



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume XLVII

Number III

March 2023

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

Calendar

March 4, Bob McMillan Memorial Trout Bout, Oak Grove Park.

March 4, Wulfies Introduction to Fly Fishing, Oak Grove Park

March 8, Membership Meeting, John R. Williams School

March 15, BOD Meeting, Nature Center, Oak Grove Park

March 22 Open fly tying, Nature Center, Oak Grove Park

March 28-30, Pyramid Lake Outing

April 12, Membership meeting, John R. Williams School

April 19, BOD meeting, Nature Center, Oak Grove Park

Delta Bass Bugs featured speakers at next general membership meeting, March 8th

Our guest speakers will be Brian and Bradley Pultz who will be discussing spring black bass fly fishing in our area. Find out where and when you will have the best opportunities to catch black bass in our local impoundments, lakes, and the Delta. In addition, Bradley will tie some of his signature black bass patterns.

The Pultz family has been fly fishing the California Delta and surrounding lakes for over 30 years. Both are accomplished tournament bass fishermen in their own rights. Bradley is the owner of Delta Bass Bugs, a local fly fishing company that focuses on bass on the fly. Bradley is a third generation fly tier with multiple successful patterns,

available on his online store. Brian is a two time Costa Bass-&-fly winner with years of fly fishing experience on the California

Delta. Brian has taken Bradley's patterns and developed unique techniques and tricks to put fish in the boat even when conditions are less than desirable.

A club raffle follows the speaker presentation.

We'll start at 6:30 pm at the John R. Williams Elementary School at 2450

Meadow Ave, Stockton this Wednesday, March 8th. Our meeting is open to the public and guests are welcome always.



An editorial

Where did everyone go?

By Jerry Neuburger

Prior to COVID 19, our membership meetings drew between 30 and 40 members for attendance. Now, while our club seems to be experiencing a renaissance in membership with 102 members, the number of those attending the membership meetings has dropped to fewer than 15 members on most occasions.

Do you realize that the speakers at our general membership meetings cost on an average over \$400. That's an extremely costly

amount for the attendance drawn, at about \$27 each for those attending. The speakers are some of the best known on the west coast. In some ways, it's embarrassing as a club that our attendance is so poor.

What are we doing wrong? Our program chair and our board of directors would like to know. Is it a case of forgetfulness? Are the speakers topics uninteresting? Would you prefer a different meeting format? It's YOUR club so don't be shy, let someone, an officer or board member know if you have a suggestion for improved attendance.

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Some coming outing dates

By Bob Fujimura

Just a partial listing of some upcoming outings this year that you should put on your calendars or sign up if you are interested. Please contact the fishmiesters if you are interested in more information on any of these events or to sign up.

Tuesday—Thursday March 28 –30 **Pyramid Lake.** Join fishmiester Jerry Neuburger for this midweek, three day outing to Pyramid Lake, 40 miles north of Reno Nevada. This year's plans have everyone providing for their own lodging and fishing opportunities, with a possible group barbecue and campfire on Thursday night. Jerry will be available for some suggestions on how to fish the lake both before the outing and during the outing and can be contacted by email (preferred) or phone 209-327-5993. Note: A tribal license is required for fishing, camping and boating the lake and can be purchased on line at [Pyramid Lake Permits](#) or at the lake itself at [Pyramid Lodge](#) or at the [Pyramid Ranger Station](#). The Lodge also has lodging and a full supply of flies and other fishing necessities to properly fish the lake. This outing is subject to cancellation due to inclement weather at Donner Pass. If doubtful, check with the fishmiester before making the drive.

Saturday April 29 – **Kistler Ranch Bass Ponds:** Fly fishing three private farm ponds for black bass and sunfish with your DFF members and friends near Jamestown, CA. We already have 12 people sign up already and are considering closing reservations after we fill a few more slots. We are charging

\$30 rod fee per angler and fishing is catch and release only. Contact Bob Fujimura by email at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or cell (209) 329-1692 for registration information.

Saturday May 13 – **One Fly Contest:** Join other DFF members in a friendly fly fishing competition with the host club Calaveras Fly Fishers (CFF) on their home waters. DFF members have often won both contest prizes for most fish caught, and for the largest fish landed during this annual fly fishing tournament. Participants pay a modest entry fee that goes toward CFF's scholarship fund for local high school students, a light breakfast, and a great tri-tip sandwich lunch. Women should also consider participating in the Women's Outreach Weekend that this event is just a part of the Women's event. More information to come when more details are available from the CFF organizers.

May 17-19 - **Eastern NV Stillwater Outing:** Join DFF members in a hosted and guided outing in a selected lake or reservoir in Eastern Nevada led by Reno guide Rob Anderson and his staff. This annual 2.5 day event includes gear set up guidance, basic stillwater fly fishing techniques, generous fishing time on water with plenty of big trout, and two lunches and dinners. If you are interested in participating in this guided outing, please contact Rob Anderson by email rob@bucketlistflyfishing.com or (775) 742-1754 for details on signing up and let Bob Fujimura know if you register for this outing.

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FLY FISHERS
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The March outing, Pyramid Lake

By Jerry Neuburger

The last two years, putting together a Pyramid Lake outing has been frustrating. Two years ago, our reservation was double booked and we had to cancel. Last year we only had four attendees at the reserved lodging at the lake. The outing included a Friday night spaghetti dinner and fixings for breakfasts and lunches for two days, a little frustrating considering that reservations were made for 12 at the lake with a cost of only \$90 per person. Luckily the lodge has a liberal cancellation policy.

This year, we're trying something different. The outing has been moved to mid week and no accommodations have been arranged, nor food provided. Instead, everyone is on their own for food and lodging.

The fish and fishing techniques

Why Pyramid? Because it contains some of the largest trout in the world. The lake is home to two strains of ancient Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, the Summit strain and the Pilot Peak strain, the second believed to be the original strain in the lake, a strain that was over fished and believed extinct in 1943. This species of trout, prior to extinction, produced a 41 pound trout, a lake record in 1941. The Pilot Peak strain was rediscovered by scientists in the 1970's in an isolated stream and believed to be the extinct strain previously found in the lake. The Pilot Peak strain was re-introduced in the 2006 and fish over 20

pounds have recently been caught with fish in the mid to high teens caught daily. Two methods of fly fishing presentation are the accepted methods of hooking up with one of these large fish. The first is casting and stripping a woolly worm or woolly bugger using a fast sinking line.



One of those bluebird days at Pyramid, great for camping, tough for fishing. Photo by Jerry Neuburger

The flies are usually #4 to #6 in size and vary as to color with black and olive being favorites. Other flies are also presented using the same techniques including boobies and nymphs.

The second method is hanging a chironomid or balanced leech under an indicator. The flies are fished in tandem with the bottom fly suspended within six inches of the bottom. Nymph colors vary from black to purple with wine and red being popular colors, and bead heads varying from white (snowcone) to black, brass or copper. A popular nymph is the Mahalo

nymph. Sizes vary from #8 through #16. Balanced leeches are also popular with many fly fishers fishing both a balanced leech and chironomid under an indicator. The balanced leeches usually have crystal flash bodies, marabou tails and no palmered hackle for a final winding. Sizes

and colors vary with #6 and #8 hooks being popular and colors varying from black through both light and dark olive and holographic dressing being popular.

Equipment

While these fish are large, cutthroat trout are not known for their fight. In addition, the fly fisher is much more likely to catch the smaller, Summit strain of fish, so a really large rod is seldom used. Most fly fishers fish a 7 or 8 rod, with a tungsten line if casting and stripping or a floating line and easily

adjustable indicator and floating line if fishing chironomids and balanced leeches. Because the fish can be very large, 2X or 3X tippet is used, generally with no taper, the length needed depending on whether casting and stripping or indicator fishing. Another unique thing about presentation is the use of a ladder or specially designed platform for fishing, the twofold purpose, the height to allow for longer casts and also to get most or all of the angler out of the very cold water, even though, equipped with waders. The infrequent Pyramid angler usually uses a ladder with feet large enough not to sink into the sand while the dedicated Pyramid addict uses a ladder/platform combination that allows him to sit comfortably out of the water and fish for longer periods.

Weather

Weather is always a factor when fishing and Pyramid is no different. Bluebird days with a flat and glassy lake and cloudless sky tend to be tough fishing days regardless of temperatures. While truly stormy weather with high winds and low temperatures can make it impossible to fish. However, some less than perfect conditions seem to make the fishing better. The two greatest factors cloud cover and surface conditions. If the sky is full of clouds and there's enough



A prehistoric Summit strain Lahontan Cutthroat trout. Photo by Jerry Neuburger

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wind to provide some ripple on the lake, those conditions usually **allow** for decent to outstanding fishing.

For outing purposes, the conditions at Donner Pass on Highway 80 dictate as to whether the club's outing is a go or not. The highway can be closed or have such hazardous conditions that outings can be cancelled. If a member has doubts about an outing being cancelled, they should contact the fishmiester before leaving for the lake. For me, the worst scenario is being on the east side of the pass with the roads closed and unable to get home.

Accommodations and food

Camping— You can camp anywhere on the west side of the lake with a permit, whether it's tent camping or in a trailer, fifth wheel or motorhome. Only a few restrictions apply, the most enforced, the distance from the water. Some improved sites exist at Pelican Point. These sites and access are paved and level. Fire pits are the only other improvement. There is no additional fee for these sites. I will be at one of these sites. [An RV park, seldom full, with full hookups is also available.](#)

Food and Rooms for rent

Very basic dining, well furnished rooms and trailers accommodating from one to twelve can be rented right at the lake at the [Pyramid Lake Lodge](#) now operated by the

Paiute tribe, the owners of the lake. **Warning**, reservations are limited at popular times. Other choices are to stay in Sparks or Reno for the gambling and night life, a favorite, the [Nugget Casino](#), 45 miles from the lake, an hour's drive.

Permits and enforcement

Because you are fishing on the tribal lands of the Paiute tribe, a Nevada fishing license is not required. Instead, you must purchase a fishing license and camping permit from the tribe at the previously mentioned locations.

Fishing regulations are enforced by the tribal rangers who have the authority to issue citations and make arrests. Fishing regulations are actively enforced and if you fish at the lake for several days you are likely to be checked for your license and your gear to see if you are using barbs or barbed hooks with the barb bent down, on your line. Other common violations include leaving your ladder in the water when not fishing. While the rangers are nice guys and girls, they will cite for violations so obey the rules. (Because they are on the water, walking the beaches, most are pretty good sources of where the hot fishing is occurring if asked)

The above guide is pretty basic and does not cover lots of things like fish migrations, access points, seasons, fees, and lots of other stuff most of which is a matter of

being there, done that. If experience is a valuable tool for fishing success, it is even more so at Pyramid. That does not mean that a rookie cannot have success at the lake. It's well known that many rookies catch double digit fish on their first attempt. But for consistent results, nothing can beat experience.

Condensing everything to just the outing details, the outing dates are Tuesday, March 28, through Thursday March 30th, driving home on Friday March 31st. Accommodations and food are at the participant's digression. The fishmiester, me, Jerry Neuburger, will be camping in my travel trailer, a 17BH Coachman Clipper pulled by a 2009 white GMC pickup. Staying at Pelican Point and fishing from my pram since I have too much difficulty fishing from a ladder and do not own a rolling fishing platform. I'm available for information on what I know about the lake both before and during the outing, email, gneuburg@gmail.com, phone 209-327-5993. If the weather permits and enough people attend, a potluck, bbq and campfire ring will be held at my campsite on Thursday night. The outing is weather dependent and can be canceled at the fishmiester's discretion.

Getting ready for stream season in April

By Jerry Neuburger

The club is doing a few things different this year. First, the general membership meeting, to be held at the John R. Williams School on April 12th will focus on building member skills through a series of demonstrations and workshops and secondly, the club will hold a casting clinic on Saturday, April 22nd at Oak Grove Park. Information on the casting clinic can be found elsewhere in this newsletter, this article deals with the general membership meeting and skills to be developed.

Details are still being worked out but here's the basics. A number of tables or booths will be set up, each designed to develop a specific skill. A few suggestions are having a knowledgeable fly fisher check a novice's equipment for balance and suitability, a variety of knots, using certain tools, or other such helpful hints designed to make a novice's first attempts on the water more successful

The idea of issuing a passport and having those percolating having the passports signed off at the various stations has been

floated as a possibility. When signed off, the player would be given a sheet of tickets, free to enter into the evening's drawing.

The above is in the early planning stages and is open to suggestions as to what to feature. Al Smatsky, the program chair, is looking for input as to what the members want, especially those new members with only a few seasons under their belts and those struggling on the water. Al can be contacted by email or by phone, 209-601-0819

Is this the right rod, reel, line for my trout fishing this summer? What does WF5F mean on the outside of a box of fly line? What's the difference in sink rate between an Intermediate line and a Type II? Should I buy a full sink line or a sink tip? What is a sink tip? All these questions and more may be answered at the club's April membership meeting.

Reprinted from the February newsletter

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 successful 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 pur-

chased 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



From 2018. Has it been that long ago? Photo by Jerry N.

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.

Mettler

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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.

Lower Yuba Clinic and Pleasanton Fly Show Reports

By Bob Fujimura

Lower Yuba River Outing/Clinic



On Saturday February 18, eight DFF members attended a free outing/clinic of fly fishing the Lower Yuba River. Participants were Bob Brown, Don Van Schenck, Mary Midgett, Mary Homelvig, Greg Reiner, Marna Ambroselli, and hosts Bob & Jean Fujimura. After a light breakfast, we had brief orientation with handouts and sampler fly sets. We also help new anglers set up their nymphing terminal rigs then spent the rest of morning fly fishing or surveying the waters along the Hammon Grove and Sycamore Ranch Parks. After lunch, we toured both sides of river and saw or visited potential fly fishing access loca-

tions. Some locations were accessible using 4-wheel or all-wheel drive vehicles and less visited by fly fishers. Fishing was slow that day; however, we saw a few signs of resident trout and a few adult Skwala. The Hammon Grove Park was full of fly fishers from at least three other clubs including a private guided session with last month's speaker, Lance Gray.

Five of this group (Mary M., Mary H., Greg R., Bob & Jean F.) earlier that week also RV camped for two nights at nearby Collins Lake Resort. We fished the lake Thursday afternoon and Friday morning from float tubes or from shore without much action despite that the Resort had begun weekly stocking of hatchery trout. We heard from other gear fishermen that the Resort has planted the lake at a different location and they moved when the catching stopped for them. Given our poor fishing earlier, we gladly moved to where the trout were released that afternoon. Most of this group, easily caught and release several rainbow or lightning trout each, mostly fly fishing from shore using suspended black balanced leeches or stripped black & green leech patterns. Both Marys offered dinner and cards and were great hosts during this campout.

Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show

I was busy volunteering at the NCCFFI booth both Friday and Saturday and probably missed many DFF members who visited this major fly fishing event. But it was nice to see and talked with several club members touring the show, mostly on Friday morning. Jean and I also enjoyed touching bases with our favorite fly tiers and guides and later had dinner with Lance and Kristen Gray. Friday and Saturday afternoons I mostly helped at the NCCFFI Fly Fishing Skill booth mostly demonstrating basic fly tying to young and older attendees with other more experienced volunteers. Amy Terra helped with fly casting instruction at the FFI/GGACC free casting instruction clinic during the entire Show. Jean and other DFF members took part in the FFI Fly Fishing Skill Challenge led by lead instructors Russ Carpenter and Sarah Trenchel and worked toward earning a Bronze, Silver, or Gold casting certification. Similarly, Russ and Sarah will also instruct our members and guests at the upcoming DFF Fly Casting Day in April.

On Saturday, Vice President Dena Mason and I helped arrange and attended the NCCFFI President's Lunch. We listened to President Mark Rockwell discuss what the Council is providing

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support to its member clubs which DFF is one of 28 Northern CA and Western NV affiliated clubs. Mark also premiered a new video describing the scope of the environmental and fishery restoration plans for the Klamath River after removal for the four dams on its upper river course. Saturday afternoon Bob participated with Bay Area Scout District and NCCFFI efforts

to help Scouts earn their Fly Fishing Merit Badge through learning and demonstrating their fly and knot tying skills.



Casting Day, April 22, Oak Grove Park. Don't miss it. RSVP Amy for a free hot lunch

By Amy Terra

This April 22nd, starting with lunch and casting at 11:45 at Oak Grove Park, Delta Fly Fishers is hosting FFI's Fly Casting Skills Development Program (FCSD) at our Fly Casting Spring Event. FCSD has been developed by FFI's casting leadership to provide a way to measure, practice and develop casting skills. It involves 3 levels (bronze, silver and gold), with the levels representing increasingly complex casting skills. The bronze level involves fundamental casting skills that represent on-the-water fishing casts. Silver level tasks represent casts that allow the angler to adjust for wind, water current, accuracy and distance. Gold represents the highest level of casting skill and the caster must demonstrate not only specialty casts at this level, but also demonstrate loop control with all tasks being demonstrated with a four foot or narrower loop.

The FCSD is a great way to gauge your casting strengths and identify potential areas for improvement in a fun, relaxed setting. Facilitators will lead small groups through each level of tasks by describing and demonstrating each cast. Then participants will then have the opportunity to make the cast as described within 3 attempts. Facilitators can provide some quick suggestions and cues, but if a participant struggles with a task, there will be certified casting instructors available in the "Coach's Corner" to work on those tasks with individual casters. The participant can then come back and complete that task when they are ready. Complete all of the tasks of a level, and you have earned that medal's level. If you are an FFI member, you can submit the paperwork to receive a metal pin to display your casting skill level.



A sample of the metal pins you can qualify for through FFI.

This casting day will include a lunch available for DFF members (Donations will be appreciated to offset the cost of lunch). There is no charge for the casting day and the activities are open to members and non-members so bring your interested family, friends and fishing buddies. All participants will be required to wear eye protection (glasses or sunglasses- protective eye wear will be available to borrow) and a signed liability waiver is required for all participants. There will be a raffle with great casting and fishing prizes including filled fly boxes, a 9 foot 5 weight rod setup, practice casting setups, casting practice rods and more! Raffle tickets will be earned for attempting casting tasks.

It is sure to be a fun filled day with casting and fun. Let the park gate know you are with Delta Fly Fishers and

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follow the signs to the fly casting area. There will be rods available to use. If you feel like gold level casting is in your future, please feel free to bring your own 6 or 7 weight rod for that level tasks. This is an amazing opportunity for our club and community to spend time with some amazing certified casting instructors so put it on your calendars, come on out and have a great time casting! If you have any questions, call or text 209-329-4801.



A few of the FCSD facilitators and casting instructors who will be at DFF's Spring Casting Event: CI Candidate Amy Terra, CI Sarah Trenchel, CI Candidate Mike Thompson, and CI Russ Carpenter.

Listed below are the casts for each level of casting:

Bronze	Silver	Gold
B1. 35 ft. Pick Up and Lay Down	S1. Dominant Side 45 ft. PULD and	G1. Loop Control Demonstration
B2. 35 ft. PULD Cast, Non-	S2. Non-Dominant Side 45 ft. PULD	G2. Seated/Kneeling Cast & Shoot
B3. 35 ft. Horizontal PULD Cast	S3. Belgian Cast and Shoot Starting	G3. Curve Cast Starting with the fly
B4. Shooting Line to 40 ft. Starting	S4. Minimum 35 ft. Roll Cast, Non-	G4. Slack Line Presentation Start-
B5. Accuracy to 25 and 35 ft. Tar-	S5. Accuracy to 20, 30, and 40 ft.	G5. Roll Cast Pick Up and Shoot
B6. Minimum 35 ft. Roll Cast, Domi-	S6. Right Reach Mend Starting with	G6. Back Cast Delivery Starting
B7. Distance to 50+ ft. Starting with	S7. Left Reach Mend Starting with	G7. Non-Dominant Side Accuracy
	S8. Distance to 60+ ft. Starting with	G8. Distance to 70+ ft. Starting with

Attention all Wuffies; these activities are aimed at you. The first takes place this Saturday!

By Amy Terra

The recent storms have provided lots of wonderful water to our dry river systems but the waters have had some higher flows and have been pretty muddy to fish. If fishing in the cold, murky high waters isn't your idea of a good time, then late winter and early spring can be a good time to prepare and practice skills. The women's group has a couple of upcoming activities with this in mind.



Casting Instructor Candidate, Amy Terra and Certified Casting Instructor, Sarah Trenchel who will be at the April 22nd Women's Welcome Casting Day.

The first women's activity will take place after the upcoming Trout Bout on March 4th from 1pm to 3pm-ish. We will meet at the Boathouse at Oak Grove Park. Just let the gate know you are with Delta Fly Fishers and the park entry fee is waived. We will spend some time going through fly fishing gear basics. Whether you are new to fly fishing or a seasoned angler, there are going to be hands-on activities including women specific tips and tricks to gear and gear options. We will assemble fly rods and explore some casting fundamentals. We will look at waders, boots and wading staffs. We will look at packs and go over common

gear including flies, indicators and tippet. This is a relaxed afternoon with light snacks and beverages provided. No experience necessary. All are welcome- invite any

family and friends if they are at all interested in fly fishing. This is a great opportunity to meet other women who fly fish. No charge for the get together- all you have to do to participate is sign the club's waiver.

In April, we are hosting a women's fly casting morning on our fly casting day on April 22nd. The morning will be a Women's Welcome with the hours of 9:30 to noon being dedicated to women supporting women in the development of their fly casting skills. We will be joined by Certified Casting Instructor,

Sarah Trenchel who will lead a morning of casting development for casters of all skill levels. If you or someone you know has never touched a fly rod before, there will be Foundational activities to introduce you to moving a fly rod and line. If you have some experience with fly casting, there will be instruction and refinement of casting mechanics through small group instruction. The women's-only classes will begin with morning pastries and beverages including hot coffee and tea and end by joining the club in lunch with the afternoon's fly casting skills

development activities. Any women's participant who wants to go through the fly casting skills development activities will be encouraged to do so. There will be great raffle prizes with tickets earned for every casting task participants complete. No charge for the get together- all you have to do to participate is sign the club's waiver.

We will have women's activities each month. Look for them on the [Women on the Water](#) webpage or call me for more information at 209-329-4801. -Amy

Amy's Casting Corner

March Casting News

February was a busy month for casting opportunities! Several club members met me at local parks in Lodi to work on some specific skills. Thanks so much to them for putting in some extra time to target

specific casts and casting skills. It is so exciting to see a little casting support and feedback result in improved casting. Better casting leads to better fishing and often more fish to hand! Can't wait to

hear how the improved casting impacts their on the water experiences. If anyone wants to get together and look at specific skills or casts, don't hesitate to contact me

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at 209-329-4801.

Second Saturday free lessons at Golden Gate Park were a little wet from rain in February but it was also the first time I was able to lead a lesson at the historic casting ponds. The experience was surreal and, with the support of a wonderful instructional team, I was able to deliver lessons to over 40 people that day, teaching the pick up lay down, offside cast and false cast. It was an honor and a privilege to teach at the ponds and I look forward to teaching again. The lessons occur the second Saturday of each month from 9 to noon. Rods are available for check out and the setting of the ponds is a hidden oasis in the city. A quick congratulations to Bob and Jean Fujimura who were both able to pass their casting competency for the Learn

to Fly Fish program through Golden Gate Casting and Angling. The Learn to Fly Fish program is a highly sought after program through Golden Gate and Bob and Jean are on their way with this success. Congrats to you both!

There were also opportunities at the recent Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show to explore your casting skills. The Fly Show had lots of casting demonstrations and classes and the Golden Gate Casting and Angling Club had both individual lessons and presented the Fly Casting Skills Development Bronze, Silver and Gold activities. I was able to support the casting development skills challenge with certified casting instructor Sarah Trenchel, certified casting instructor- Russ Carpenter and CI candidate Mike Thompson. We had two full days of guiding people through the skills

challenge tasks with many people attaining success at each level of skills development tasks.

Did you miss out on this past month's opportunities? No problem. Your club leadership is designing an exciting casting opportunity for you on April 22nd. Look for more information in another article in this newsletter.

Fly Casting Advice to Remember:
"Fly casting is about precision and practice. There are several different methods you can try while learning how to cast a fly rod, as they all follow the same basic principles of moving the rod and line. Mastering the fly casting basics is the first step to become a fly fishing casting expert." (TakeMeFishing.org)

A Note from the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

Dear Members of Delta Flyfishers,

Thank you for your recent contribution of \$1000 to the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA). Your contribution will support CSPA's initiatives to keep more water flowing in California's rivers and through the Delta.

Three ways that CSPA is working in 2023 to get more water for fish are:

Leveraging the State Water Board's update of the Bay-Delta Plan for more Delta flow

Opposing the proposed tunnel under the Delta that would ship more water south

Using water rights to keep Sacramento River water out of a new Sites Reservoir

Here's why these actions matter.

The Delta is starved for water. The only times the Delta gets enough water is in big storms. Many fish species are at an all-time low. Others are close to the bottom. Too many salmon and stripers go to the Delta to die.

Thirteen years ago, the State Water Board

gathered scientists from across the state and beyond. The Board issued a report that set out the science of how much water fish in the Delta need. The Board is supposed to incorporate those findings in its work. The first stop is the Bay-Delta Plan.

It isn't happening. Powerful interests across the state have stalled the update of the Bay-Delta Plan for 28 years. For them, water is money. So they've proposed "Voluntary Agreements" for Delta and river flows with a skimpy water budget, far short of what the State Water Board's flow report recommended. To make it worse, this born-to-fail project will spend over \$2 billion in government money. It will pay water agencies to leave a small fraction of the public's water in rivers and in the Delta. It will also pay for projects to "move dirt" in "floodplains" that the plan doesn't provide water to get wet.

Fourteen years ago, the Delta Reform Act promised to manage the Delta to meet the "co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem." It also promised "appropriate Delta flow criteria." Say what? As you read this, the Newsom administration is

proposing version 3 of a Delta Tunnel to move Sacramento River water under the Delta to points south. It's proposing to leave less water in the Delta, not to require more. Cities, farms, critters, and birds will be left, after 15 years of traffic jams and construction noise, to twist in the Delta breeze. People and fish will be left to swim in water whose quality is worse than today, when they can swim in it at all.

Upstream, rice farmers in the Sacramento Valley are planning to gulp into a new Sites Reservoir some of the last flows in the state that aren't gulped up already. The farmers are teaming up with wealthy water agencies south of the Delta. All told, about half of the water stored in Sites Reservoir would likely be sold on the water market during dry years. The Sites project is founded on the "less is more" theory that massive new diversions from the Sacramento River have "environmental benefits" because a fraction of stored water is allocated for wildlife refuges or increases flow when released back to the river to transport it to farms and cities.

The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance has a better vision for California's

(Continued on page 11)

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fish and water. Fisheries are recoverable, and most can thrive, if water needed in rivers and the Delta stays there. California needs to live within its means when it comes to water.

Thanks again for your support.

Chris Shutes
Executive Director
CSPA

blancapaloma@msn.com

<https://calsport.org/news/>

No Chris, it's really us thanking you for all you do and have already done in preserving flows on so many of California's waterways. I'm sure that along with your new title that you feel the crushing weight of responsibility. So, again, thank you, thank you, thank you. Ed.

The NCCFFI Report for March and a calendar of coming exciting opportunities and activities!



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL

As we move into the end of winter, and with the Fly Fishing Show behind us, I wanted to let everyone know what activities we will be engaged in for the rest of 2023. **We have many learning activities and events planned, and these will be held around our region to make it easier for many of you to participate.** Here is a shorthand listing of the events, locations and dates. We will be doing outreach around each of these, but we wanted to give you the info so you can note them in your calendar.

Fly Casting & Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) Events

'Teach the Teachers' Zoom, April 27th - 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - for workshop in Sacramento on 5/20/2023.

Casting instruction in **Sacramento, May 20th**, 10-4 p.m. FCSD site lay-out & teaching instruction for 'Teach the Teachers' starts at 1 p.m.

'Teach the Teachers' Zoom, May 24th - 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. for workshop in San Jose on 6/24/2023. Casting instruction in **San**

Jose, June 24th, 10-4 p.m. FCSD site lay-out & teaching instruction for 'Teach the Teachers' starts at 1 p.m.

'Teach the Teachers' Zoom, August 31st - 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. for workshop at Yuba Fest, September 30th.

Casting instruction at **Yuba Fest, Sept 30th**, 10-4 p.m.. FCSD site lay-out & teaching instruction for 'Teach the Teachers' starts at 1 p.m.

Proposed NCCFFI Skills Clinics - Clay Hash, Fly Fishing Traditions

Euro Nymphing Clinic - May 13th, 9 - 4 p.m. Browns Valley, Lower Yuba River

NCCFFI Introduction to Fly Fishing - Sunday May 21st, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sacramento or Grass Valley.

Fishing Technical Waters Workshop - Saturday June 17th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Lower Yuba River,

Browns Valley, CA

NCCFFI Introduction to Fly Fishing - Sunday June 25th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., San Jose, CA.

Fly Fishing the Lower Yuba River - Saturday August 19th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sycamore Ranch on the Lower Yuba River,

NCCFFI Introduction to Fly Fishing - Sunday October 1, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sycamore Ranch on the Lower Yuba River.

Spey Fishing Workshop - swinging & soft Hackle - Trout spey, Saturday November 18th, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Lower Yuba River, Browns Valley.

All of these Teaching programs are offered by **Sarah Trenchel & Russ Carpenter**, Certified Casting instructors of GGACC for casting events, or **Clay Hash of Fly Fishing Traditions** in Grass Valley, CA. **Mark Your Calendars!**

Lots of things to do this month at CDFW



California Department of
Fish and Wildlife

Various Days — Guided Wetland Tours by Reservation at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, 3207 Rutherford Road, Gridley (95948). A wildlife naturalist will lead any group, school or organization through the diverse wetlands of the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. General information includes wildlife identification, behavior patterns and conservation efforts. The experience can be catered to include requested information. The minimum group size is eight people. For more information, please call (530) 846-7505 or email

Lori.Dieter@wildlife.ca.gov.

Various Days — Nest Box Survey Orientation at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 11 and 14, 3207 Rutherford Road, Gridley (95948). Choose one of two free orientation meetings for a unique opportunity in a season-long field project. Working in teams, detailed data is collected and used to understand and enhance the local wood duck population and other wildlife. Commitment varies, averaging four hours once or twice a month, April through July. The project is open to the public ages 18 and older and this meeting is required for participation. Space is limited and reservations are required. For more information, please call (530) 846-7505 or email

Lori.Dieter@wildlife.ca.gov.

Various Days — Discover the Flyway School Program, Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, 45211 County Road 32 B, Davis (95618). Discover the Flyway is an outdoor education program for kindergarten through 12th grade students that meets Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core Standards. The goal is to offer children a meaningful outdoor experience that will give them an appreciation for the wetlands, agriculture and wildlife of the Central Valley and contribute to a lifetime of healthy outdoor activities and development of a land stewardship ethic. This school year, Yolo Basin Foundation is offering teachers three options: the chance to bring students to a field trip to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, the opportunity to have our educators and docents bring the program to their classroom or the option to participate from school or home in a live, virtually led activity. Teachers can learn more and register at www.yolobasin.org/schoolprograms.

Various Days — Nature Photography Workshop and Tour with Lewis Kemper, March 2 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Zoom virtual session, and March 4 from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m., Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarters, 45211 County Road 32 B, Davis (95618). Join world renowned nature photographer Lewis Kemper as he provides new insights, inspiration and instruction to photographers of all levels in this fun-filled educational experience designed to enhance photographic skills. This is a hybrid event split between two sessions. For more information about this event or the Explorer Series, please visit www.yolobasin.org/explorer.

Sundays — Tot Time at Nimbus Fish Hatchery, 11 to 11:45 a.m., 2001 Nimbus Road, Gold River (95670). Join us every Sunday for Tot Time at the Visitor's Center at Nimbus Fish Hatchery, where we'll read nature-themed stories and create a fun craft! Recommended for children ages 2-7 years with parent/guardian supervision. There is no cost for these events and registration is not required. For more information, please email Julia.Kaiser@wildlife.ca.gov.

2 — Flyway Nights: Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project, 7 to 9 p.m., Zoom virtual session. The multi-benefit Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project will restore over 3,100 acres of freshwater tidal wetland habitat for the California Department of Water Resources within the Cache Slough Complex and increase the flood conveyance capacity of the lower Yolo Bypass. Stephanie Freed, Assistant Director of Operations at Ecosystem Investment Partners (EIP), will present on this topic. For more information, please visit www.yolobasin.org/flywaynights.

18 — Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Pop-up Information Booth, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Parking Lot A, 45211 County Road 32 B, Davis (95618). The third Saturday of every month, Yolo Basin Foundation will have a pop-up information booth in Parking Lot A of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. It is a great time to visit since volunteers will be present to hand out maps of the auto tour route and hiking trails, provide information about what to keep an eye out for and answer questions as visitors set out to explore local wildlife. Come visit the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area during this time of magical migrations. Waterfowl, geese, swans and more are making their way south along the Pacific Flyway. For more information about the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, please visit www.yolobasin.org/yolobypasswildlifearea.

19 — Tour of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, 9 a.m. to noon, 45211 County Road 32 B, Davis (95618). Join Yolo Basin Foundation's docent on a fantastic tour that is appropriate for all levels of outdoor enthusiasts and birders. View seasonal and permanent wetlands, native grasslands and young riparian forests. Look for migrating and resident waterfowl, geese, swans, raptors and wading birds. Registration is required to attend. For more information and to register, please visit www.yolobasin.org/wetlands-tours.

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Conservation by Ron Forbes

CALIFORNIA DOES NOT NEED A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR BOONDOGGLE ... CONGRESSMAN JOSH HARDER

Half the charm of fishing is that it takes one into beautiful scenery. Catching fish is not all of fishing.

J. Arthur Hutton ~ Some pre-war fishing in Norway, c. 1931

Tunnel Visions



Congressman Josh Harder. Stock photo

On February 22 Gerry Neuburger and I, representing the Delta Fly Fishers, attended Rep. Josh Harder's (D-District 9) town hall meeting at Lodi's Carnegie Forum. The topic of the meeting was Rep Harder's opposition to the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) the impending U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Public Workshop discussing DCP. Before the DCP can proceed further, California is required to have an approval permit from the USACE. The USACE is required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the DCP. Rep. Harder has held three prior Town Hall meetings regarding the USACE's Public Workshop, Its EIS, and its permitting process.

Lodi's well-attended Town Hall meeting was held at the Carnegie Forum. Along with Rep. Harder, former supervisor Chuck Winn and a representative from the San Joaquin County Farm Bureau spoke, expressing their concerns and reasons for opposing the DCP. Harder was recently quoted saying, "The Delta Tunnel would be a disaster for our community, a 16 billion dollar boondoggle that would poison our farms, ship our water to Los Angeles and Beverly Hills and not do a single thing to help our community. We are doing eve-

rything we can to fix it. Right here I have a dead simple bill, the Stop The Delta Tunnels Act, and that's exactly what it does: It's only one page long and what it does is ban the Delta Tunnel once and for all." Harder's bill is co-sponsored by Representatives John Garamendi, Mike Thompson, and Mark DeSailnier.

The battles over water transfers from the Delta and Northern California to Southern California have been going on for over 60 years. Initially, Gov. Jerry Brown proposed his Peripheral Canal (PC) concept in the 60's. In 1983 the PC was overwhelmingly defeated when 63 percent of the population voted no on the project. That was the first and last time California's governors have tried using the ballot box to ship the Delta's water south. Instead, they have used a variety of state and federal committees, agencies and the courts to initiate their water transfer projects. Harder is using a unique approach to abolish the DCP. He has introduced a bill in the House of Representatives that would forbid the USACE from issuing the permit required under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

After Rep. Harder and the two other presenters spoke, Harder asked for public input. Ten or twelve of the audience, including Gerry and I, spoke. Gerry commented that he was a member of the Delta Fly Fishers, an organization of over 100 members. He noted that Westlands Water District has over 100,000 acres of land which cannot be farmed. He suggested the state buy that land and its water rights, saving tens of thousands of acre feet of water. The land is non-farmable since it is laced with toxic selenium, other toxic metals, herbicides, and pesticides. Run-off from this acreage was responsible for the Kesterson wildlife disaster in 1983 killing and maiming area wildlife. I commented that living adjacent to the Delta, arguably some of the most prime farmland in the world, I found it repugnant that the Delta's water was constantly diverted to supply water for water intensive crops grown in arid, semi-desert regions. I also noted our salmon and fisheries face extinction because of these water diversions.

Restore the Delta's (RTD) Barbara Barrigan Parilla was one of Josh Harder's presenters at Stockton's Town Hall Meeting. RTD compiled a list of misrepresentations and construction impacts of the DCP. The list was a hand out at the Lodi meeting. It lists three areas of concern RTD has if the DCP is initiated.

First are the impacts of the proposed DCP. RTD notes that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has intentionally obscured the total impact on the project's construction by voluntary actions and "best practices" which presently are not required to be enforced. They also noted compensatory mitigation only refers to Boulden Island in the Central Delta and ignores the North Delta's drastic impacts where the intakes to the tunnel will be. They doubt that the DWR will honor their Communities Benefits Program as they have yet to start any action on these programs nor have they acknowledged all of the construction impacts that will occur. At the Lodi Town Hall Meeting we were told the DCP will cause irreparable damage to highway 160. The state claims construction will take from 6-8 years. The real time needed will be from 12-14 years. The reality of the construction is that highway 160 may be shut down and lost as a functioning road. People will not be able to use the highway to get to work, farmers will not be able to farm and market their



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crops, and the road will only be able to be used for the project.

RTD's second major concern is the operation impacts of the tunnel. The intakes are vulnerable to sea level rise from climate change and global warming. The initial years-old predictions of sea level rise are obsolete and inaccurate. State officials and the DWR have ignored how close we came to losing control of the Delta's salinity early last year. The DEIP does not address this issue. In 2009 the state passed the Delta Reform Act (DRA) to reduce our dependance of the Delta for water needs in the future. Our current rains, flood waters and massive snow pack will be lost once again rather than being captured and used for restoring our depleted aquifers. The DWR's DEIP also ignores the reality that extreme rain, and rapid snowmelt with high tides, will generate massive infrastructure damage and major loss of homes and personal property. RTD is concerned, "These failures will threaten loss of life for vulnerable communities in and around the Delta and its low elevation communities. The DCP intakes would also be extremely vulnerable to damage and failure when this occurs. The DWR's DEIR ignores the effects of the growing threat of extreme heat or hot seasons in the Delta watershed and its effect on reservoir operations and temperature management for vulnerable human and fish populations."

The third important concern RTD has about the proposed adoption of the DCP's DEIR, is the Delta's regional flood issues. Their chief complaint is even though our local flood agencies and engineers understand that our levees and flood protection infrastructure is in need of repair and maintenance, the state does not provide the needed funding. The levees and infrastructure not only need to be maintained but, in some cases, strengthened. Evidently the state of California feels that Stockton and flood prone cities in or near the Delta do not have the economic "bang for the buck" to justify the need for the money required.

One of Rep. Harder's reasons for the current series of Town Hall Meetings was not only to inform us about what is happening within the DCP but also ask us to attend the USACE's meeting on March 1 and express our disagreements with

the proposed DCP. The meeting is termed the "Delta Conveyance Project Open House Public Workshop." The "workshop" takes place March 1 in Stockton at the University Plaza Waterfront Hotel from 6:00-9:00 p.m.. The ACE describes the meeting as "The 90-minute open house-style workshop will allow the public an opportunity to learn more about USACE's review of the DCP, what the proposed project entails, UCACE role in the proposed project, and the process for accessing permit applications." It should be noted the ACE only offered a short period of time for public input which was to end early January. This is the ACE's typical method of operation. However, outrage from the public, including environmental groups, Delta farmers, business, and cities, demanded more time for public review and comment. It should also be noted that the DEIR will not be available for public view until March 16. Usually these meetings allow the public only 3 minutes to make their comments. As Conservation Chair I plan to attend the meeting and voice Delta Fly Fishers total objection to the DCP. I will also write a letter to the USACE voicing Delta Fly Fishers' opposition to the DCP.

GAVIN NEWSOM HAS LOST ALL CREDIBILITY OF BEING AN ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNOR AS HE SUSPENDS ALL LAWS PROTECTING THE DELTA

As a new member of the Delta Fly Fishers (DFF), I became interested in our fish and protecting their environment. In November of 2009, the DWR and an executive from Westlands Water District (WWD) co-hosted a state meeting advocating allowing the state's agriculture equal footing with the environment in state policy. The plan was termed the Co Equal Goals. When the state adopted the policy, those in the environmental organizations had no illusion of the direction the state's water policy was headed. Now, over the years, environmental protection groups have become used to the cliché-

riddled lies the state and federal government, agricultural corporations, and water brokers constantly feed the media. Unfortunately, the media pedals their lies to the public with little or no investigation of their validity.

This month Gov. Newsom, using the well-worn lie, "water in rivers flowing to the ocean is wasted," used this myth as a pretext to suspend all state environmental laws. Next he authorized the State Water Resources Control Board (SWB) to "consider modifying state requirements that dictate how much water in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is allowed to flow into San Francisco Bay. "Overwhelming scientific evidence has shown it takes at least 6,000 afs, flowing through the Delta to San Francisco Bay, to maintain the Delta's environment and fisheries. Before the pandemic, environmental and fisheries groups fought hard for Delta water rights but could only get 4,000 afs flowing through the Delta. Newsom intends to store our rain water and snow melt in reservoirs and intends to use the water for agriculture and Southern California. He has no intention of protecting the Delta or San Francisco Bay. His executive order will devastate the Delta.

Reaction to Newsome's actions has been immediate and negative from environmental and fish organizations. Doug Obegi, attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), called Newsom's maneuver, "A breakdown of law and order in the Delta. The state's rules for water export have been waived". Obegi was angry, saying, "The state's flow rules and water export restrictions have been waived. The executive order seems to signal the governor's intention to put his

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thumb on the scale in favor of extinction in the Delta." Jon Rosenfield, science director of San Francisco Baykeeper (SFB), reacted by saying, "There's not much difference between a world without environmental laws and a world, with the stroke of a governor's pen, environmental laws are eviscerated."

Over the years it has become tiresome listening to self-righteous politicians, state and federal agencies, and self-interest groups declare their concern and dedication to the environment only to find them totally disregarding any commitment or action for the environment. bGov. Newsom is a prime example of this group. After years of listening to the pseudo-environmental types one comes to a conclusion; many of our legislators, lo-

cal, state, and national agencies, and organizations are nothing more than lap dogs for politically powerful, wealthy individuals or corporations.

Ron Forbes
Environmental Chair