



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume XLVI

Number XIV

November 2022

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

Calendar

November 9, Membership meeting, John R. Williams School/BO

November 16, BOD meeting, Nature Center, Oak Grove Park

November 19, Trout Bout, Oak Grove Park

November 23, Open Tying, Nature Center, Oak Grove Park

December 10, Scott Sugimoto Seminar, Stockton Elks Club

December 14, Member presentation night, John R. Williams School

December 21, BOD Meeting, Nature Center, Oak Grove Park

December 28, Open Tying, Nature Center, Oak Grove Park

January 1, Mokelumne Outing, Van Assen Park

January 21, Installation dinner, Stockton Elks

A surprise speaker on Stillwater basics at the DFF Membership November Meeting

Sorry to say, the announced speaker, Lance Grey had to cancel his appearance to the club. Instead, the November program will feature a surprise speaker on still water fishing for trout. With the stream fishing season closing in mid month, with the exception of a few rivers, the only opportunities to fish for trout are the state's numerous lakes until next April.

The program will cover what makes trout feed, when and why lakes turn over, the many ways to target trout in still water using fly fishing gear and the insects most common to still water fisheries.

Our surprise speaker has over 40 years of experience fishing California trout still waters and guided in the state for over ten years. His PowerPoint presentation is a textbook style presentation on still water basics, not a series of big fish photos.

The meeting will be held at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Ave-

nue, Stockton. Doors open at 6:30, meeting starts at 7:00.

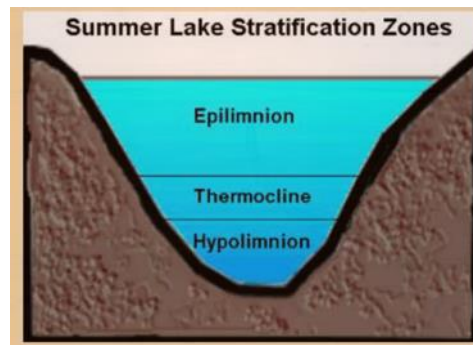
This is a live meeting and no Zoom presentation will be offered. Mike Dempewolf will continue to supply goodies and drinks, please put a dollar or so in the tip jar if partaking.

In addition to the surprise speaker's presentation, the general membership will be asked to vote on the directors for 2023, usually a voice vote is all that is necessary.

Fishing reports, announcements of new events on the calendar and a raffle will make up the

rest of the night's agenda. As in past practice, the meeting is open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

A no host premeeting dinner is scheduled at BJ's Brew House on Pacific Avenue, Stockton, starting at 5:15. Those planning to attend should RSVP program chair, [Al Smatsky](#) via email by Tuesday evening,



A slate of directors for 2023 to be elected at November meeting

It's been almost ten months since our last elections and it's time for us to do it again. None of our candidates have declared themselves blue or red, so we're safe from conflict. We have eight candidates and nine positions open so we will accept any nominations from the floor for the additional slot prior to the vote. Thankfully, all of our current directors are again volunteering their services. The candidates are, in no particular order or seniority, Randy Baxter, Susan Baker, Charlie Reames, Gary

Tecklenburg, Ron Forbes, Mike Dempewolf, Larry Schmidt and Robert Fujimura (also serving as club secretary). Once elected, the directors will elect the slate of officers for 2023 at the December board meeting.

So far, we have no volunteers to serve as club president, the remaining officers, Dena Mason, Vice President, Bob Fujimura, Secretary and Jerry Neuburger, Treasurer, have volunteered to continue to serve in their positions

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You need to sign up soon if you want to attend one of the club's special premier events. Seats going fast.

Scott Sugimoto featured at club's December 10th Fly Fishing Day program

By Al Smatsky

Scott Sugimoto, one of the DFF's favorite guides on the Lower Sacramento River at Redding, started his fly-fishing journey approximately 7 1/2 years ago. With a commitment to learn and the help of his friends, he taught himself how to set up his fly line, cast, entomology, and how to catch and land fish. One year later his guide friends told him that he should start a guiding business, which he did. Scott now guides the Lower Sacramento River, McCloud, Hat Creek, and the Pit River. He also found a new love, the beauty and artistry of fly tying. For Scott fly tying this is a way to relax and express part of himself into a sport and I love sharing it with others.

Scott will be tying some of his favorite and productive nymphs, steamers and dry fly patterns. These effective patterns can be used on all of our Western creeks, streams and river.

This will be a full day event to be held at the Elk's Lodge, 8900 Thornton Road, Stockton, starting with registration and set up in the morning featuring coffee, donuts and other goodies to eat, enough for a full breakfast for most, followed by about three hours of presentation.



Scott Sugimoto on the left. Happy angler on the right. Unknown photographer

Lunch will be catered by Sondra's Creative Catering and a full hour will be allotted allowing for some chatting after.

Following lunch, Scott will continue with his presentation, winding up about 3:30. A fly tier's raffle with 30 to 40 prizes will follow with huge bundles of fly tying materials offered, ten dollars for 15 tickets plus a door prize.

This is the third year of the event and it has been a sell out on both previous occasions. The event, due to space limitations is limited

to 40 participants. The event is open to all fly tiers, regardless of club membership so it's suggested that participants register early via the online facility. The cost for the day including the breakfast goodies, the catered lunch and all fly tying materials is \$40. [Register online by following this link.](#)

Or mail a \$40 check to:

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

The SJ P&R Trout Bout is on the books for this November 19th. We REALLY need some volunteers to help with this worthy community support event

The county will hold its third fishing event of the year on Saturday, November 19th at Oak Grove Park. Our club provides the food concession at the event and we REALLY need the volunteers this time since Charlie Reames, the event's perineal chair, has an injured foot and cannot run the operation. Arrangements have already been made to purchase the supplies necessary and move the equipment to the boat house, where the food is prepared and some sold

but we need volunteers to man the golf carts for sales and otherwise help with the effort. Early volunteers are asked to arrive by 6:30am, with the event over at 1pm. Tell the person working the gate that you're a DFF volunteer for free admission. New members, this is a great way to meet and get to know the club veterans and it's a very worthy effort since so many kids participate. By the way, director Nancy Baker has volunteered to chair the future events.

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Treasurer

[Jerry Neuburger](#)

209-327-5993

Directors

Ron Forbes

209-368-5767

Larry Schmidt

209-482-8742

Gary Tecklenburg

Mike Dempewolf

Randy Baxter

Bob Fujimura

Charlie Reames

Susan Baker

Committees

Beginner's Fly Tying

Amy Terra

Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)

Susan Baker

Catfish Derby (June)

Susan Baker

Conservation/Restore the Delta

Ron Forbes

209-368-5767

Education/Outreach

Dena Mason

Fly Tying/Fishing Mentor Program

Neuburger/Terra/Mason

Monthly Raffles

Jerry Neuburger

NCCFFI Representative

Bob Fujimura

Outings

Chair needed

Programs

Al Smatsky

209-368-9261

Bob Sousa

209-368-2683

Property/Historian

Charlie Reames

Refreshments

Mike Dempewolf

Rod Building

Bob Fujimura

209-339-0683

Trout Bout (November)

Susan Baker

Webmaster

Amy Terra

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Open tying to continue for the next two months on the fourth Wednesday of the month

By Jerry Neuburger

Although the fourth Wednesday of November is Thanksgiving eve and the fourth Wednesday of December falls a few days after Christmas, Bob Fujimura believes there is enough interest to continue with Open Tying at the Oak Grove Nature Center on the fourth Wednesday of the month from the hours of 6 to 8:30. As Bob said in last month's newsletter, "It will be a monthly opportunity to tie with your fellow members, sharing the latest fishing stories, and hang out with new and old friends."

Since the sessions have no particular format and no materials are provided, (tiers are expected to bring their own materials and tools), the sessions are free to all club members. Just tell the person manning the toll booth that you are a DFFer attending a session at the nature center, Current plans are for the toll booth and park gates to be closed at 5pm. If you find the entrance gate closed upon arrival, check to see if the gate is actually unlocked and just has the chain hooked on the post! If so, drive through after opening the gate and close it as you found it after entry,

Note to new members. If you are new to fly tying and would like to try your hand, the club maintains a number of fly tying kits as loaners in a cabinet in the room. If you attend the session you can usually find someone willing to share materials and expertise with you. Don't be afraid to ask and be honest with the tying skills you possess. Most fly fishers find that tying flies adds to the pleasure of fly fishing as well as a greater understanding of entomology, the study of insects, (that's what most trout eat you know!)

If you're not fishing the Delta now, you're missing out,,

By Jerry Neuburger

To put simply, striper fishing is hot right now, I went out with Al Smatsky last week and we doubled up on nine pounders. In fact, it was so good, Al caught three fish while I was rigging my topwater rod at the beginning of the session. Not to be left behind, after a few fruitless top water casts, I switched over to my quick sinking line and chartreuse over white clouser and was soon into fish myself,

Al went out the next day and stuck a 14 pounder at the same (not to be revealed) location, Meanwhile, Brian and Bradley Pultz of Delta Bass Bugs report up to 40 fish per rod at the Port of Stockton.

Of course, prior success does not guarantee steller performance in the future but, given some historic data, fishing should be good to excellent from now until around December 15 when water temperatures drop below 50 degrees.

In the past, the club has sponsored a number of outings out of Paradise Point Marina where anglers can fish from personal water craft with access to both Bishop Cut and Dissappointment Slough.

It may be worth exploring the possibility of fishing the port area so equipped, Other than those few locations, the delta is best fished out of a boat for a number of reasons including angler safety, water currents, and tide conditions as well as mobility,

The equipment necessary varies by angling skill with rods from 7 to 10 weight being the rods of choice, matched with a reel with a respectable drag and a rapid sinking line. The flies of choice are clousers, whistlers and deceivers in chartreuse, olive or grey over white.



Al with his 14 pounder. Photographer unknown

While stripers are usually found cruising close to the bottom, occasionally they work a school of bait fish to the surface and then feed voraciously. At this time a white gurgler or mackeral colored crease fly, retrieved with a lot of top water commotion on a floating line can bring heart thumping strikes followed by powerful short runs.

If you're new to the delta and want to shorten your learning curve while at the same time, increasing your chance of success, hiring a guide will really help,

Luckily, the club has a very competent guide as a member, while he may be booked for more than a few days already, it's probably still worth giving him a call or email:

[Bryce Tedford Fly Fishing](mailto:Bryce.Tedford@FlyFishing.com)
Phone: (206) 696-2437

Lower Sacramento River Outing Report

By Bob Fujimura

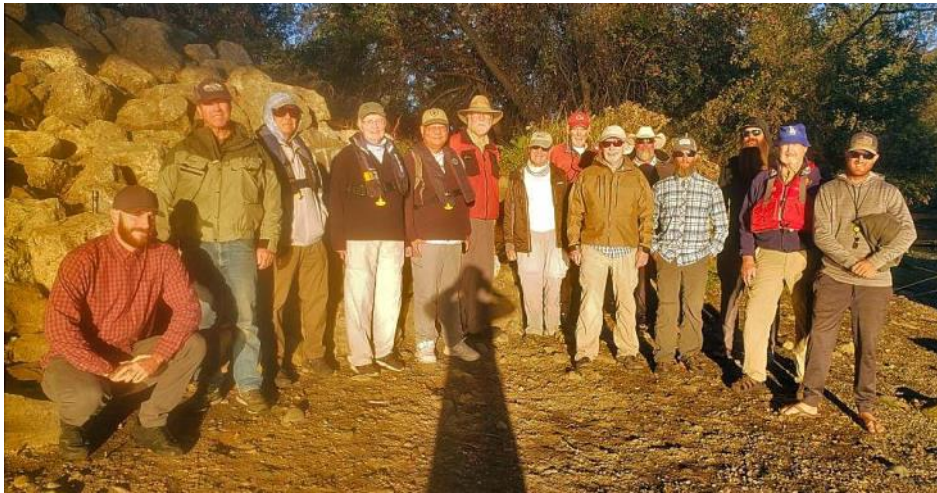
Ten participants arrived the day before our scheduled guided outing on Saturday October 22. The biggest group of five participants travelled with hosts Bob and Jean Fujimura. Most of the participants also had dinner later that evening with lead guide Scott Sugimoto at a local Southeast Asian restaurant and got to know each other better over food and drinks. This year's outing participants were Larry Schmidt, Dan McDaniel, Mike Demewolf, Mike's friend Jasen Yordy, new member Bill Brown, John Walsh, who lives in Carson City, NV but is

an active member of DFF, John's friend Ken Briscoe, Bob & Jean Fujimura, and Bob's brother Cal.

The next morning the group met at South Bonnyview Boat Launch and got introduced to the other guides who piloted their drift boats. Our guides included Tom Philips, Neil Amundson, Gary Whitmire, Ryan Williams, and our co-host Scott Sugimoto. We drifted a lower section of the river than previous years to avoid the heavy guide boat pressure in the upper section and to allow plenty of opportunities to hook and play resident

trout.

Everyone caught several trout, some in the 19-20" range. Larry Schmidt caught and released a nice size salmon and Dan McDaniel caught a huge carp which was an unusual bycatch. The fall run salmon spawning was underway, and several trout were caught using eggs; however, most fish were landed using small nymphs or large



Either a group photo of DFFers and guides or the Wild Bunch. Photo by unknown (Maybe The Shadow!)

rubberleg patterns. Most participants were happy with their fishing day. This year's change in the drift route allowed us to enjoy a very nice BBQ lunch at the Anderson Park Boat Launch hosted again by Gary's parents. We ended our drift at the Ball's Ferry Boat Launch, got cleaned up at our lodgings, and had dinner and more drinks at a local steakhouse that evening. Nine participants stayed a second night and left for home on Sunday.

One story that I wanted to share was that after I hooked into one of the largest trout that I landed that day, the top three sections of my rod pulled free when a line knot got stuck in one of the guides and headed toward fish which was swimming upstream. Our drift boat was heading in the opposite direction and I playing this fish with only my butt section of the rod. My guide, Ryan Williams,

simply said "Do the best you can." After playing this fish, retrieve the rest of the rod and after Ryan untied the line knot, I finally landed my fish. (and saved Bob a few bucks. Ed.)

We successfully completed another guided float trip on this awesome river and looking for to the next outing on

March 18, 2023.



One of The Wild Bunch (see bandana) with a nice Sacramento River Rainbow. Photo by unknown

Chasing perfection...

By Amy Terra

Fly casting is often something the angler takes for granted. When you are on the water, all that matters to you is that you can get your fly on the water. There are no extra points for style, grace or form. And, if you catch fish, it seems like everything is just fine. To look at your cast can sometimes seem unnecessary. Time passes. You fish for years and everything seems fine. Then one day you take a look at your casting skills and find out that your cast may not be as efficient or accurate as it could be or that you have gaps in your casting repertoire or that you have come to rely upon faults as fixes. It can be very humbling to realize there are some fundamentals that could use a tune up.

I have been served quite a few pieces of casting humble pie in my journey to fly casting certification. I try to be prepared. I practice 2 to 3 times each week. I target my own casting skills as well as my teaching skills. I cast with a variety of talented friends- often driving to meet them in the wee hours of the morning to work on my faults, fixes and skill gaps. I was feeling rather confident when I arranged to meet with master casting instructor, Willy George to present my beginning lesson plan that included the pick up lay down, false casting and off side cast. I was confident in the quality of these fundamental casting movements. Willy watched me work through my les-

son and made some notes for me to review later. He provided feedback and his evaluation of my pick up and lay down cast was that not one of my casts during my demo satisfied the basic expectation of this most fundamental cast. I was shocked and humbled. I considered throwing in the towel on my journey to certification. Maybe I didn't have what it takes if I couldn't do the most basic casting movement in fly casting. Willy, being the consummate teacher he is, didn't leave me to wallow in my sorrows. He walked me through assessment of my casting fault and worked me through my fixes. I went home and practiced...and practiced... and practiced. When I returned the following month for another review, Willy ran me through the cast and I got 9 out of 10 within casting expectations. What an improvement. My serving of humble pie had ended up providing me with the motivation to improve.

Never in my casting did I think I would return to the pick up and lay down cast. I thought I had moved on from this basic and fundamental cast. I have to share that revisiting this cast has improved all of my casting strokes. It is a great lesson to not be

afraid to revisit the fundamentals of fly casting. These gaps in early skills



Casting practice on an RV camping trip to Jackson Rancheria. Using the putting green for "casts in one"! Photo by Amy Terra

can lead to challenges in more technical and complex casting movements later on. Don't be afraid to put yourself out there. A piece of humble pie can lead to great improvement in all of your casting and fishing!

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Scott Sugimoto

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The times, they are a-chan-gin'

Bob Dylan

In every species of fish I have angled for, it is the ones that have got away that thrill me the most, the ones that keep fresh in my memory. So I say it is good to lose fish. If we didn't, much of the thrill of angling would be gone.

Ray Bergman

THE STATE'S ENVIRONMENT HAS CHANGED IRREVERSIBLY: "THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN"

Bob Dylan's "The Times They are A-Changin' " was written in 1963. The song was widely interpreted as a "self-conscious" protest song. Dylan doesn't agree. He says that he wrote the song, "as a statement ... it's a feeling." Those of us who were around in the early 60's can understand Dylan's feelings. Now, almost 60 years later, "chagin' times" has become a harsh reality.

Climate change has irreparably changed the state. Despite the

groundless statements of climate change deniers, the reality of the earth's changing climate is obvious. In the past, long range weather predictions were taken with a grain of salt. This is no longer the case. Technological advances have made weather predictions far more accurate than they were even a year ago. The most recent weather forecast predictions for our 2022-2023 winter can only be described as ominous.

During the third week in October, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) published an article predicting California will experience another winter that will be above average in temperatures and with less moisture than normal. They predict La Nina will continue through January and possibly longer. This will be the first time in the last 100 years that California will have had a La Nina three years in a row. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) defined California's last three years as "exceptional and unprecedented in modern times."

explained how La Nina causes our drought. "La Nina occurs when strong winds blow warm water on the surface of the Pacific Ocean near the the coast of South America across the equator toward Indonesia, other parts of Asia, and Australia. That causes cooler water to rise to the surface of the Pacific Ocean, which has a wide-ranging ripple effect on the weather. Some people will see drier effects; others will face more floods. The Southwestern U.S., with rain clouds pushed out to sea, becomes drier than usual. The northwestern U.S. and Canada see cooler-than-average temperatures and rain, and Australia, Indonesia and other parts of Asia also experience heavy rainfall. La Nina can even cause more lightning activity in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Gulf Coast and increase the number of hurricanes and tropical cyclones."

During the last two La Nina years we have watched fire storms devastate California. This last summer was one of extreme-record setting heat and dryness. Over 800 homes and struc-

NOAA recently

(Continued on page 7)



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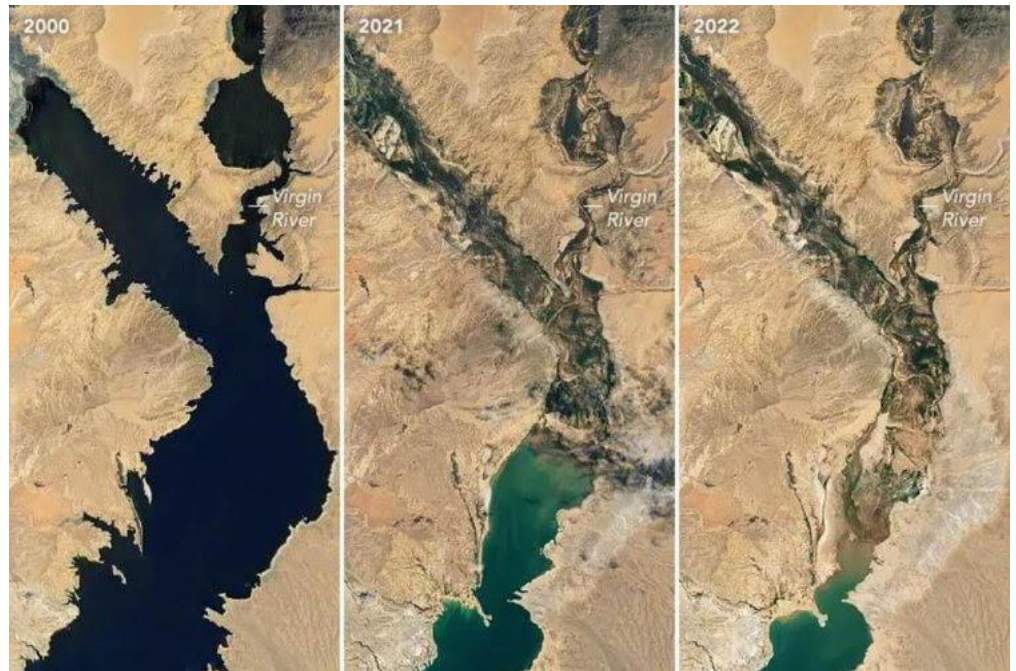
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tures have been lost and nine people have lost their lives. This September the NOAA's Climate Center Operational Prediction branch recorded "thousands of temperature records and increased the drought categories." Presently more than 90% of California is experiencing severe, extreme, or exceptional drought. These three categories are the state's worst drought categories. Now the reliability of water sources for California has been reversed by human-caused climate change.

Jon Gottschalck, Chief of NOAA's Climate Center Operational Prediction Branch (CCOPB), refers to a third year of drought as a potential "triple-dip La Nina." As a scientist, Gottschalck warns that NOAA's predictions are not guaranteed but are based on the best science currently available. He points out a change can occur rapidly as happened last December when a "sub-seasonal" event occurred. These events happen over several weeks, and are not long-term. Our "event" was a very strong atmospheric river which dropped a feet of snow in the Sierras. The snow did help us somewhat but ensuing warm weather and dryness wiped out most of what we gained.

He noted the accuracy of their predictions are more reliable in Southern California and in the Southwest. But predictions in Northern California and the San Francisco Bay Area are more difficult to predict because sub-seasonal events and human induced climate change have drastically changed California's weather patterns. This makes both the timing and the availability of water much less predictable. If the winter of 2022-2023 deepens the drought, both state and federal water suppliers face potential catastrophic circumstances. If a



The Colorado River at Lake Mead close to Hoover Dam.

"triple-dip La Nina" proves to be correct, almost the entire state will face a warmer than average winter with southern California facing the warmest temperatures.

YES, "THE TIMES ARE A CHANGIN": ARIDIFICATION

In researching literature for DFF's Conservation articles it has been common to find "what if" articles. Most of that genre of literature can be disregarded for a variety of reasons. Most of the articles are ignored because the author uses unsubstantiated or political opinions rather than verifiable facts. Over the years concepts have arisen that, while valid, are unrelated to current issues. Until recently much of America looked at climate change as an "over the horizon" issue. Not any longer.

Several months ago I wrote a paragraph about a discussion with Restore the Delta's Barbara Berigan-Parrilla about ex-governor Jerry Brown's misrepresentations of his Twin Tunnel Project. She was concerned about Brown's antics but far

more concerned about a new concept just on the horizon. That concern was emerging information about an impending climate change. Climate change and the current droughts have brought us to face issues that are now imperative to solve. One of these major issues requiring a solution is aridification. Aridification is the process of a land mass becoming increasingly dry or arid. It is a long term process, not one that is seasonal.

A recent article from the Proceedings of the National Academy of the Sciences (PNAS) explained aridification in depth. They explained that most people center their attention on droughts only with concerns about water from precipitation or snow. This focus has begun to shift to more in-depth concerns. One of the problems is the role that increasing warm temperatures is playing as a driving force in rapidly increasing aridity. It will cause our drying soil conditions to worsen, increase already warm temperatures, intensify already severe droughts, and increase the complex

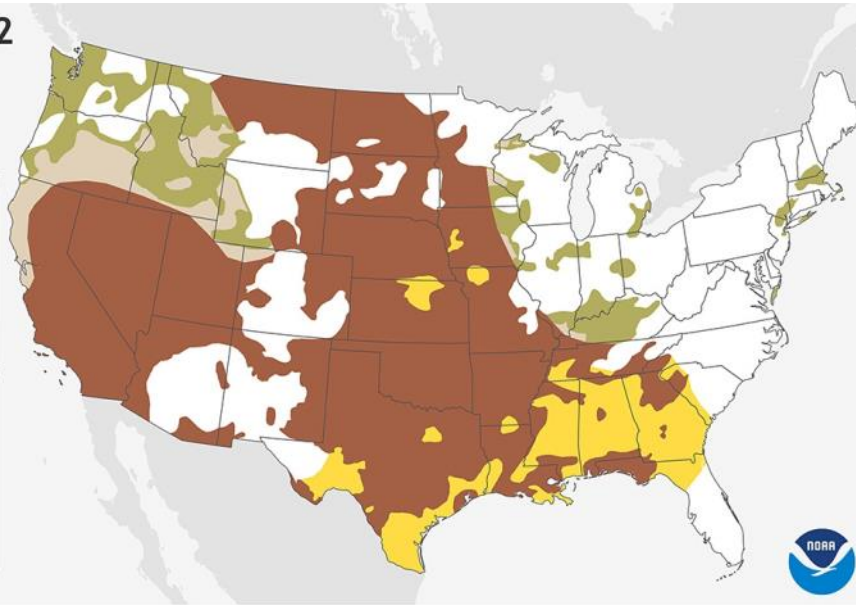
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Winter 2022

U.S.
Drought
Outlook

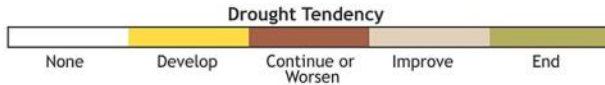


AK and HI not to scale



Climate.gov
Data: CPC

Drought Outlook
valid through Jan 2023
Issued 20 Oct 2022



(Continued from page 7)

impacts water stress will have on our agriculture, rivers and lakes, our forest, and other systems.

In California we are becoming acutely aware that the long-term aridification problems are intensifying. Now the nation is beginning to understand the dilemma facing the entire Southwest. The Colorado River is nearing the point of "dead pools." Dead pools are areas of river water that cannot flow. Drought due to climate change has caused the entire Southwest to aridify. Over 40 million people in the Southwest face the prospect of running out of water. A recent article from the *LA Times* noted that "About 59% of the country is now experiencing some degree of drought conditions." The PNSA cited evidence, "since the 1930's increasing temperatures have caused the percentage of precipitation going to evapotranspiration (ET) to increase at the expense of precipitation going to the Colorado River flow, resulting in an unprecedented and still ongoing mega-drought starting in 1999. Higher temperatures have reduced the

Colorado River flow by 13%, and a projected additional warming, assuming high emissions of greenhouse gasses will increase ET while reducing river flow through the 21st century."

DFF member Gary Tecklenburg and I fought forest fires together for the Tahoe National Forest in the late 50's and early 60's. As I ended my time with the USFS, the two largest fires we had worked on were the Donner and Forest Hill fires. They were both in the 65,000 acre range. Two years ago we had a conversation about the huge intensity and devastation of current fires. We had never seen fires jump large rivers like the Lower Sacramento River. We were used to "crown out's" when a fire jumped from the ground to the canopy of the trees

and blew through the canopy. We had seen fires race up canyons, but never seen a mountain's vegetation explode in flame. The times have changed.

What's happened? With constantly increasing aridification, the moisture holding-capacity of the atmosphere has increased. The atmosphere is warming with climate change allowing it to hold more moisture. Where does that moisture come from? The land and bodies of water. We are

experiencing more intense evaporation on earth and greater evapotranspiration. The impact of climate change is unequivocal! These conditions will become worse. We still vote party-line rather than what the earth and science are telling us. As long as we continue our naive approaches to climate change our problems will become much worse.

Mettler

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The NCCFFI report for November

By Mark Rockwell

On October 15th & 16th we held the Yuba Fest 2022 Event at Sycamore Ranch Park. This “Gathering of the Fly Fishing Clan” was well attended by nearly 300 people. People really enjoyed getting together to discuss fly fishing, learning new ways to develop their casting skills, learning new flies to tie, and learning knots from Gray Bard. Clay Hash, Mike Pease, and Larry Strauss led great classes & workshops on Saturday (Fishing the Lower Yuba River and Introduction to Fly Fishing), plus the Fishing Technical Water session on Sunday.





In attendance were 10 conservation organizations showing telling what it takes to keep our watersheds and fisheries healthy:

- 1.Trout Unlimited (TU)
- 2.Cal Trout
- 3.California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA)
- 4.Golden State Salmon Association
- 5.Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International (NCCFFI)
- 6.South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)
- 7.Bear River Land Trust
- 8.Sierra Nevada Alliance
- 9.Wolf Creek Community Alliance
- 10.Sierra Streams Institute





Attendees enjoyed great food starting with the **Taverite's "Make it Italian" sausages** for a real gourmet lunch, and a terrific dinner featuring BBQ Tri-Tip & Chicken, gourmet vegetarian lasagna, with Baked Beans, Pasta Salad

and chocolate cake for dessert. During the course of the day, there was live music with the Harmony Groove Band in the afternoon and Karrie O'Neil in the evening.



Yuba Fest also featured fund-raising activities including:

- The Raffle that featured a Jon Baiocchi Fly Rod (won by Mike Wier), Wader Skins Leggings, a number of items from Orvis, Adamsbuilt, Fly Fishing Specialties & FFI, and Barry Glickman Framed Prints
- The Silent Auction with 16 Fly Boxes tied by expert fly tyers, many with flies focused on the Lower Yuba River.
- Seven Additional Silent Auction Items including Echo & Orvis Fly Rods, a carved chainsaw wooden mounted steelhead from Jess Alice, a Sonoma Wine Tour and a 3 Hour Casting Lesson from Clay Hash
- The Live Auction with nine items featured a number of purchased & donated fly rods (a Sage Fly Rod & Reel full set up, a Winston Super 10 Fly Rod, a Euro Rod & Reel from Clay Hash, a Sage Spey Rod donated by Mark Rockwell). In addition, a 3 Night San Francisco Apartment donated by Anne-Marie Bakker and three guide trips (Lance Gray Walk & Wade, Jon Hubbard of First Light Fly Fishing Float Trip, and a Clay Hash Yuba River Trip) were auctioned with many spirited bidders.