



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume XLVII

Number II

February 2023

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

Calendar

February 4, Wulffies Casting Clinic **cancelled due to high water flows**

February 8, 7:00pm General Membership meeting, John R. Williams School.

February 15, BOD meeting, Oak Grove Park

February 18, Yuba River Clinic

February 22, Open fly tying, Oak Grove Park

February 24,25,26 The Fly Fishing Show, Pleasanton

Last Chance to Sign for Lower Yuba River Outing, Cutoff date is Sunday, Feb. 5th

Join seven other DFF members to learn about how to fly fish the Lower Yuba River during a one-day free clinic and outing on Saturday February 18 from 9 am to 3 pm. This clinic is for any interested intermediate to advanced fly fishers who have never fished this wild trout tailwater or for those who seek more information on this awesome fishery. Participants must be DFF member and should be familiar with safely wading in strong currents under rocky or cobble stone banks.

We will have a brief orientation session in the morning at Hammond Grove Park, fly fish nearby, tour some accessible fishing access locations, and con-

tinue to fly fish the afternoon at a location of your choice. To register for this outing, contact Bob Fujimura by email at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or by cell (209) 329-1692 by Saturday February 4. We have three open slots available. Submission of a 2022-23 DFF liability waiver form is a requirement for registering.

According to guide and shop owner, Tom Page of Reel Fly Shop said yesterday (1/30) the Lower Yuba is fishable with flows de-

creasing to 2,200 cfs and with 4 feet of water clarity. Tom said that he seen a few Skwala adults but feels it is too early for good dry fly fishing and stick to nymphing.



Lance Gray, one of Northern California's leading guides to speak at our February meeting

By Bob Fujimura
With the abundance of runoff and the return of a good snowpack in the Sierras, the subject of our guest speaker, Lance Gray, is very timely for all Central Valley fly fishers. Lance will be presenting a new talk on "Breaking Down Big Water." Lance will explain the "why" and "where" to fish on big rivers. Get informed about water hydrostatics, why it is important to understand, and how the fish find great feeding areas in them. This presentation is a culmination of 40 years of his fly-fishing experience.

With Zoom presentations becoming more popular and inexpensive, some DFF executive officers are questioning the cost of hav-

ing paid guest speakers. If you value having guest speakers at our general meeting, please attend this meeting. Lance is a very experienced Northern California guide, commercial fly tyer, and outdoor writer who is a wealth of fly fishing knowledge.

Our February meeting will be on February 8th at the John R Williams Elementary School located at 2450 Meadow Ave., Stockton, CA. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Club business begins at 7 pm. Presentation at 7:30 pm. Come out to meet with old and new friends, enjoy the snacking and drinks hosted by Mike Dempewolf. Open to the public and non-members are always welcome.

Support Delta Fly Fishers.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)

[amazon](https://www.amazon.com)smile

Find DFF online at

<https://www.deltaflyfishers.com>

And on FaceBook at

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

The annual installation dinner was a nice return to normal, with good friends, food, speeches, awards and an outstanding raffle and silent auction

By Jerry Neuburger

It seemed as if nothing had interrupted the flow of events but in truth, this year's annual dinner was the first to be held at its normal January event date in three years. In 2021, the event was cancelled due to COVID 19, and delayed in 2022 for the same reason, finally being held in April of that year.

The only thing really different about this year's celebration was that the club had no outgoing president to thank for their service and no incoming president to welcome. Instead, Vice President Dena Mason stepped up and took on the duties of Master of Ceremonies and did a great job in doing so.

Dena welcomed the guests to the dinner and then invited CSPA's Chris Shutes to speak briefly about the changes in the organization with the passing of Bill Jennings. Chris was presented with a check for \$1,000 by Dena after speaking. Following Chris, Jerry Neuburger asked the crowd to stand and offered a toast to Bill.

Michelle Workman, senior biologist for EBMUD, spoke on the salmon returns on the Mokelumne this year and the fact that the Mokelumne is now a major source of salmon caught commercially off the coast

of California. Michelle presented Dena with a check for support of Salmon in the Classroom. A perfect lead in to Dena's presentation on the program's success in the county with over 72 classrooms now participating in the program.

It was finally time for the awards and past president Amy Terra was honored twice, once for Incomplete Angler and again for Fly Fisher of the Year. Mike Dempewolf was awarded the President's Club Service Award for his efforts in supplying refreshments at various club functions throughout the year.

Let's do that again...

Incomplete Angler... Amy Terra

Club Service Award... Mike Dempewolf

Fly Fisher of the Year... Amy Terra

After a brief pause following the awards, the raffle started and the bidding on the silent auction items was closed. Less than 45 minutes later the evening was over, another successful event in the club's history book.

The Wulffie's On the Water, Wading and Casting Clinic scheduled for this Saturday, February 4, has been cancelled due to high water flows

We were looking with such anticipation for the women's indicator clinic to kick off our year of monthly activities. Then the recent storms brought us much needed water and this poured water into our local reservoirs- so much so that flows on our local rivers are high, really high! While we could potentially fish edges and find spots to fish indicators

from the shore, we are choosing, in an abundance of caution, to cancel the activity. We just don't want to risk anyone's safety with the flows so high.

Not the way we wanted to start the year but grateful for the water! Be on the lookout for upcoming activities that we have planned. We are eager to safely get out on the water soon!

DFE Officers



President

Vice President

Dena Mason

Secretary

[Bob Fujimura](#)

Treasurer

[Jerry Neuburger](#)

209-327-5993

Directors

Nancy Baker

Ron Forbes

209-368-5767

Larry Schmidt

209-482-8742

Gary Tecklenburg

Randy Baxter

Bob Fujimura

Charlie Reames

Committees

Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)

Chair needed

Casting

Amy Terra

Catfish Derby (June)

Chair needed

Conservation/Restore the Delta

Ron Forbes

209-368-5767

Education/Outreach

Dena Mason

Monthly Raffles

Jerry Neuburger

NCCFFI Representative

Bob Fujimura

Outings

Chair needed

Programs

Al Smatsky

209-368-9261

Bob Sousa

209-368-2683

Property/Historian

Charlie Reames

Refreshments

Mike Dempewolf

Rx Fly Fishing!

Jerry Neuburger

Trout Bout (November)

Charlie Reames

Webmaster

Amy Terra

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

Any correspondence regarding this publication

should be directed to:

The Delta Fly Fishers Inc.

PO Box 77862

Stockton, CA 95207-7862



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL

Happy Casting in 2023!!!

As I spend more and more time around casting instructors, I hear common casting topics come up over and over. Almost as much as the discussion between what is a cast and what is a mend happens, the subject of casting style comes up.

When teaching casting, there is always discussion about honoring different casting styles and still teaching fundamentally good casting skills. So where does one draw the line between good casting fundamentals and style? I like to refer to Bill Gammel's Five Essentials of Fly Casting when working with a caster who has a unique casting style. A caster that can show these five essentials in understanding and in practice, is showing good casting regardless of style. Gammel's five essentials are 1. Straight-Line rod path, 2. Casting arc, 3. Appropriate application of power, 4. Correct timing and 5. Elimination of slack. More detailed information about each essential from fish-ing.net.nz:

1. Straight-line path of the rod tip (SLP)

Tight loops require the rod tip to track a straight-line path throughout the casting stroke. A convex (circular) tip path will result in a wide, open loop, whereas a concave (dipping) tip path will result in a tailing loop, where the line crosses itself, resulting in a wind knot. Your rod tip should not only travel in a straight line on the horizontal plane, but also the vertical (when looking down from the bird's-eye view) in a 180-degree

straight line directly away from, and back to, your target, to ensure accuracy and correct loading of the fly rod. This is what is known as the '180-degree rule' and is essential for tight, accurate loops. Remember, the line will always follow the path of the rod tip!

2. Correct casting arc for the amount of line used

A variable casting arc is the number-one tool in the fly-caster's arsenal. For short casts you should aim to employ a narrow casting arc/stroke, widening the arc as the line lengthens. The casting arc is the angle at which the rod butt rotates throughout the casting stroke. Stroke length is the lateral distance the hand moves during the cast from front to rear stopping points.

You must match your casting arc to the flex in your rod. Too wide a casting arc and you will open up the loop (convex tip path, see above); too narrow an arc and your loop will tail. The more line you have outside your rod tip, the more weight you have and the deeper the bend in your rod. Consequently, you must widen your casting arc to accommodate this and maintain SLP. Go out and experiment and you will soon see the effects of an incorrect arc.

3. Correct power application

A smooth acceleration is required to effectively load your rod. The rod tip should be moving fastest at the end of your stroke when rotation (the crisp flick of the wrist) occurs. Too much unsustained power applied too early in

the cast will force a deeper bend in the rod, thus dipping the rod tip below the straight line path... and there they are – tailing loops!

4. Correct timing of the stroke

There must be a pause between your back cast and forward cast to allow your loop to straighten. Short line equals short pause. Long line equals long pause. Match the length of your pause to the length of line outside the rod tip.

5. Elimination of slack line throughout the cast

Any slack line that works itself into your casting cycle will have an adverse affect on your loop performance. You should begin your standard overhead cast with the rod tip down at the water and pull any slack line in through the guides. Everything is tight. Now, as you slowly lift/accelerate into your back-cast, the line remains tight, loading the rod effectively from the beginning. A smooth (sssmooth) application of power ensures your rod tip travels an uninterrupted SLP, and a crisp stopping of the rod at the completion of both the back and forward cast creates a solid anchoring for the flexed (loaded) rod to unload against.

Just as important is ensuring the correct timing and sizing of your haul to keep slack line from feeding into the cast. The key: short cast, short haul; long cast, long haul.

As I develop my casting instructor skills, I am looking for the under-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

standing and application of these 5 essentials- particularly with seasoned anglers. This allows me to honor different casting styles while still empowering the individual casters on their casting and fishing journeys. I encourage you to head out to the park or lake and to play around with Gammel's Essentials. It will help you

see in your own casting if you are casting well with your own style, or using your style to mask bad casting habits!

The Five Essentials:

1) Straight Line Tip Path (SLP) during the cast for tight, effective loops.

2) Casting arc: short line, small arc; long line, wider arc. A vari-

able arc is the key to success!

3) Power application: smooth (sssmooth) acceleration into an abrupt 'stop'.

4) Timing: short line, short pause; longer line, longer pause

5) Slack line: keep the line tight.

This is just a teaser for the event planned in April, the club's second Casting Day

By Amy Terra

Looking for a fun spring casting activity? We have one lined up for everyone to enjoy! Join us at 11:45 am on April 22nd and Oak Grove Park where we will have the Fly Casting Skills challenge available for everyone to explore and test

their casting skills. Win raffle tickets with your casts and, if you find a cast difficult, head over to the casting corner where certified casting instructors Russ Carpenter and Sarah Trenchel will be available to help you work on those skills. Jerry and Al will be serving lunch to

DFF members but the casting fun is open to everyone! The fly casting skills challenge has three levels- bronze, silver and gold. Loaner rods will be available and a women's welcome will happen in the morning. All participants must sign a liability waiver.

Outing Report

Baum Lake was everything we expected it to be

By Jerry Neuburger

While the outing was originally scheduled from Sunday to Saturday, the fishmiester, Jerry Neuburger was too tired to make the long drive the morning after the installation dinner banquet. Instead he packed his truck on Sunday and woke up early Monday morning to head up I-5 to the Burney area.

Although he was on the road early, at 6:30am, Greg Reiner had been on the road an hour already and was way ahead of him. Greg made a few stops along the way and both arrived at the lake at the same time, and were surprised to have encountered snow as low as 1500 feet along side the road. The fields surrounding the lake also had patches of snow and there was a slight crust of ice at the shoreline, even at the launch ramp.

Both launched into the lake, Greg in his pontoon boat and Jerry, his pram. Fishing started out to be tough, with nothing visible and no takes on the line for either angler. Both worked down the lake to where

some fish were rising and other anglers in pontoon boats were constantly hooked up.

A few questions later and both were hooking up to planted brown trout regularly. The fish, while not as lively as rainbows the same size, provided good action. The day ended with Jerry boating 20 fish, Greg a few less, the hot fly, a small black zebra midge.

It was originally planned that the group would camp in the PG&E campground close by but the bitter cold would have meant the water pipes freezing in the trailers. Instead, the two were booked into the Sierra Pines Motel. Greg's fishing partner,

Don Smith had arrived in the early afternoon as well as Bob Fujimura.

The next day on the water was Greg's day with 48 fish to his pontoon boat. Jerry tried to keep up but fell slightly short. It took Don about half the day to get the fingering down but was also pulling in fish at the end of the day.

The four decided to go out to dinner that night but Burney shuts down early in the winter time and they ended the evening at the bowling alley, eating hamburgers.

Wednesday was windy on the water and Bob Fujimura was high stick, fishing from shore close to where the water comes in from Crystal Lake. It was Bob's last day on the lake and he headed home the next morning.

Thursday belonged to Don Smith and his newly discovered fly, a sealbugger. While Jerry probably caught a few more fish, Don's performance on the water was stellar. Jerry headed home at the end of the day. Greg and Don stayed for one more day of outstanding fishing.



Greg on his big day. Photo by Jerry Neuburger

January 29
2023

Upcoming Events with Delta Fly Fishers

Check out these scheduled outings and events

Looking for Something to Do in February?

Check out the number of events and outings for Delta Fly Fishers for February:

Saturday Feb 4 – *Womens' Indicator Clinic: All women are invited fly fishing indicator clinic and hot drinks (coffee, tea, and cocoa) and pastries from Ruby's bakery (they are amazing!!!). After a brief indicator workshop in which you will tie your indicator leader, we will put on our waders and hit the water on a local waterway. For more information, go to the DFF website and contact Amy Terra to sign up.*

Wednesday Feb 8 – *General Membership Meeting: Guide Lance Gray will be presenting a talk on "Breaking Down Big Water" Lance will explain the "why" and "where" to fish on big rivers. Get informed about water hy-*

drostatics mean and how the fish find great feeding areas in them. This presentation is a culmination of 40 years of his fly-fishing experience. Meet at John R Williams Elementary School located at 2450 Meadow Ave., Stockton, CA. Doors open at 6:30. Club business begins at 7 pm. Presentation at 7:30. Open to the public and non-members are welcome.

Saturday Feb 11 – *Free Casting Classes at SF Park: Free casting lessons at Golden Gate Casting Ponds at 1232 John F Kennedy Dr. San Francisco, CA 94122. Lessons run from 9:30 to 12:30. Rods available for loan for the lessons. Clinics available for all levels of casting led by the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club of San Francisco. Participants must preregister on online via the GGACC website. Amy Terra, Bob & Jean are planning to attend this session.*

Wednesday Feb 15 - *Board of Directors Meeting: The executive officers and interested volunteers will meet and discuss club business. All club members are welcome to join us at 6:30 at the Nature Center at Oak Grove Park, Eight Mile Road, Stockton. All DFF members are welcome to participate and we are looking for several new officers or committee chairs to help plan and conduct club business. New attendees should contact Bob Fujimura for instructions on entering the Park afterhours.*

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

Follow me on Instagram-
gram: @ontheriffle

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.

(Continued from page 5)

Saturday Feb 18 – Lower Yuba River Outing: Intermediate to advanced fly fishers are invited to a walk-and-wade outing/clinic on the Lower Yuba River. We will be fishing a local public access in the morning, break for lunch, do a car tour of other access sites, and breaking early for the participants to fish on their own in the afternoon or evening. This outing is limited to 8 preregistered participants who should

be familiar with dry, nymphing, and swing fly fishing techniques and are comfortable on walking on rock cobble and wading rivers safely. We have only a few open slots available currently. To register, please contact Bob Fujimura at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com by February 11.

Wednesday Feb 22 – Open Fly Tying Night: Join other DFF members as they meet at Nature Center for a no-

host fly tying session. It will be a monthly opportunity to tie with your fellow members, sharing the latest fishing stories, and hang out with new and old friends. This will be a free event and open to club members from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at the Oak Grove Regional Park's Nature Center, Eight-Mile Road, Stockton. Contact Bob Fujimura at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com for more information and get the Park entry procedure.

Mark your calendars for the Bob McMillan Trout Bout, scheduled for Saturday, March 4th

By Jerry Neuburger

The recent Trout Bout held in November of 2022 was a huge success for SJ P&R and for the Delta Fly Fishers for a number of reasons. The weather was perfect and the county supplied two brand new gold carts to use as roving sales trucks.

The club responded as well with more than a dozen volunteers to work the carts and the food counter. In fact, the whole operation shut down around eleven AM since the food and drink ran out.

The county is looking to repeat the whole experience this March and hopes for another successful turnout. If the good weather holds, it will probably occur since most anglers, whether young or old, have been cooped up with rain and wind the main courses on the weather menu.

The club turn out for the last event really made the difference and needs to be repeated if we can hope for another success-

ful day. The schedule runs as follows and has a few changes from the past.

The whole thing starts on Friday, the day before the event. That afternoon a group of volunteers meet at the storage shed in the park and move the necessary y equipment and supplies to the boat house. That includes the food if the shopper has purchased it in advance.

The next thing is the early work crew arriving on Saturday morning about 6:00am to turn on the coffee pots, set out the chili and cheese and start the hot dogs cooking on the cooker. Once the coffee is hot and the dogs cooked, the carts are loaded and the crews sent out to sell the goods.

In the mean time more volunteers show up, some to work the food area, the rest to help with registrations or tie flies. More volunteers come and go as the day progresses. A crew work the weigh station, measuring some of the big fish landed and entering the contestants names on the various logs.

If the food lasts, the sales continue to the end of the tournament, if not, the food counter shuts down and a small crew remains to take care of the weighing and awards while the rest of the crew cleans up and puts the remaining supplies back in storage for next time.

What make the whole day work? Volunteers!!! In other words, YOU are needed to make the day a success. It's also a great way for newer members to meet and get to know the veteran members of the club and line up some fishing dates.



VIRGINIA LAKES RESORT
CABINS • RESTAURANT • LODGE • TACKLE
Elevation 9770' Established 1923
Heart of the High Sierra
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Fishing, Hiking, Camping, Cabins, Restaurant, Lodge
<http://www.virginalakesresort.com>
HC 62 BOX 1065,
BRIDGEPORT CA 93517-9602
760-647-6484 Tel/Fax 1/14



A big fish opportunity

Fish Eastern Nevada with DFF and Rob Anderson

By Bob Fujimura

Date: Wednesday May 17 to Friday 19, 2023

Location: Elko County Nevada; approximately 500 to 600 miles or 9 to 11 hour drive from the Stockton area

Summary: Want to fish some of the most productive trout reservoirs in the West? Join a 2 ½ day fly fishing clinic with guides led by guide Rob Anderson of Pyramid Lake Fly Fishers. Participants will have plenty of opportunities to fly fish well stocked reservoirs and use various techniques under the guidance of experienced guides.

The outing costs \$295 per person and includes two full days of guided fly fishing and lunches and dinners. Introduction: For years, guide Rob Anderson has invited his long time clients to little known but well stocked reservoirs as a change of pace from the intense guiding schedule at Pyramid Lake. Despite the long distance from Reno and CA, his clients have enjoyed these spring outings with some of the most remarkable trout fishing of their fishing season.

Bob and Jean Fujimura have been regular fishers for this outing for several years and look forward to sharing their time with those DFF members who make this long trip. This outing is designed for intermediate or advanced skilled fly fishers who are familiar with fishing lakes and reservoirs from a personal watercraft.

Event Agenda: The exact locations have not been determined at this time since they pre-fish and select the best of several fine lakes in Elko County, NV. However, participants who register will be given the tentative location at that time. Typically, the itinerary includes an

informal orientation, gear set up, and dinner on the afternoon of the first day. Next day, fishers will have a full day of lake fishing with lunch provided at the fishing location and later dinner at the nearby campground. The attendees will have another full day of fishing and lunch. The guided session will end in the afternoon of the third day. Given the distance, many attendees choose to extend their fishing trips either before and/or after this guided session independently.

The Fish: Typically, Rob selects the best reservoir for his clients to catch numerous medium to large sized trout during his sessions. Depending on the reservoir, rainbow, cutthroat, and brown trout can be available. Some of the area's reservoirs also have fishable populations of various bass (largemouth, smallmouth, and wipers) and yellow perch.

Techniques: Rob Anderson and his guides are experts in stillwater indicator fishing, and these locations are selected for the best fishing using these techniques. Terminal gear and flies are very similar to those used at Pyramid Lake. Productive indicator flies include balance leeches, attractor nymphs, and chironomid pupa patterns. Nine to 10' single handed rods in 5 to 7 weights with matching floating fly lines are suitable for fishing this technique. For those who prefer stripping wet flies, angler can also fish streamers, leeches, and smaller stillwater nymph pattern using an intermediate or slow sinking line. However, often the best presentation is technical and generally less productive than using indicator or naked' indicator techniques. All participants should bring a personal watercraft such as a

float tube, oared pontoon boat, or pram with suitable safety equipment such as an anchor system. A personal floatation device is also required for floating any lake and all participants must have valid NV or tribal fishing license.

Accommodations: The reservoirs in Elko County are often between 5,000 to 6,000 feet in elevation and the weather can quickly drop to winter temperatures with wet/icy and windy conditions. Unless you are experienced with tent camping under extreme conditions, participants should either camp in hard-sided RVs or stay in cabins or motel lodgings in the area. Contact the DFF outing host for information on the suitable campgrounds or motels in the area. Outside of Elko, NV restaurants or cafes are quite limited so participants should be prepared to provide their own breakfasts (during the guided period) and all meals outside of the guided session. DFF participants are also responsible for their travel, lodging, meals, license or permit costs.

To Register: Contact Rob Anderson, rob@bucklistflyfishing.com or (775) 742-1754 to register/pay or obtain more information on his guided outing. All registered DFF participants should 1) let Rob know that you are a DFF member and 2) notify Bob Fujimura that you are coming. Bob will provide more details to those members who sign up and help coordinate any group side fishing or camping opportunities if needed. Bob Fujimura's contact information are email: deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or cell phone: (209) 329-1692. A signed 2022-2023 DFF liability waiver form is a requirement for participation.

The NCCFFI February report to the affiliate clubs... Yes, we are one of them!!!

We invite all of you to the Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton, CA., February 24, 25 & 26th. We will be there in force with our normal booth meeting fly fishers and referring them to all of you, our clubs, so they can visit and consider joining. Beyond this club communication effort, we'll be again teaching fly tying to kids, with a focus on qualifying Scouts for the Fly Fishing Merit Badge. That will include tying 2 different flies, learning 3 knots, and doing some casting. In addition to our "in-the-building" efforts, we'll also be supporting a large host of fly casting instructors who will be teaching casting to the event visitors. This will take place out on the grass lawn area which is located behind the pavilion of the show through the back gate and the right. Look for the signs for 'Casting lessons'

A major part of the show for us is introducing club casting teachers to the **Fly Casting Skills Development Program (FCSD)**. It is a fun way to improve casting skills for all fly fishers in a self-paced fashion. There are now four levels from beginner to advanced: Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Sarah Trenchel and Russ Carpenter will be on site to teach club casting teachers how to set up the course and the process to actually teach the various casts needed to pass the different levels. Both Sarah and Russ are certified casting instructors from the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club in S.F.

This specific program will be taught on Saturday the 25th starting at 9:30 in the morning. **Please contact Clay Hash, clayhash.fft@gmail.com, to register to attend.** We can only take 6 people at a time. It's possible we'll have more than one session, so it's important to register so we can advise you of the time you should be there for your session. Clubs that have started this program for members all say they have really enjoyed the casting sessions, and they are learning a lot. If you pass one or more of the levels - Bronze, Silver, Gold - you can apply and receive a certificate and pin from FFI. **We promise you, it will be both fun and rewarding!**

Another activity we will be doing is our **Club President Luncheon**. It will be hosted starting at noon, location to be determined, but it will be at the show location. Our Booth will have location details, so stop by for directions.

We invite either the club President, or, if they can't make it, a club representative. We want your club to attend to meet & share information about your club, and hear what NCCFFI has prepared for 2023 activities. We have developed many exciting learning programs - casting, tying, fishing and techniques for difficult fishing locations. **Clay Hash, Founder of Fly Fishing Traditions**, will present at various locations in our region in 2023. All of these activities are designed to be utilized by our clubs and members, and, we promise, they will be both educational and fun. We'll cover details of locations, times and dates for all of these at the lunch.

For conservation, a major focus of NCCFFI, we'll give you a glimpse of what we're working on to improve & recover our watersheds and fisheries. We'll also present a wonderful short video on what will be happening on the Klamath dam removal & restoration process that starts in 2023 - this year!! We are focused on improved fisheries for all fly fishers.

Please contact Mark Rockwell, mrockwell1945@gmail.com, to register for the lunch. We need to know who and how many will attend so we can provide adequate food and drinks, as well as enough space to have a restful and enjoyable time. It will be a fun time!

Mark Rockwell, President, NCCFFI



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

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

www.excellentadventures.org

Al Smatsky, Proprietor

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

Three years of extreme drought and now massive flooding, what goes?

The solution to any problem --- work, love, money, whatever --- is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be.

John Gierack

Climate change is rapidly accelerating major, potentially catastrophic weather events in California. Currently, weather scientists feel extreme weather events will not only continue but become more severe. It's ironic that last month's newsletter Conservation article was of the devastating drought events facing the Colorado River. This month's article is about too much water and flooding. This is the reality of the world we now live in and helped create. Despite the fact we were warned over a decade ago of the impending problems we faced, we chose to ignore the warnings of the scientific community. Now, because of our negligent inactions we face ever-increasing weather catastrophes.

During our ongoing three year drought we have recently faced a series of six atmospheric rivers (AR's) that deluged us with rain accompanied with destructive gale force winds. The two diametrically opposed weather patterns, (drought and AR's) are showing us that our weather patterns are radically changing. Lodi's average annual rainfall is around 19 inches annually. From last December to the present we have received a total of 23.65 inches of rain in the Lodi area from the 6 AR's. That's about 20% more than our yearly average in the beginning of our wet season. East of the Central Valley, near Carson Pass, the snow level is now 12-15 feet deep. On an average we would expect a snow level of one to two feet. The snow level near the Mammoth Summit area is an unreal 40 feet. Our weather patterns are rapidly changing.

The Central Valley's disastrous storms and flooding caught national attention and was a main topic of nightly news for almost two weeks. Last August, the Washington Post published an article warning California of an idea that once seemed impossible to many of us. The article entitled, "A megaflood. California could drop 100 inches of rain, scientists warn." Doyal Rice, of USA Today, published another article agreeing with the Post entitled,

"Experts warn California of a disaster larger than any in world history." He warned the mega droughts and floods should be the primary concern for those of us living in California. People living outside California think of us having two major threats. Earthquakes and droughts. The reality is that we also have an increasing high probability of mega flooding. The press often describes disasters using the term "of the century" such as "a drought or flood of the century." Rice points out scientists now believe, because of man caused climate change, the probability of a weather disaster has doubled or tripled and California is long overdue for a statewide megaflood. A "flood of the century." Our last megaflood in California happened 161 years ago. That flood is more likely to occur sooner rather than later because of the rapid warming of the environment due to climate change. Our last series of rain occurred from increasingly severe AR's.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) notes atmospheric rivers (ARs) are complex systems. They are long bands of atmosphere 250 to 375 miles wide originating in the tropics near Hawaii. The AR's are moving columns of condensed water vapor. In California we know these ARs as our "Pineapple Express". The warm water of the tropics can absorb more water vapor than cold water. As the AR moves toward landfall in California, Oregon, and Washington the temperature drops. The cooling atmosphere can hold less water vapor and the water falls first as rain and as the system continues eastward over the Sierras it becomes snow. ARs are not always long, narrow bands of atmosphere with high winds but can be in a wide variety of sizes and shapes. Some of the ARs carry little rain and no wind. As the season continues the AR's hold less and less water vapor.

The 6 AR's that hit California in December and January were intense systems. Everyone knows what earthquakes can do and we all know what San Francisco's '06 quake did to the state. The Washington Post and USA Today articles described the impending catastrophic megaflood. In our recent intense AR's, many properties were hit hard and suffered major damage with the loss of trees and severe damage to homes. The power outages and major

flooding of our roads and infrastructure affected all of us. The winds were formidable. Micke Grove Park lost 78 oaks during the storms. It is amazing how quickly we are recovering from the damage. Downed trees are being cut up and cleared, structures are being repaired, the roads are being repaired and flood waters are receding. No more nightly news reports. We are getting back to normal rapidly. All well and good. But little is happening to prepare for the inevitability of our next statewide megaflood. And... it will happen.

Most Californians don't understand what happened within the state during the megaflood of 1861-1862. That's understandable. It happened 161 years ago. But with human caused climate change, weather scientists are predicting another mega flood more massive than the 1862 disaster. They feel a megaflood as large or larger is inevitable. NOAA refers to these major events as ArkStorms (No biblical pun intended). They predict another Ark-Storm is 2 to 3 times more likely to occur within the next 35-40 years. The UCLA hazard scientists estimate the economic loss would be in the trillion dollar range. It's questionable if the state would ever recover and regain our current status as an economic world leader.

NOAA researchers believe the cause of the 1862 flood occurred when over 15 ft. of snow fell early December. For over 40 days the state endured a series of Ark-Storms. They brought continuous heavy rains and warm high winds to the high country. The entire snow pack melted. It rained for 3 months. The melted snow rushed downstream and caused the worst flood in America's history.

Aon Edge, an insurance organization that deals with flooding, and the USGS (US Geological Survey) intensely researched the megaflood and the flood's ramifications. In 1861 it started to rain in California, Oregon, and Nevada from November 1861 and continued to rain until January 1862. The rain fell from the Columbia River in Oregon to San Diego, a distance of over 1,000 miles. The Central Valley became a lake 300 miles long 20 to 60 miles wide and 15 feet deep in

(Continued on page 10)

some areas. Over 400 people lost their lives in the flood or starved to death. About 1/3 of all property was destroyed. It's estimated that 200,000 head of cattle, about 1/4 of the state' total, were drowned or starved to death. California went bankrupt. Inflation soared. In today's dollars, the price of a dozen eggs was \$79. The state was not able to pay its employees for over 18 months. The soon to be governor, Leland Sanford, had to row a boat to get to the state Capitol. The state closed down and the legislature moved to San Francisco. In the early 1860's the population of California was just over 380,000 people. Today's population is over 39.5 million people. Our population has exploded as has the number of homes and infrastructure. Insurance research actuaries estimate, if a 1862 flood happens today, the economic loss would be in the trillion dollar range.

Despite the devastation caused by our recent AR's, they did bring badly needed water and snow. Now the question is where do we stand drought-wise. According to state meteorologists as of January 25th, 92% of the state is still in drought. But on a more positive note none of the state is in the extreme drought category. Also, our Central Valley smaller reservoirs are above their historic averages for this time of the year. Unfortunately, most of our large reservoirs are still below normal for this time of the year. Several months ago in a Conservation article I noted a small reservoir in Sonoma County was close to being dry. Over 60,000 people are dependent on that reservoir as their only source of drinking water. During our last series of storms, the reservoir has risen to 80% of its average for this time of year. Obviously, it takes much less water to fill a small reservoir than a large one such as Lake Shasta or Lake Oroville. The profes-

sionals who monitor our large lakes and reservoirs feel the recent storms were "just a drop in the bucket" drought-wise.

Locally, Jane Dolan, president of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, has held meetings regarding our flood issues. She fully understands the serious nature of AR's. In a recent article in the Lodi News Sentinel, she noted just how seriously underfunded we are for flood control. Dolan observed, "By 2072 climate change is predicted to increase peak flood flows up to five times in the Central Valley compared to our past recorded events. At risk are millions of people and billions of dollars of critical infrastructure, commerce, agriculture, and the environment. "One of the focuses of the state's plan for flood control is the restoration of our floodplains. She expressed concern about the aging Delta levee system which sooner or later will fail. We also are challenged by a long list of deferred maintenance of flood control infrastructure. An area that faces high risk from flooding is Stockton. Chris Elias, executive director of the San Joaquin Flood Control Agency, is very concerned about the under-funding of local flood protection projects. "With climate projections showing how much larger flows could come raging down the San Joaquin River, the existing levees are undersized. We really need to work hard to make some improvements, to take a look at those levees, rework them to be able to handle the increased flows." Stockton, Manteca, and Lathrop all have high-risk low lying-residential areas. Considering the reality of our impending floods makes one wonder why we have such a nonchalant political attitude and no comprehensive state-wide flood plan.

The last series of AR's was an undeniable wake up call. It's hard to deal with a concept of three years

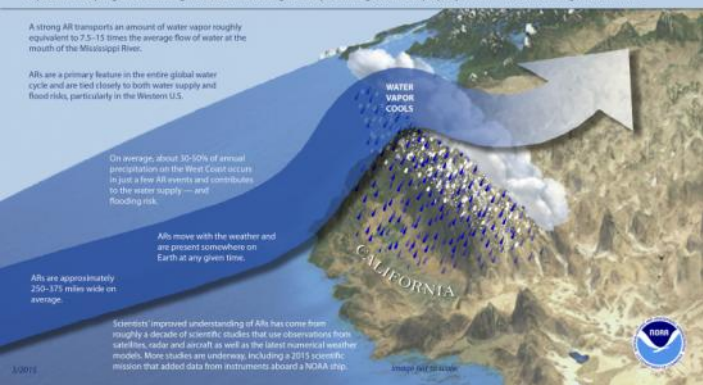
of intense drought immediately followed by massive flooding and wind damage in the Central Valley. While we were getting deluged with rain, areas to the north and south received little rain. Northern California reservoirs received some rain but nothing close to ending their drought status. In last month's article we talked about the dire straits of the seven states that depend on the Colorado River for their drinking water, power, and agriculture. Those seven states have endured 23 years of sustained drought. From 2000-2020 the Colorado's flow averaged just over 12 million acre-feet a year. Now the river flows under 10 million acre feet annually. Last year the level at Lake Mead dropped to its lowest level in history at 1,040 feet above sea level. If it drops to 950 feet it will no longer be able to produce hydroelectric power. And if it drops to 895 feet the river will no longer flow.

Climate change, with its droughts, floods and fires, will change our way of life in America. Our current legal structure of historic water rights will, by necessity, have to be changed to deal with the reality of what nature gives us. Another sobering thought is America's entire infrastructure for droughts, floods, fire and agriculture was based on a climate that no longer exists.



The science behind atmospheric rivers

An atmospheric river (AR) is a flowing column of condensed water vapor in the atmosphere responsible for producing significant levels of rain and snow, especially in the Western United States. When ARs move inland and sweep over the mountains, the water vapor rises and cools to create heavy precipitation. Though many ARs are weak systems that simply provide beneficial rain or snow, some of the larger, more powerful ARs can create extreme rainfall and floods capable of disrupting travel, inducing mudslides and causing catastrophic damage to life and property. Visit www.research.noaa.gov to learn more.



BYCE TEDFORD



FLY FISHING

Guided Fly Fishing Trips On The California Delta & Surrounding Watersheds.

Captain Bryce Tedford Specializes In Striped Bass, Largemouth Bass & Smallmouth Bass On The Fly!

Email: brycetedford@gmail.com

Phone: (206) 696-2437