing. It was hard to tell who was more excited- Bryant or the anglers!



small tributaries to the larger waterway and explored the water.



A van full of Anglers!



Ready, Set and We Are Off!

We drove into the park. Our early meeting allowed us to get in the park without having to wait in long lines. We got to see the repairs on Hwy 120 where Bryant shared that an ice field had broken loose and tore half of the road off, tumbling down the cliff. This road delay did not dampen our spirits as we made our way to the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne.

Once there, Bryant set up our rigs with dry flies and we snapped a few pictures. Once we took the short walk to the river, Bryant went through casting fundamentals and small stream, dry fly fishing techniques. We partnered up and went out to fish. Fueled by determination and teamwork, everyone got a fish to the net. Our newest anglers moved quickly through the learning curve for casting fundamentals and dry drift techniques. The top water action provided exciting feedback to all the anglers. We moved from



Lyell and Dana Forks of the Tuolumne

We broke for lunch and enjoyed our delicious custom lunches provided by EcoAdventures streamside. Then we headed to the Dana fork of the Tuolumne for our afternoon fishing. This small stream was a marsh just a week ago and the fish were a little harder to find

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here. Even so, several anglers hit the Yosemite trifecta of a Rainbow, Brown and Brook trout.



A pretty brown

We packed up and started the drive back to Groveland. Bryant stopped on the way to show us a good spot to fish the next day. We were excited to see fish visible in the crystal clear water and began making plans for the next day. On our way back to the shop after a long and fun day, Bryant shared that each and every angler had shown the skills needed to fish not only the waters we were on today but many other waterways. We had a van full of anglers- well on their way to many more fantastic fly fishing experiences!

Day 2 began with a yummy breakfast at [The Copperpot Cafe](#) in Greeley Hill. We sat around the table, talking fishing and devising our plan for the day.



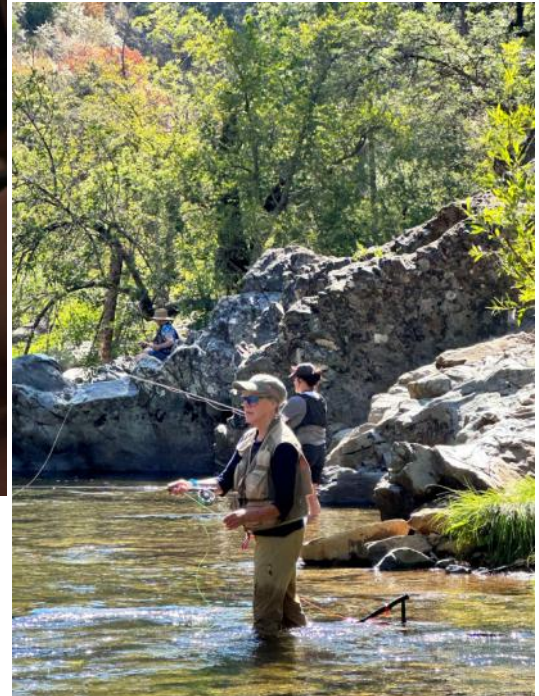
Breakfast at the Copperpot Cafe.

We headed to the [Carlton Day Use Area](#) for our Saturday activity.

There were large hatchery trout hanging out visible from the trail. Many anglers targeted these large fish. Others explored up and downstream. Downstream, the water was crystal clear and the fish were small but hungry, rising to the dry of a small dry-dropper setup. Upstream, this more rugged area proved much more productive. Wild rainbows, brooks and browns were easily found in bends and around structure. It was pretty easy wading and very visual fishing. Lots of hoots and hollers could be heard as fish were hooked and landed all along this fork of the Tuolumne River. A few anglers stretched their wings and visited another fork of the river a few miles down the road. We headed into Groveland for shopping and dinner and hit the hay for some rest after a long day on the water.

Sunday- our last day, we explored [Rainbow Pools](#). This popular swim spot meant we had to be on the water early and hike upstream pretty quickly in the day. The fishing was tougher than the day before with lots of grabs but fewer fish landed. Our carpool groups peeled off and headed for home into the

early afternoon- wrapping up a fun weekend of fishing for our seven anglers!



Fishing at Rainbow Pools

TOW... Time On [the] Water

By Amy Terra

We had a few newer anglers in our women's outing this month. We were lucky to have lots of support and guidance from some of the more experienced anglers on the outing and lots of conversation about how to proceed on their fly fishing journeys moving forward. We talked about safety, ways of gaining information, and connecting with plans to fish together in the future. One topic kept coming up over and over as a key to progressing in fly fishing skills development and that was TOW- Time On the Water.

When one first gets going in fly fishing, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed with information and choices. Sometimes this can result in a type of paralysis and inaction. But it is important that when you know enough to tie on a fly and own enough gear to get on the water, that is exactly what you should do- get on the water as much as you possibly can. Don't worry if you are "doing it right" or fishing the "right spots". Don't worry if other anglers judge you. (They are more likely to offer friendly advice to you than judge you in my experience though.) Try different things. Watch other anglers. Look at the water. Be observant, active and patient.

Fish with friends if you can. But the most important thing is to get out there.

When I started fishing almost 8 years ago, it took me 3 months of weekly fishing to catch a fish on the river by myself. I was so excited that I almost lost my net. Luckily another angler downstream caught it as it was floating by him. As he walked it upstream to me, he asked what I caught my fish on. I told him "the red one". He looked at me funny and I showed him my fly, admitting that I didn't know what it was called. He told me the name of the fly and said good job and to keep at it. He said he hoped it was the first of many fish I would catch in my angling. I was still wrapping my mind around the fact that I finally caught a fish and didn't fully comprehend his words at that moment.

When I was heading to the parking lot at the end of my fishing, I ran into him again. We chatted about our day and I relived catching my first solo fish with him. He reinforced the concept of Time on the Water and how important it is to get out and get a fly wet. If I had fished less frequently- say once a month, it would have taken me so much longer to catch that fish. But I went out weekly, albeit unsuccessfully,

until I banked enough time on the water to put the right fly in the right place in a way a fish would eat it. Or maybe it was just luck? Maybe I tried enough that I caught that fish by accident, without any plan at all. Who knows? Either way, it only happened because I was on the water. So get out there, put in your time, enjoy the process and one day you will scoop a fish into your net. Relish that feeling, let that fish go and do it again and again. It will be a good use of your time. You may even know the name of the fly you used!



The "Red Thing" I Caught My First Solo River Fish With

September Women's Outing is a Dry Fly Yummy Day!

By Amy Terra

We had to change the date for the September outing because life is crazy busy these days. The busier life gets, the more important it is to carve out time for yourself, time on the water and time to spend with awesome angling friends. This month our women's outing leaders were looking for a fun spot that usually holds fish with rela-

tively easy access and dry fly fishing. We chose one of my favorite places to fish- the North Fork of the American River. This is small stream fishing. Wading varies from ankle to waist deep water. The North Fork is filled with runs, pools and fishing holes making it a great day to fish and swim and just enjoy being in the water. I have caught Rainbow and the occasional

Brown trout here. The fish are small, hungry and wild. There is a large pool that is popular for swimming. I try to get there early and fish it before swimmers jump in and have hooked some fish in that pool that feel big but never landed anything out of the pool. Every time I get a grab there, the size of the missed fish grows exponentially- just ask me

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and I will tell you a mighty fish story!

Most of the time I have spent on the North Fork has been relaxed fishing, easy wading and fish to hand. We pre-fished this past weekend and water levels were wading friendly. Fish were present but in smaller numbers than in the past. I am so excited to share this spot with our women's group on September 10th! We are going to head up Hwy 80 to the North Fork Campgrounds. It is about a two hour drive from Lodi. We will meet at 9 am at the campground entrance where you can park along the road. We plan on fishing until noon (or when the swimmers chase us out). There will be a charcuterie lunch feast provided with cheeses, meats, olives, nuts and crackers. Cold waters provided although I recommend the spring water available in the campground.

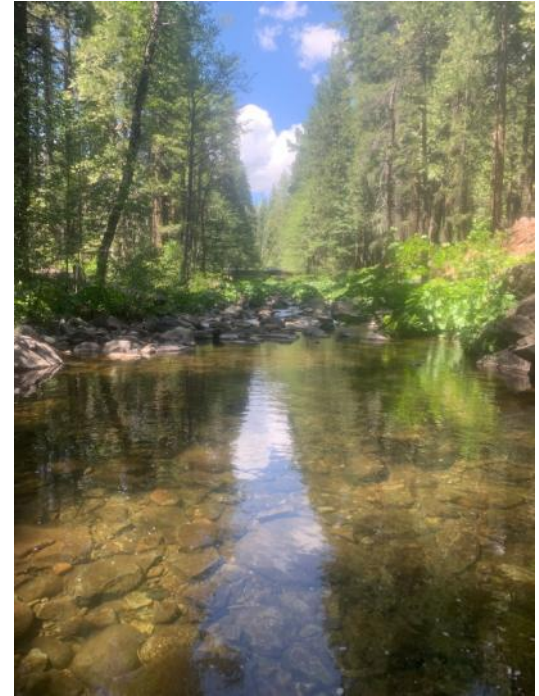
All women are welcome regardless of club affiliation or fishing experience. Let us know if you

need to borrow gear. We will have flies for you if needed. Small visible dries and a three weight or small Tenkara are recommended. This is small stream fishing with great swim holes so dress for a wet fishing adventure. Pit toilets and spring drinking water available in the campground.

Directions: From eastbound Interstate 80 take exit 158A or west bound Interstate 80 take exit 158B south to Emigrant Gap. After exiting the interstate take a right on Texas Hill Road towards Emigrant Gap. Continue on Texas Hill Road for about 6.5 miles and turn right into the campground. The road has been paved and repaired and is an easy drive. Our prefish went well. The fish were not as plentiful as they have been in the past but they are there. Google [North Fork Campgrounds](#) for more location information.

Valid California fishing license and 2023 club waiver required.

Call Amy at 209-329-4801 with any questions. Carpool from Lodi available- just know I will head into Truckee to visit the [Truckee fly shop](#) and a [great grocery store](#) for sandwiches before heading home.



Women's Outing Location for September

Amy's casting corner

This summer has offered many casting practice opportunities

We have had a summer full of casting activities. We had our casting day in Stockton and have had monthly casting at our fourth Friday casting nights in Lodi. We have also had second Saturday free lessons at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. People have progressed their fly casting skills and had fun doing it. We have also had a bit of outreach just being visible to people walking by as we cast. They have joined us and have tried their hand at fly casting. It has been a blast!

September will be our last Friday Night casting as we wind

down local casting activities. Make sure to join us September 22nd at Hutchins Street Square from 6 to 8. Given it is our last casting session for the summer, I am sure there will be a treat for participants in addition to the cold waters available. Rods will be available to borrow. Signed 2023 club waiver necessary prior to casting. Open to the public. We would love to have you there!

Free second Saturday lessons will continue year-round in San Francisco. The drive is worth it for great instruction in a beautiful setting. Arrive by 9am. Lessons start at 9:30. All levels are wel-

come. Rods available to borrow. There is usually a free hot dog lunch at noon when the lessons end.

We are trying to arrange a spey casting clinic with Sarah and Russ who were our certified casting instructors at our casting day. They regularly teach spey with Golden Gate Casting and Angling Club. We are trying to find a date that they are available and, if we can pull it off, we will have a "Spey Day" this fall.

I practice casting multiple days each week, working towards

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(Continued from page 10)

my FFI casting instructor certification. If you want to join me and work on your casting, just shoot me a text or give me a call at 209-329-4801. I film my casting quite a bit and it is a great way to see what is happening in the air. We can also film your cast and talk about it. If you use the app OnForm to film your cast, I can review it virtually too. Just add me to your app and we can share sting videos. It can be helpful to get another set of eyes on your cast!

As our busy summer casting activities wrap up, I want to thank everyone who has come out to cast. We have grown our Friday

nights from one or two casters to consistently a dozen participants.

When I am out practicing, I have people coming up to ask about casting and try it out. Fly casting is a beautiful thing and, when done well, can improve your fishing. It can also be a great thing to do to stay connected to fly fishing when you can't get to the water. My casting will continue year round in preparation for the CI exam and I would love to have company on my journey! Let's cast!



Dena leading a casting group on our Friday Night Casting

Conservation by Ron Forbes

India, yup India, is showing California the way

Grant me the serenity to accept the size of the fish I catch, the courage not to lie about it, and the wisdom to know none of my fishing buddies would believe me anyway.

Author unknown

FINALLY: CREATIVE INSIGHT TO INCREASING CALIFORNIA'S WATER SUPPLY AND GREEN ENERGY

Having family members living south of the Tehachapi Mountains and on the southern California coast I had become very familiar with I-5 South. Much of the trip is spent driving adjacent to the eastern branch of the California Aqueduct diverting northern water to the Los Angeles Basin. My trips

south started in the summer of 1963. On my first trip south the temperature was 103 F with a relative humidity of 19%. One of my thoughts was how many tons of water were being lost in the aqueduct by evaporation. The eastern California Aqueduct is 273 miles long, 30 feet deep and 110 feet wide. It must be a lot I thought. But I had no concept of the tens of millions of gallons of water being evaporated. I thought the amount must be huge given we have, on average, 270 days of sun in California per year.

The California Aqueduct system alone is 444 miles in length. California's water infrastructure system is the worlds largest.

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Our system of aqueducts and canals stretches 4,000 miles in length. Despite a long history of catastrophic droughts the state has never addressed water loss from evaporation. Our water issues and droughts are addressed using outdated water policies and political processes rather than the best science available.

Unfortunately, California, using antiquated policies, does not take the lead in technical solutions for water issues. We must look to other countries to lead the way. And they are:

In 2012, an area near Gurjarat, India tried a project that was not only unique but progressive. They covered a canal with panels to reduce evaporation, but the panels were solar panels. They would not only save loss of water from evaporation but produce clean energy simultaneously. It was a win-win solution. The canal first covered with solar panels was only 2,460 feet in length. That is just 0.46 miles. In one year the project prevented the loss of 2.4 million gallons of water and generated one megawatt of energy. As with any pilot project there were some minor problems but the potential was huge. The Indian government has moved forward with other projects using improved techniques.

Articles recently published by the Courthouse News, the Nature Sustainability Journal, and the Cal Alumni Association discuss positive changes on the horizon for California. Researchers at the University of California Merced (UCM) and the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) are currently researching cost-benefit analysis to determine feasible designs for projects that diminish evaporation and produce large amounts of solar energy within California. These projects are based on the Indian prototypes started 11 years ago.

Eight years ago, two forward thinking individuals initiated the anti evaporation solar panel concept in California. Jordan Harris, a record executive-voter registration activist and Robin Raj, an activist promoting socially responsibility and sustainability campaigns for business, tried convincing

then Gov. Jerry Brown, his Dept. of Water Resource (DWR) and State Water Board (SWB) of this creative new concept. Their ideas fell on deaf ears. The Brown administration's sole interest was pursuing the governors poorly conceived, environmentally deficient twin tunnels concept. Given the state's politically driven mentality and



Solar panels covering a water carrying canal in India, yes, that green stuff is water.

Gov. Brown's last century's water concepts for the states water realities, nothing was accomplished.

Harris and Raj needed something that would give the project a major boost to attract public attention. Recent research projects at both UCM and UCSC have accomplished that. UCM researchers estimate that if California's Central Valley project canals were covered the state would save 63.5 billion gallons of water per year and would produce 13 gig watts of power. To put that in perspective, that is enough power to supply the entire Los Angeles basin for ten months. Given California's drought-prone environment an extra 63.5 billion gallons [almost 200,000 acre feet] of water could be the deciding factor in our states sustainability.

The energy produced would be clean energy with no hydrocarbons used, and go a long way to help our zero emissions policies. These figures are projections of the positive benefits of the project. But these studies are providing the needed emphasis

to move projects forward. Current Gov. Newsom contacted Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of Natural Resources saying, "Let's get this thing in the ground and see what's possible." Now that is a change in attitude and a major step forward.

The Turlock Irrigation District (TID) has taken a major step forward in being the

first in the nation to test a solar-paneled canal project. The experiment is called Project Nexus. Researchers estimate the project will reduce evaporation in the Central Valley by 82%. Brandi McKuin, UC Water Environmental Engineer, is excited about being part of the study. "By conserving land and water while providing acle energy with Ssolar panels, Pro-

ject Nexus has the potential to ease some of the most pressing challenges that face the Central Valley. As a Central Valley resident, I am excited to be in a project that is relevant to my own community." Classically, Professor Roger Bales summed up the project. "It's no brainer!"

Building large construction projects is never straightforward. The details can be complex. As the UCM researchers note, "the devil is in the detail." Construction of the solar panel frame work will be more complex and expensive than the current rooftop solar panels. They will require steel trusses and cables to hold the panels across the canals. However, research shows that cost will be negated by not having to purchase any new land on either side

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of a canal. The land needed is already owned by the builders. Therefore, no additional cost. Also, there will be no right-of-way passage issues, disputes or expensive lawsuits. Environmental issues and suits will be avoided since the project will be on open existing farms and will avoid environmentally sensitive areas.

Over 100 climate advocacy groups sent letters to Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton strongly requesting they "accelerate the widespread deployment of solar photovoltaic energy systems above the Bureau's canals and aqueducts. The groups noted the system could, "Generate 25 gig watts of renewable emergency enough to power nearly 20 million homes and reduce water evaporation by 10's of billions of gallons."

Obviously, much more intense research needs to be done to understand all the nuances and ramifications of this project. While researching this article I was very enthusiastic about the huge potential the project has for California. First, we would be able to save billions of gallons of water that are lost every year. Second is production of clean energy. And finally, the project will not produce damaging byproducts or consequences and clean energy production without generating toxic pollution.

While it's great to be enthusiastic about the enormous potential of this project, we live in California and have to deal with the



The Turlock Irrigation District pilot project

reality of our less than progressive mentality on water issues.

Jared Huffman represents California's District 2 in the US House of Representatives. Formerly he was a member of our State Assembly and head of the Water, Parks and Wildfire Committee. He was highly respected by his colleagues, especially on water issues and the environment. He does not have a high opinion of those who deal with California water infrastructure.

"Rapid change isn't exactly embraced in the world of water infrastructure. It's an ossified bastion of stodgy old engineers." Unfortunately, he is correct.

Much to his credit, Rep. Huffman has been advocating this innovative technology for over 9 years. In last year's Inflation Reduction Act he added a provision for a \$25 million pilot project for the Bureau of Reclamation. Currently various sites are being assessed. Hopefully we may be looking at the beginning of innovative, creative solutions for increasing complex water-energy problems. That would be a welcome change.

Ron Forbes
Conservation Chair