



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume XLIV

Number VI

June 2020

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

In this Issue

Page 2—[DFF on Facebook](#)

Page 3—[Wednesdays on the Moke](#)

Page 3—[Let's float the Moke](#)

Page 4—[Wild Horse fishing report](#)

Page 6—[Shad fishing on the American](#)

Page 6—[Almanor Outing](#)

Page 7—[NCCFFI News](#)

Page 8—[Conservation with Ron Forbes](#)

The beat goes on, the beat goes on Fly fishing keeps pounding a rhythm to the brain



Just when you thought things couldn't get any stranger, here is a June newsletter from DFF! We don't normally have a newsletter over the summer but given that we have not been able to get together for some time, our board and leadership wanted to make sure we stay as connected as possible. This will give us a chance to share what club members have been doing, share what we are planning to offer, and share the precautions we are taking in regards to COVAD-19. We want to keep everyone informed so you can make the best decision possible for yourself- taking into consideration your individual circumstances.

The club resumed limited outings in May. We held our outing at Kelsey Bass Ranch. While fishing conditions were tough, the limited participant numbers allowed for easy social distancing. Everyone brought their own food and members got out on the water to throw a line. The club also held its shad outing on the American River. We had five members meet at Gristmill Recreation Area. Fishmeister Al Smatsky shared information, tuned up gear and helped everyone find a good spot on the water. A few shad were caught on this tough fishing day and a good time was had!

These smaller initial outings are helping us navigate and develop outing policies as we join the state

in developing a new normal mode of interacting while participating in fly fishing. As we move forward, please keep in mind that we may need to make adjustments, change plans and adjust places and dates in response to changing circumstances and guidelines. We will continue to limit outing sizes according to available space for social distancing on each outing. We will refrain from presenting communal food and we will cancel all non-outing gatherings until fall.

When on an outing, we ask you to refrain from physical contact and maintain the prescribed six feet of distance from others. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so. If you feel that your individual circumstances present too great a risk for attending an outing, please wait until you feel safe and confident in attending any club activity. You are all too important to jeopardize unnecessarily. You are also adults that understand your individual circumstances and can make your own life decisions. We will support whatever decision you feel compelled to make in these uncertain times.

That said, the club will hold the following outings:

- June 3rd- Wednesday night on the Mokelumne. 5 to 7:30. Look for Dena and Sam on the river

(Continued on page 2)

Support Delta Fly Fishers.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](#),
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](#)



Find DFF online at

www.deltaflyfishers.com

And on FaceBook at

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

(Continued from page 1)
at the Van Assen Day Use Area.

- June 6th- Lake Davis with Jon B. We have 6 club members signed up for this guided day of fishing with Jon. There are no additional spots on this trip but there is an October outing with Jon if you are interested in an additional opportunity to fish with him!
- June 21st Sunday, Float the Moke with Fishmeister Jerry, 4:30pm to 9:00pm. Float the Moke from B&W Marina to Korth's Pirate's Lair.
- June 26th- Lake Almanor with fishmeister Bob Fujimura. More information to come.
- July 1st- Wednesday night on the Moke, 5 to 7 pm, Amy will

be out at the Van Assen Day Use Area.

We are not anticipating having any social gatherings until at the earliest August. Changes in policies and gathering guidelines may necessitate a change of venue and this could also result in a change of meeting day. We will know more towards the end of summer as the school district and local parks solidify their guidelines for facility use. If you know of a potential meeting place that the club should consider, please let any officer or board member know. We are hoping to get together in August for our annual president's meeting to reconnect and socialize. It is our hope that by then, we can get together in a relaxed and safe manner. Until then, I hope you get out and fish- whether it is with the club or on your own!

Amy

DFF Officers

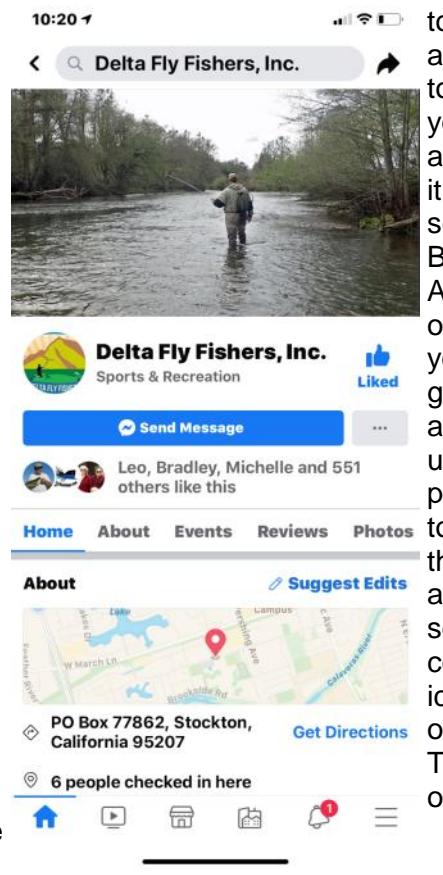
| | |
|------------------------|---|
| President |  |
| Amy Terra | dffwebmaster@gmail.com |
| Vice President | |
| Dena Mason | |
| Secretary | |
| Karen Keagy | |
| Treasurer | |
| <u>Jerry Neuburger</u> | 209-327-5993 |
| Directors | |
| Ron Forbes | 209-368-5767 |
| Larry Schmidt | 209-482-8742 |
| Sam Thompson | |
| Gary Tecklenburg | |
| Thomas Mason | |
| Nancy Baker | |
| Mike Dempewolf | |
| Randy Baxter | |
| Bob Fujimura | |

Committees

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Beginner's Fly Tying | |
| Amy Terra | |
| Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March) | |
| John and Karen Keagy | |
| Catfish Derby (June) | |
| Chair needed | |
| Conservation/Restore the Delta | |
| Ron Forbes | 209-368-5767 |
| Education/Outreach | |
| Dena Mason | |
| Fly Tying/Fishing Mentor Program | |
| Neuburger/Terra/Mason | |
| Membership | |
| Dena Mason | |
| Monthly Raffles | |
| Jerry Neuburger | |
| Outings | |
| (Volunteer needed) | |
| Programs | |
| Al Smatsky | 209-368-9261 |
| Bob Sousa | 209-368-2683 |
| Property/Historian | |
| John Keagy | |
| Refreshments | |
| Mike Dempewolf | |
| Rod Building | |
| Bob Fujimura | 209-339-0683 |
| 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



(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

accounts on Instagram. The club recently established its own Instagram account and you can find us on Insta by searching "[deltaflyfish-](#)

[ers](#)" and give us a follow. Feel free to tag us in your fishing posts by including @deltaflyfishers in your post. We love to see pics of you on your adventures and would

love to share it with our Instagram followers!

Wednesday on the Moke with Amy, 6/3 and 7/1

The club is encouraging members to explore local waters. We are lucky enough to have an amazing waterway about 20 minutes outside of Lodi. This allows us to sneak out anytime and explore this waterway. EBMUD monitors and supports this stretch of river diligently. This allows the river to absorb some of the fishing pressure it receives.

Fish of all sizes can be caught here. There are also some nice insect hatches that can provide an opportunity for some dry fly fishing. If there is no hatch, subsurface fishing with the classic flies or



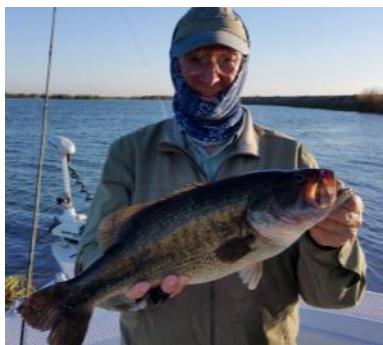
a streamer on a sinking line in the deep pools can produce takes.

These Wednesday night sessions through the summer months will provide a chance to explore this local water with some support available from other club members. Hope to see you out on the water! Outings are scheduled for June 3rd from 5 to 7:30 and July 1st from 5 to 7:30. I bet you can see a club member or two out there most days of the week though- Hope to see you out there!

Let's float the Moke, Sunday, June 21- 4:30pm to 9pm,

While the salmonid and stripers fisheries are in peril in the Delta, the same cannot be said for the Largemouth population. Almost every bank of the river holds colonies of this amazing sun fish with size ranging from fish the same size as the flies used to catch them to lunkers well over ten pounds.

The tides are right for a drive down the river from B&W Marina to Korth's Pirate's Lair, a distance of three miles. While that doesn't sound like a great distance to do in four and a half hours, the last time the club did this drift, more than a few fly fishers had to hustle their way for the last half mile or so.



While this is "Big Water" the drift can be done with pontoon boats, canoes, prams and even full sized boats. Those fishing may be faced with launch fees at both marinas, ten dollars to launch at B&w and seven to take out at Korths. However, take out will

be so late, between 8:30 and 9pm that the take out will probably be free.

Fishmiester Jerry Neuburger has fished these waters on numerous occasions and says that both banks of the river produce well. He suggests a topwater fly such as a gurgler or one of Leo's Poppers, and likes flies with a white belly

The idea is to be on the water by four thirty. That is a little early but if you fish the west bank you may find a shade line that will provide some action. The real fishing should kick in about six pm and last right up to haul out at nine. It will be a new moon the night before so don't count on moonlight to help you out at take out.

To keep up with social distancing and still provide for an after event sharing of experiences, we can all meet at the Burger King at Kettleman and I-5 after haul out. More details will be sent out closer to the date of the outing.



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

Kelsey Bass Ranch, Mulege Baja, Isla Blanca, Pesca Maya, Xcalak, Picacho Lodge, Chile, Yuba, Feather & American River Shad, Club Presentations and Clinics

www.excellentadventures.org

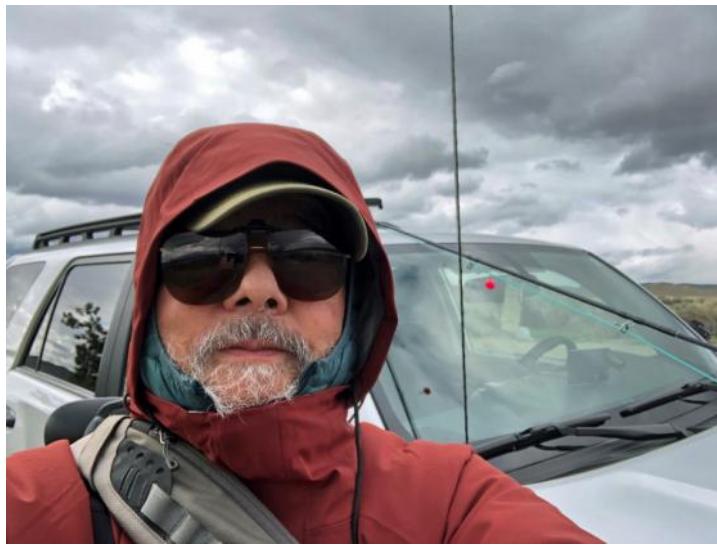
Al Smatsky, Proprietor

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

Fishing Wild Horse in Nevada, the weather was the key ingredient

By Bob Fujimura

Jean and I have fly fished the reservoirs in Elko County for the last several years in May - but 2020 was the one of the most challenging and rewarding fishing trips. There were many barriers and concerns compared to previous trips. The first challenge was addressing the health and safety hazards of non-essential travel during fluid regional and local health orders. Access to public camping was limited; State, Indian, and federal campgrounds were closed as were the local cabin rentals. Most of public shoreline access was also closed to Wild Horse Reservoir; all Indian tribal land was fenced off and posted. We did not enjoy the benefits of fishing with our annual hosts Rob Anderson and Chris Evison who normally pre-fished the lake and guided us to the best locations prior to our



"Overall, I had good or excellent fishing success after an initial period to learn what locations and presentations were most successful." Self portrait by Bob Fujimura

arrival. My fishing partner Jean was unable to accompany me. Like with our hosts, I have done my absolute best fishing with Jean. Finally, although not uncommon for May, most of this trip had near freezing, windy, and wet weather conditions.

Despite these challenges, there were offsetting opportunities. Rural Nevada was more ahead of lifting health restrictions than CA or Western Nevada. The local RV park welcomed out-of-state travelers and having full hookup service made handling the bad weather easy. Bars and dine in restaurants were opening when I was there. I concentrated my fishing at the State Park which continued to be open for day use only, and later, the northeastern arm of the lake that was on BLM land. Lack of developed camping facilities and poor weather conditions resulted

in extremely low fishing pressure during the weekdays. I was often the only person fishing the State Park at times. In 2019, Jean and I had experienced similar winter-like conditions, and like Jerry Neuburger and his grandson who accompanied me during the first part of this 2020 trip, we shortened our trip. Those persons who did stay reported continued excellent fishing. Not having the assistance of guides or

my fishing partner forced me outside of my comfort zone – and I had to apply new fishing strategies especially during difficult conditions. I spent more time observing the water and weather conditions and was more thoughtful about my fishing methods.

Overall, I had good to excellent fishing



Nathan with one of the fish he caught. Not his biggest which was a 20" rainbow on a midge fished under an indicator.

(Continued on page 5)



Stockton Store Hours
Monday - Saturday
10:00AM - 8:00PM
Sundays
10:00AM - 6:00PM



10536 Trinity Parkway
Stockton, CA
Tel. (209)851-7400
Store Manager: Aric Emery

(Continued from page 4)

success after an initial period to learn what locations and presentations were most successful. Daily catches in high single or low double-digit numbers of large rainbow and cuttbow trout mostly in 15-20" size range. During my second week of fishing I commonly landed several 19" hot fish each day and rarely fished more than a few hours. I indicator fished from shore using black copper tiger chironomid pupae or black balance

ing offshore. Best fishing occurred late mornings and early afternoons. Water temperatures were in the mid 40's to low 50's degrees, and I had the best fishing success when there were heavy overcast skies with moderate crosswind. Poorest catch rates were during sunny and calm weather, and during heavy fishing pressure (e.g. weekends and holidays). Fished successfully a black-red, simi seal leech stripped using an intermediate clear sinking line during the last hour of my

tan cutthroat trout and yellow perch, fishing from his pram and stripping streamers subsurface. Many local fishers were targeting yellow perch for food or small-mouth for fun.

My advice for fly fishing in May in Elko County would be prepared for varied and wet weather. Although the week prior had high temperatures in the low 70's, usually May is one of the wettest months of the year for the Rudy Mountains. Therefore, do not forget to bring your cold and wet weather gear. Do not be afraid of winter like weather – properly dressed one can handle near freezing temperatures or long periods of wind and light showers. I was amazed to see trout actively feeding close to shore at air temperatures between 32-38 degrees and forgot the cold when you frequently hook into big fish. Because of varying weather conditions, it is best to devote more days to your fishing trip if possible. Usually our trips only lasted 3 to 7 days but I extended this trip to 13 days for 10 continuous days of fishing. For the less adventurous fishers, I would recommend fishing South Fork Reservoir near Elko. Being lower in elevation, South Fork Reservoir tends warm sooner than Wild Horse and experiences more pleasant weather. The reservoir's entire shoreline is accessible through the State Park and is only 30 minutes away from Elko which has plenty of reasonably priced restaurants, hotels, and private RV parks.



leech patterns from 5-7' deep. Typically, I fished chironomid patterns using a 10' 5 wt rod close to shore (5-20') especially when I saw swallows feeding close to the water surface. Larger balanced leeches were fished using a 10.5' 6 wt switch rod between 8 to 70' from shore during windy conditions or when fishing midges were slow or when I saw large trout feed-

trip. Although I did not fish from my float tube due to safety concerns, fishing from a boat using stripped leeches or suspended midge patterns would be equally successful.

Jerry Neuburger and Nathan reported catching a wider range of sport fish species, including smallmouth bass, Lahon-

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.

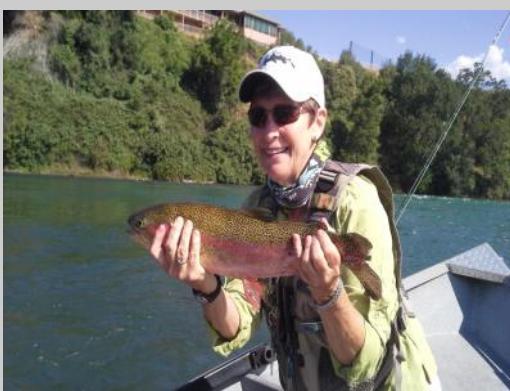
"Make your reservations now.

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.

For additional information please phone or e-mail [Jerry Neuburger](mailto:Jerry.Neuburger@comcast.net), Editor 209-369-5752

Al “The Shadmaster” (I really like that) puts people on the fish at the American

Al “The Shadmaster” Smatsky led the club in an outing on the American River on May 17th. Five members arrived at Gristmill Recreation Area in the early afternoon. Al shared some of his shad fishing secrets and we set up our rigs. Al gave everyone some pointers and adjusted equipment and we got out on the water. We were pleasantly surprised to be the only ones on the water for quite a bit of time. This allowed us to spread out along the shore. We had single handed casters and spey casters throwing lines into the low flow of the river. The American was running less than 1500 cfs which is much lower than our normal spring runoff. We also had some weather move through in the afternoon. Our day started with clouds

and sprinkles and the evening developed into some sunshine with partly cloudy conditions.

The change in weather and flows was reported to nega-



tively impact catch rates. The local ranger shared that not many fish were being caught and this was true on the river near us. Even the

spin fishermen weren't catching too many that day. The lower flows pushed the fish into narrower channels benefiting those fishing the top of the narrow run at Gristmill. All the fish caught were near this narrow channel.

Al proved to be not only a great fishmeister, but he was also a bit of a hero that afternoon. A fellow fisherman drove down to the river and promptly got his truck stuck. After lots of effort to get unstuck proved fruitless, Al proceeded to help out the driver by giving them a tow to firmer ground. No worries everyone—the driver was not a club member so the Incomplete Angler award is still up for grabs!

Lake Almanor and its famous hex hatch beckons for an end of month outing

This DFF outing is confirmed recently due the loosening of local COVID-19 restrictions, The USFS developed campgrounds will open starting June 11. The Plumas County Health Department is currently asking for all persons to observe social distancing and requires the wearing of face masks in public places.

The most convenient campsite is the USFS Lake Almanor Campground which is near a nice boat ramp and beach accesses. You can still make reservations for a camping site through Recreation.gov although Saturday night openings may not be available. Should be first come only sites available if you come earlier in the week. PG&E Rocky Point Campground is another nice campground nearby – reservations must be made via their website when they start taking reservations in early June. Check the starting date for online reservation – prime dates book almost immediately. Local hotel and other lodging options have started to book up so I would do your

research immediately if you choose this overnight option. Hotel lodging should be also available in Chico



which is approximately a one-hour drive to the lake although driving at night after fishing the late evening Hex hatch is not recommended.

The latest report by the Almanor Fishing Association predicts that the outing should occur during the start of the Hex hatch. Although the timing and intensity of the annual Hex hatch can vary each year, typically this is a good time of year to fish the hatch and we plan our guided trips for this period

annually.

There is no one way of fly fishing during the Hex hatch but we will be willing to share some of the lessons that we have learned from local guide Lance Gray over the many years that we have been guided. Although Lance's one-on-one or group clinics are probably already booked up for this season, I would highly recommend him for anyone who is serious about learning how to fish this hatch. For general outing information, please read my article in the May DFF Newsletter at:

https://mcusercontent.com/110dbe1f46cf9ff647fd6ffc1/files/80f1c935-c55e-485e-a50e-25a63224f1ac/May_2020.01.pdf Detailed information will be provided to those who sign up for this outing by June 19. Contact Bob Fujimura at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or call at (209) 329-1692 to sign up or to answer any questions.

Northern California Council and Fly Fishing International News

Status of the Klamath River Dam Removal Negotiations

The Northern Calif Council FFI continues to participate in the work to decommission the 4 Lower Klamath River dams. We started this effort in 2003, and great progress has been made. However, we are facing stiff pressure from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). They have not yet approved transfer of the license to operate from PacifiCorp to the Klamath River Renewal Corp. We have been waiting since last fall.

As you may know, we are on a time schedule to start removal in January, 2022. Because of slow action from FERC we may not be able to meet that schedule. If we have to move it forward into 2023, we may not have enough money. We have \$450 million in the bank today, but if we don't stay on schedule we likely will have to find some additional funds to ensure the project can be completed as planned. Stay tuned as we press forward. A free flowing Klamath into Oregon is our goal, with salmon & steelhead return-



ing to their historic spawning grounds in the Sprague, Wood & Williamson rivers.

Club Outreach and Efforts to Improve Club-Council Communications

Over the past year+ the NCCFFI has been working to Re-connect with the fly fishing clubs in Northern California & Nevada. We've held 2 **President's lunches** at the Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton to discuss and present our reasons why building a stronger and more connected community of fly fishers is important. We also started monthly calls with all club Presidents to improve regular communications & find out what your club is doing. I will be sending out these monthly reports so everyone knows what we're doing, and get FFI news.

Local clubs are focused primarily on local waters and the local community. The Council, on the other hand, can

represent Club interests on state-wide issues that influence and impact both local waters, or the fisheries you travel to enjoy, like the Klamath River or S.F. Bay-Delta. There are decisions being made daily that impact the health of all of our watersheds, and these decisions are both at a state level and federal. The Council takes the responsibility to be representative of the Fly Fishing Community in order to make sure these state and federal decisions are in the best interest of our member clubs and the watersheds of our states. We participate in meetings and actions by the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife and others where the voice of fly fishers needs to be part of the dialogue.

We strongly feel that it is in the best interest of all of us to work together - your club & this Council. By doing so we can make a difference. We can

better represent the needs of our fisheries, help keep adequate water quality in our lakes and rivers, and be a voice of reason in the decisions our elected officials make at the state and federal level. We are your eyes and ears on issues going on in Sacramento & Washington.

Additionally, the Council & Fly Fishers International bring resources to member clubs like discounted club liability insurance, certification of fly casting instructors, fly tying instruction and certification, and the ability to connect local clubs & members to the larger community in our states. **Simply stated - We are stronger together, and have greater impact if we connect and act as a community of fly fishers. Our goal is to build and tighten this community, and protect our fly fishing heritage for our kids and our grandchildren.**

Fly Fishers International (FFI) - Building a New Reality for all of Us

There is a new and exciting reality in FFI today. They have a new President/CEO - Patrick Berry, who is an avid Fly Fishers, and comes from a

history of business leadership and success in managing outdoor businesses. At the Board level FFI has recognized they need to make significant changes, and initiate new activities and programs to better engage the fly fishing community. The good news - FFI is on the move!

Greater benefits to Councils & Clubs - NCCFFI and our member clubs:

Expanded education & conservation grants
College scholarship program for fishery related degrees
Expanded insurance programs

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

A discounted fly fishing equipment program with fly fishing manufacturers

Developing a new and more user friendly website

A new annual FFI Expo designed to be more local and connected to regional Councils

A new series of Webinars - focused on fly fishing locations, Conservation and instruction for fly tying and casting

An enhanced Learning Center on the website for all fly fishers to access

A more inclusive connection with Councils on decision making through Board-Council combined meetings on Zoom

Generating a new look and feel through new communication, website & social media

Engaging with more partners to enhance fly fishing and have a national presence in important decision making in Washington D.C.

The new FFI is moving to be a better partner for all of us, and to enhance our fly fishing experience and help both the clubs and council be more successful. Some of the new benefits are available today, and others are coming. Stay tuned!

For an experience of the **New FFI**, tune into the new Webinars each week. Here's a link to the schedule: <https://flyfishersinternational.org/FFI-Online>

For past webinars go to this link: <https://flyfishersinternational.org/>

Events/FFI-Online/Previous-Webcasts

We look forward to a tighter relationship with all of you. Together we can have more fun, accomplish more for our watersheds & fisheries, and have more opportunity to fish. Contact me any time for information or if you have questions or concerns.

Mark Rockwell, President,
Northern California Council, Fly
Fishers International

mrockwell1945@gmail.com, (530)
559-5759 (c)

Conservation with Ron Forbes

San Francisco Bay is not Northern California's toilet bowl

There is no more graceful and healthful accomplishment for a lady than fly-fishing, and there is no reason why a lady should not in every respect, rival a gentleman in the gentle art.

W.C. Prime

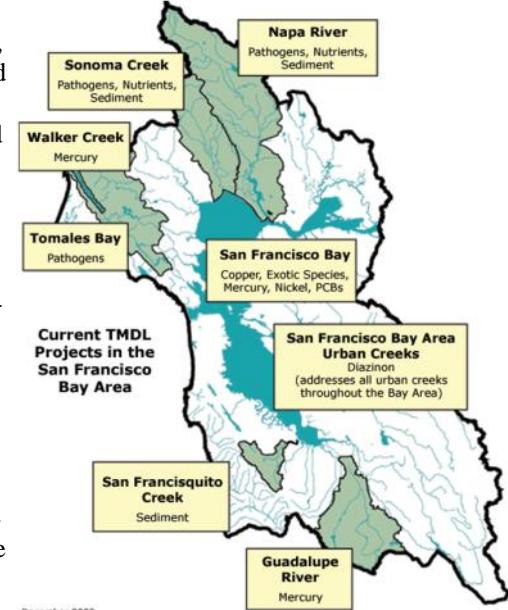
CAN SAN FRANCISCO BAY RE-COVER?

Living adjacent to the Delta, it's easy to become overwhelmed with its diverse problems. It's political, environmental, economic problems began over 150 years ago and will continue long into the future. We have a tendency to overlook other crises even though they are immediately adjacent to us. The San Francisco Bay is being destroyed, like the Delta, and shares many of the same issues. It also has unique issues that threaten its environment with mass extinctions. In a recent article for The Nation (The Extinction Crisis Devastating San Francisco Bay), Jimmy Tobias, explained how the Bay's ecosystem is being destroyed and who shares the blame.

The Bay is biologically unique and is one of the largest estuaries in North America. In the Bay, fresh and saltwater mix to

form a rich environmental habitat. It produces, "salmon, smelt, shrimp, crabs, pelicans, cormorants, ducks, whales, and seals. If the Bay continues to decline, everything from the fishing industry and tourist businesses to tribal food security and the general economic stability of Northern California could go with it."

To graphically show the Bay's decline, Tobias interviewed a fisherman on Fisherman's Wharf who has been fishing the Bay area for over 40 years. When he started fishing there were more than 4,000 boats in the fishing fleet. They fished for both salmon and crabs. He reminisced about his best season in 1988. That year the fleet caught 1.4 million salmon and 800,000 fish entered the Bay and passed through the Delta to their home waters. Those days are gone. In 2018, they caught 175,000 salmon, and only 80,000 went upriver. Only 53 boats were productive, catching 50% of the salmon. Larry Collins, the fisherman being interviewed, commented, "the fishery has been reduced to from 5 to 10 percent of what it was. Cut off from the ancestral breeding ground by enormous dams and preyed on by invasive species, the salmon have faced a long-term de-



December 2002

cline and face a grim future. They are in terrible condition. And no one seems to give a (*explicative*)." The salmon are not alone in this ecological disaster.

Chinook salmon are a keystone species. All species in the Bay's ecosystem are interrelated. However, some species are

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

essential for the survival of others. For example, Orcas are one of the animals that depend on the Chinook for their survival. With the massive loss of our salmon population, the orca's survival rate has fallen to a 30 year low. Other birds and animals that depend on the Chinook for their survival are threatened. In the past, on their final migration upstream, the chinook transported a massive amount of essential ocean nutrients through the Bay and the Delta, up our rivers to deposit them to inland California. Those days are over. As the salmon population disappears, dependent species will also be lost.

Felicia Marcus, the former head of the California State Water Resources Control Board (CSWRBC) stated, "We have pillaged that ecosystem. We have diverted more water from the ecosystem than any estuary that has survived. We are on the brink of losing the salmon, the smelt-all of it." It should be noted, Gov. Newsom reappointed all of former Gov. Jerry Brown's choices for key water-related departments in the state. All of them have supported the single/twin tunnels concept. Ms. Marcus has strong environmental concerns. She was not reappointed.

There is a multiplicity of issues causing the collapse of the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuaries. Probably the most egregious is political. Over the years, conservation articles have pointed out some of the acts proposed or enacted by industrial-corporate farming. The latest offender to join this group was unexpected. It is the city of San Francisco.

In 2018, our legislature enacted two updates for the Bay-Delta Plan for water quality. The updates required the cities and irrigators to leave more water in tributaries to sustain the Bay and the Delta. The best available research has shown it will require a 60 % freshwater flow to accomplish that goal.

The Delta and Bay were only allotted an allocation of 40%. The rivers involved in the allocations are the Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus. The Delta Plan required the users to leave 30-50% of the water from these rivers to be free-flowing. The Tuolumne is San Francisco's major source of drinking water and an important source of freshwater for the Bay and the Delta.

To support the Delta Plan, San Francisco supervisor Aaron Peskin, introduced a

resolution to show San Francisco's support of the Bay-Delta Plan additions. It passed the Board of Supervisors. Peskin is a supporter of the Bay-Delta Plan to maintain both estuaries. He remarked, "San Francisco, I think, needs to be part of the solution as stress on the Tuolumne system and on the Bay and Delta become more profound and as our fisheries are on the verge of collapse. I think we have a political, and social, and environmental responsibility to do our part." Of course, they do. And Aaron Peskin stepped up to the plate. His resolution also forbids San Francisco's city attorney from pursuing any lawsuits that would block the new additions to the Bay Delta Plan.

As expected, pro-agribusiness forces moved in. San Francisco's mayor, London Breed, vetoed Peskin's resolution. California Senator Dianne Feinstein pressured Breed to veto the measure. Feinstein has been described as a "key player in California water politics." To describe her role more accurately she is a lap-dog for the wealthiest farmer in America, Stewart Resnick. Sources for Feinstein maintain "she didn't directly weigh in with the mayor." No one familiar with the issue believes her statement.

Immediately after Breed's veto, San Francisco joined a suit against the updated Bay Delta Plan update. San Francisco has long been known for its liberal viewpoint. Politics has a way of joining groups that otherwise would never agree on any point of view. Presently San Francisco finds itself allied with wealthy, elitist corporate farmers and the Trump administration. To defend their position. San Francisco officials say they are "merely trying to rein in overzealous regulators." Environmental groups maintain San Franciscans would rather protect their Bay over the economic interest of industrial agriculture. They also want San Francisco's government to get up to speed and enact water conservation measures like Los Angeles has. However, the City plows ahead with the Trump administration and corporate

agriculture to get far less stringent requirements and so-called "voluntary agreements." In the past, voluntary agreements or new pro-agriculture legislation have always promised to protect fish and wildlife but they never have. Gov. Newsom presides over the issue and is taking the pro-agriculture, pro-Trump



administration side. Pro-environmental groups are angry with Gov. Newsom and his pro Corporate Ad and Trump Water-grab position. Restore the Delta's Barbara Barrigan-Parilla observes that Newsom, "is ignoring science and looking to cut deals" with major water users.

San Francisco city officials will not come to grips with the seriousness of the Bay's problems. Jimmy Tobias, a contributing writer for "The Nation" asked Michael Carlin, deputy general manager of the city's Public Utilities Commission, a straight forward question. Tobias asked Carlin if he thought the salmon in the Tuolumne River were in good condition. An angry Carlin replied, "No, I'm not going to say whether they are in good condition or not in good condition. You ask a very loaded question and a very unfair question to tell you the truth." Unfortunately, writers and reporters have become used to diversions and non-answers to legitimate questions from our federal, state, and now city governments.

The Bay's environment is finding little or no support from the federal or state government, or its adjacent cities. Unfortunately, politics are not the only serious issues the Bay faces. The San Francisco Baykeeper lists six major environmental issues confronting the Bay, including:

- 1) Heavy metals

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

- 2) Pesticides and Herbicides
- 3) Human and wildlife pathogens
- 4) Organic pollutants such as PCB's
- 5) Land-based sources and trash for stormwater runoff.
- 6) Naturally occurring contaminants such as selenium and pharmaceutical products.

At present, only 91 contaminants in the Bay are listed under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). In the last 10 years, no new products have been listed in the SWDA. Unfortunately, now the Trump administration has done away with the Safe Water Drinking Act. The current administration has eviscerated almost 30 federal acts. Over 75% of these acts had environmental protections and are now absent.

Both the Bay and the Delta have enormous obstacles to overcome. In California, neither the Re-

publican nor Democratic party can be trusted to be advocates

for our fisheries or the environment. Both sides have been compromised by wealthy, self-interest groups like the heavily subsidized Agribusiness groups and corporate water contractors. It appears our only recourse will be through our support of environmental protection organizations and the legal system.

Ron Forbes



Elevation 9770' Established 1923

Heart of the High Sierra
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Fishing, Hiking, Camping, Cabins, Restaurant, Lodge

<http://www.virginialakesresort.com>
HC 62 BOX 1065,
BRIDGEPORT CA 93517-9602
760-647-6484 Tel/Fax 1/14

BRYCE 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

Rx Flyfishing!

Delta Fly Fishers, Inc.

P. O. Box 77862
Stockton, CA 95207-7862
www.deltaflyfishers.com