



# Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume XLIX

Number 4

April 2024

Randall Baxter, Editor

Stockton, California

## Calendar

April 5-6, Women's Outreach, Bass Attack, Lake Oroville. Pg 3

April 10, DFF General meeting, John R. Williams School. No speaker info yet. 6:30

April 17, Board of Directors Meeting, Oak Grove Nature Ctr, 6:30.

April 21, Kistler Ranch Outing. Pg 3

April 24, Open fly tying and casting, Oak Grove Nature Ctr. Pg 4

April 27, 2nd Annual Casting Day; Women's Casting Clinic. Pg 6



## Wulffie's Swap Meet and Equipment Tune Up Recap

By Amy Terra

Dena hosted the first annual swap meet and equipment tune up for our women's group, the Wulffies. We gathered at Dena's and went through our rod/reel/line combinations, working on making sure our rigs were balanced and well matched. Dena weighed unknown lines to determine their grain. Ferrules were waxed. Lines were cleaned. Holes in waders were identified and fixed. Gear found new homes. In Wulffies tradition, we had some delicious food and relaxing social time together.

Brenda led the charge in the development of a Wulffie's logo for shirts. Check it out above and let me know if you want to order a shirt. Thanks to Brenda for the amazing salad. Thanks to Dena for being a great host. This is sure to be an annual event!

# Find DFF online at

<https://www.deltaflyfishers.com>

# And on Face Book at

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



Delicious lunch fixins in true Wulffie style



Dena looking for a leak in her waders



Gear that was up for grabs!



Brenda making sure her new gear fits.

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Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)

Chair needed

Casting

Amy Terra

Cattfish Derby (June)

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Programs

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Rx Fly Fishing!

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Trout Bout (November)

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Amy Terra

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FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
COUNCIL

# Bass Attack; Ryan Williams Hosting Wulffies

By Amy Terra

Ryan Williams, fishing guide, has quite a reputation in local angling. He has won Bass-N-Fly with our very own Brian Pultz multiple times. He has presented to the club on fishing local waterways. He has guided members on our Lower Sacramento outing in coordination with fellow awesome guide, Scott Sugimoto. Ryan is known as a gifted angler, dedicated guide and all around nice guy. That is why when we sat down to plan this year's Wulffies outings, a trip with Ryan was at the top of our wish list. Given that we have a very popular local smallmouth bass outing with Bryce Tedford in June that is geared for beginner anglers, we were looking for a chance for our Wulffies to expand their bass fishing opportunities and a trip with Ryan fit the bill nicely.

Luckily, when Mary contacted Ryan he had two available days to dedicate to getting our Wulffies on the water, fishing for bass on his home waters of Lake Oroville. Mary has taken on the fishmeister duties making sure four anglers are going to have the opportunity to fish with Ryan on April 5th and 6th. Following Ryan's instagram, bass fishing is heating up and it is looking like this outing will provide opportunities for some fun bassy times. We will be sure to report back after the outing as to how we do. Check out Ryan's instagram photo for examples of recent fishing!



## Last Call for Kistler-Ranch Outing, April 21

By Bob Fujimura

If you are interested in attending the only bass pond outing for this Spring, **you should sign up before April 15**. There are plenty of openings and we will start offering slots to other neighboring clubs shortly. To ensure fishing quality, we are limiting this outing to 12 persons maximum. This is the second year fishing the three private ranch ponds near Jamestown, CA for largemouth bass and sunfish. Again, a light lunch will be provided by host Bob & Jean Fujimura.



Detailed information on this outing can be found in the March issue of the DFF Newsletter. Contact Bob Fujimura (email: [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or (209) 329-1692) to sign up. The outing fee is \$30 per person to help cover the ranch rental fee. A signed DFF liability waiver form is required for participating and a personal flotation device must be worn if you fish from a personal watercraft. Outing fees are nonrefundable, but participants can sell their spot to other members. This is a great venue to enjoy foothill fly fishing and socialize with your friends. Hope to see you there.

# Open Fly Tying & Casting Sessions Beginning April 24

By Bob Fujimura

With the longer daylight periods, we are excited to **offer informal casting opportunities at our monthly fly tying sessions on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month** and held at Oak Grove Regional Park beginning about 6PM. When I joined our club many years ago, our members regularly met on Wednesday evenings at the Nature Center to tie flies and practice casting. I remembered fondly Jim Rich and Larry Schmidt offering basic casting tips when I just started my fly fishing ca-

reer at one of these sessions. To supplement the excellent monthly Friday casting sessions led by Amy Terra, this is another opportunity for members to practice casting. Host Bob Fujimura will bring a set of casting course markers and targets suitable for practice casting for the Bronze and Silver Levels of the Fly Casting Skills Development challenge and make them available for members who are working on their casting skills.



Of course, we will continue to make the Nature Center Classroom available for our members who wish to tie flies with their friends, seek help to improve their tying, or just share tall fishing stories or news. This will be a free event and open to club members from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at the Oak Grove Regional Park's Nature Center, Eight-Mile Road, Stockton. Contact Bob Fujimura at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) for more information on this event and how to exit the Park after hours. Beginners should not hesitate to attend. Please contact Tim Costello (209-484-7424) or Bob at least 48 hrs ahead of time if you need individual instruction or use of the club's loaner equipment.



## Second Monthly Casting Opportunity

### Casting night returns May 24

Our club seeks to support all aspects of fly fishing from conservation, fly tying, outings and opportunities for fishing, instruction for fly fishing techniques and fly casting support. For fly casting, we have our annual fly casting day coming up on April 27th as our first event of the summer (see Pg . This will be followed by **monthly Fridays of open casting to be held at Hutchins Street Square by the marquee**. This summer, **it will be held on the fourth Friday of each month** until the time changes in the fall.

The next Friday Night Casting will be May 24th followed in June on the 28th and July 26th, August 23rd, September 27th and ending in October 25th. We will start May 24th and cast from 5 until 7ish depending upon light. We generally have to adjust the time to avoid heat during the summer and dark as fall days shorten so look for updates on the club website and newsletter as we move through the casting season.

There will be casting support for beginning casters who have never touched a fly rod as well as casters who want to move through the Fly Casting Skills Development program (FCSD) . We are targeting our instruction to support casters moving through the FCSD program because this program was designed to support not only basic casting skills but to develop fishing casts that will help you fish more effectively on the water.

There will be eye protection and loaner rods available. This is open to the public so bring family and friends. All participants have to sign a liability waiver and wear eye protection. A special thanks

to everyone who has volunteered to support our casting activities. Any questions? Call Amy at 209-329-4801.



Bring your friends to our Friday night Casting! All are welcome!



# Second Annual Casting Day

By Amy Terra

Our second annual casting day will be held on April 27th at Panella Park next to the Arnold Rue Community Center Park located at 5758 Lorraine

Ave, Stockton, CA 95210.

Last year we had a fantastic casting day in April at Panella Park. This park has a great pond and large open area for casting. It also has tables for resting and eating and bathrooms available. This made planning for another casting day easy. We have a place we love to welcome all interested anglers into the world of fly casting!



Panella Park Pond.

Just like last year, there will be a morning dedicated to supporting women casters followed by an open session designed to meet all caster's needs. More information about

the women's morning welcome is another article so check it out (see below).



The

Some casting instruction from 2023.

casting day is open to the public. All participants must sign a 2024 DFF waiver to participate but no club membership is required so bring your family and friends and spread the word. Join us from noon to 3 pm at Panella Park in Stockton (5758 Lorraine Ave, Stockton, CA 95210). There will be top notch casting instruction for all skill levels as well as opportunities to move through the Fly Casting Skills Levels. There will be casting instructors available to help you with any area of casting interest and need you have. A lite lunch will be provided for the first 20 participants. Open to the public. Eye protection required. Loaner rods will be available. Contact Amy at 209-329-4801 for more information. Hoping to see you and your friends there!



## Womens Casting Clinic

Our annual fly casting day is scheduled for April 27th at Panella Park in Stockton. This is a repeat of our casting clinic from 2023. The morning will be dedicated to the women's welcome where casting skills are focused on female casters and supported by women casting instructors. The morning will begin at 9:30 with hot coffee, tea and pastries. Instruction will run from 10-12 for the women's welcome. Instruction will include support for first time casters, casting practice for those looking to develop fundamental casts and for casters working through the Fly Casting Skills Development Program. Open to any female angler regardless of club affiliation or experience. 2024 DFF club waiver required. Free to all participants. Loaner equipment available. Eye protection required. Spread the word and invite your friends! Any questions? Call Amy at 209-329-4801.

# 2024 One Fly Contest: White Pines Lake on May 11

By Bob Fujimura

Mark your calendars - the Calaveras Fly Fishers (CFF) are planning to offer this annual friendly fishing competition at White Pines Lake during the morning of May 11th. Details of this year's event have not yet been announced. However, this contest has been very consistent throughout the many years that it has been held.

Our club has been friendly competitors with the CFF members, and our members have frequently won this event. Participants register the morning of the event and the contest entry fee fund the CFF scholarships. The contest starts promptly at 9 am and ends at 1 pm. The person who catches the most trout and the biggest fish of any

species are honored after a hardy lunch provided by our CFF hosts.

Registration fees are paid on the morning of the event. However, CCF needs an accurate head count and the names of our club's participants prior to the contest. If you are interested in participating, please contact Bob Fujimura via email at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or call (209) 329-1692. Bob will send each person on the contest rules, directions, and fishing gear prior to the event.



## Contribute to the club's welfare

I was asked to put this box in the newsletter so that those club members that live at unreasonable travel times to the club's monthly meetings might have a way to contribute to the club's welfare. At their request, I've set up a group of alternative contribution amounts. Those who participate will receive a tax deductible receipt via email.

\$5   \$10   \$25   \$50

Or send a check to:  
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You may also participate by mailing a check to:

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5 North California Street  
Lodi, CA 95240

Make checks payable to DFF, Salmon in the Classroom. Please include your email address. You will receive a receipt online, when the check is received.

Cal State Charity # 131478

# Two Special Fly Tying Events

By Bob Fujimura

## ***Beginners Fly Tying Classes with Tim Costello – Saturday August 3, 10, and 17<sup>th</sup>***

Delta Fly Fishers will host beginners fly tying classes on three consecutive Saturday mornings at the Nature Center, Oak Grove Regional Park, Eight Mile Road, Stockton. The class instructor will be DFF expert tyer Tim Costello. No prior experience is required, and Tim is an excellent teacher for those new to fly tying. We will provide handouts, tying tools, and tying materials. Students may be required to pay a nominal Park entrance fee. To sign up, please contact Tim Costello at (209) 484-7424.



Tim Costello demonstrated fly tying at one of the DFF Open Fly Tying sessions.

## ***Fly Tying Day with Ben Byng – Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>***

We are very excited to resume hosting our club's annual fly tying day with our guest tyer Ben Byng. This event provides our guest tyer to share some of his favorite fly patterns and allows participants to tie these patterns with Ben. Host Amy Terra will be organizing another great group tying event

(Continued next page)

## **Local Water Orientation Clinics**

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including a special lunch that these past events were noted for. This clinic is for intermediate to advanced fly tyers and admission is open to the public especially our neighboring fly club members. Ben is a well known local fly tyer who will be demonstrating his personal flies for large-mouth and striped bass. This year's event will be held at Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Lodi, 262 Rocky Ln, Lodi, CA. More details on this event will be provided when determined.



Photo of Ben Byng who is an experienced fly tyer and Delta fisher. Photo by The Davis Enterprise.

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## Floating Home Waters

By Amy Terra

My two week spring break from work is just wrapping up. I tried to carve out some time to get on the water during my break. Because my son was still in school, my fishing adventures were limited to day trips on local waters. Lucky for me, we have some pretty great homewaters! Also lucky for me, we have some amazing local anglers who love to float the local homewaters and didn't mind me tagging along on a few adventures.

Our first adventure involved some higher flows so we enlisted the use of a three-person raft. We weren't the only boat on the water on this weekday. Great minds think alike as we ventured down the river, we had awesome company in the form of two other boats and plenty of fish for everyone. The day started with some dry fly takes at the put-in. Fish were active and rising. They came up for the dry flies readily and frequently. As we moved down the river, we shifted to a variety of sub-surface techniques with everyone fishing differently from the boat and on stops to walk and wade. Rowing duties were divided giving everyone a chance to fish. We posted the raft above a nice spot and swung streamers. It was a beautiful, partly cloudy day with excellent fishing all around.

Our second adventure took place on a day

with lower flows and individual pontoon boats as our vessels. We kicked and paddled our way down the river, fishing as we went. My skills developed through the day as I followed the examples of my fishing buddies who are very adept on the river. We again used a variety of techniques, all of which produced fish for everyone.

It is exciting to see our local waters fishing so well. This winter seemed to have provided nice conditions for our waters and the fish within them. While the local rivers close to fishing at the end of the month, I can't wait to get back on the water when they reopen on Fishman in April and put my new experiences to practice on our awesome home waters!



One of our local beauties!

# This Month's Fly Box

## FLY TYING

### WD 40



The tiny WD40 nymph or emerger fly is an effective pattern for tailwaters especially in the Spring when midges or small mayflies are the dominant food items. Early in my fly fishing history, guide Steve Cooper tied this pattern on Size 20 hooks over a campfire on the Owyhee River. I was in total disbelief that the large brown and rainbow trout that this river was famous for could be hooked and landed on such small flies. However, Steve showed my wife and I how deadly this pattern could be and made us believers.

Fast forward to today, I still rely on this pattern when conditions warrant. Winter fly fishing at Baum Lake for holdover trout can be challenging

at times especially during the daily midge hatches. My first visit to this destination caused me to run to the local outfitter to find commercially tied patterns. Since then, I bring a good supply of black or olive, non-beaded WD40 in #18-20. These flies are simple to tie and consist of head and abdomen of UTC 70 or finer thread, thorax of Superfine dubbing, tail and wing case of natural or wood duck colored mallard barred flank feather, and curved hooks. These flies can be irresistible to feeding trout when swung or stripped just under the surface of a tailwater plume or current.

This is a good pattern to introduce new tyers to smaller fly patterns. A good instructional video is one by Tim Cammisa posted in the FFI Fly Tying Video Library. Here is the link: <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Get-Involved/Fly-Tying-Group/Fly-Tying-Video-Library>

– Bob Fujimura for the April issue of the NCCFFI River Mouth newsletter

## 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



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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



# Casting Corner — Eyes in the back of your head

By Amy Terra

Fly casting can be a beautiful thing. Seeing a tight, narrow loop deliver a fly efficiently and accurately can take an observer's breath away. However, it can also be an awkward and inefficient thing. Loop shape and size can impact efficiency both positively and negatively. Understanding the impact of your casting stroke upon your loop shape is a great way to understand how to control and change your loop shape to adjust for your fishing conditions and to improve the efficiency of your cast.

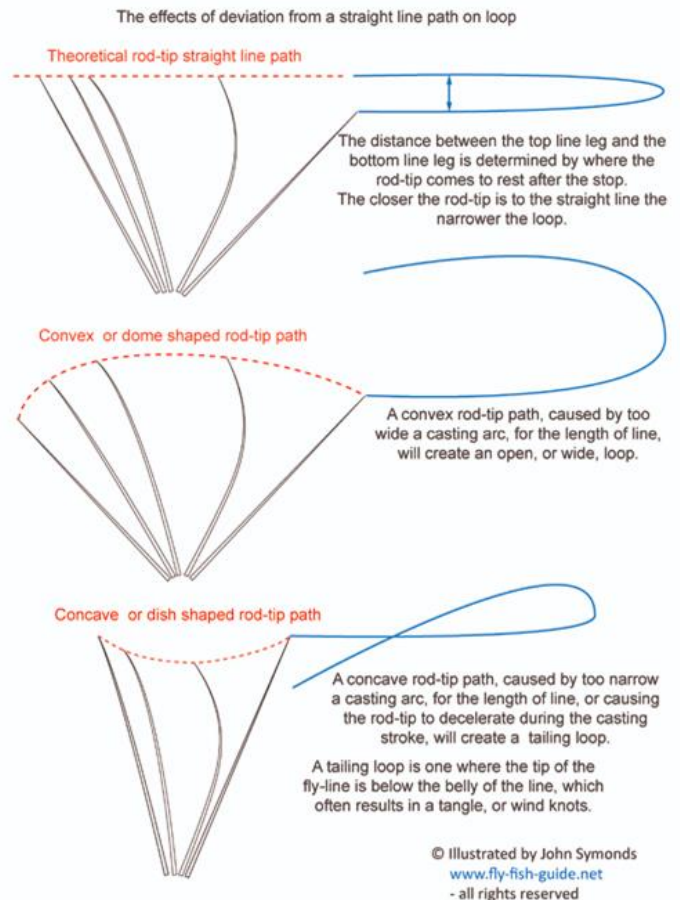
The loop is the shape that the fly line takes in the air as a result of rod tip movement. The loop is formed when the rod tip stops and the line moves past it. The path of the rod tip determines the shape of the loop. We call the leg attached to the fly the fly leg and the leg attached to the rod the rod leg.

There are three main loop shapes that are important to recognize and be able to cast- or not cast. They are narrow loops, wide loops and tailing loops. A narrow loop has a straight fly leg and the legs of the loop are less than four feet apart. A narrow loop is the result of the rod tip moving in a straight line path during the casting stroke. Narrow loops are efficient and accurate. Wide loops have a rainbow, or convex fly leg and have more than four feet between the legs of the loop. This indicates the rod tip moved in a rainbow shaped path during the casting stroke. Wide loops are less efficient than narrow loops but can be useful when fishing multi-fly rigs or heavy streamers. A tailing loop is always a casting error. During a tailing loop, the fly leg dips below the rod leg indicating the rod tip traveled in a dipping, or concave path. Tailing loops can result in knots in your leader (Those are not caused by the wind!) and your fly hitting your rod which can damage or break the rod.

One of the challenges of working on your casting skills is seeing both your back and front loop shapes to understand the impact changes in your casting stroke have in your loop shape. Casters can see their front loops, and as a result, front loops tend to be better quality than back loops. So this begs the question, how do you work on your back loop?

Many casters have the ability to turn and look at their back loops. This can help the caster to see what is happening behind them without having eyes in the back of their head. However, turning to look at your back cast can impact your casting stroke. Sometimes this develops a tracking error or changes the casting stroke such that errors return when the caster stops looking.

Casting with a buddy can help provide the feedback on



what is happening behind you. Some of the best feedback I have gotten has been from fellow casters watching my back cast for me. The feedback is immediate but sometimes it can be a challenge for me to understand what they are describing without seeing it myself. That is why even when I am casting with a buddy, we often video our casts. Nothing beats seeing your cast with your own eyes. I like to use my cell phone and a simple tripod. Video requires a backdrop that will allow the line to be seen as it moves. This usually involves some tall dark evergreen trees or a nice darkly covered roof. I find the best set up is with the camera 12 paces from me as a cast with this dark background. You can also have your casting buddy take the video from this position.

Many casters just use the video feature on their phone. The videos can be sent to others for feedback and kept to compare the impact of different casting strokes on the loop shape. I like to use the app OnForm. OnForm allows members to create teams and has tools for measuring loop size and angle change. While not necessary, this app can allow you to do a deep dive into your casting mechanics.

While not everyone will want to analyze their cast to such a detail, having an efficient back loop can positively impact your fly delivery by setting you up for an empowered forward cast. Taking the time to dial in your backcast loop shape can help you in your fishing. Remember- better casting equals better fishing!