



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume LI

Number 3

March 2026

Randall Baxter, Editor

Stockton, California

Calendar

March 11, General meeting, John R Williams High School. Meadow Ave., Stockton. 6:30 pm (pg 1 & 2).

March 18, Board of Directors Meeting, Oak Grove Nature Ctr, Eight Mile Rd., Stockton, 6:30 pm (pg 3).

March 25, Open fly tying Oak Grove Nature Ctr. 6:00 pm. (see pg 3 for details)

Club Announcements

- Trout Bout March 7 (pg 2)
- The third installment of Tim Costello's. An introduction to fly tying, (pg 8)
- Annual Casting Day (April 11, pgs 8 & 15)
- *Celebrating 50 years promoting fly fishing, conservation and comradery!*

Next Delta Fly Fisher General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 11th

Location: John R Williams School, 2450 Meadow Ave. Stockton

Time: 6:30—8:00 PM (or thereabouts)

Doors open at 6:30. Club business begins at 7 pm. Presentation at 7:30. All are welcome! Open to the public!

Find DFF
online at

<https://www.deltaflyfishers.com>

And on Face
Book at

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

Presentation Information: Our guest speaker at our March 11 general meeting will be noted fly fishing guide, writer, and professional tyer **Lance Gray**. Lance's talks have plenty of useful information and tips to assist fly fishers of all experience levels. His talk is titled Streamer Fishing. Lance will cover not only the gear needed to fish streamers but also the when, why, and how for the audience. This presentation also covers the quarry the fish eat, from minnows to crayfish. Knowing how to stream fish will give the fly fisher a valuable tool for their quiver. This presentation contains new and updated information, along with new flies and tactics.

Members are encouraged to meet and have dinner with Lance before the general meeting. Bob Fujimura will host this gathering at BJ Restaurant & Brewhouse, 5733 Pacific Ave., Stockton, CA, 95207, starting at 5 pm.

(continued on pg 2)

(continued from pg 1)

Please RSVP Bob (email: deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or cell: 209-329-1692) if you are planning to attend this pre-meeting event. Our club's monthly general meeting is held at John R Williams Elementary School located at 2450 Meadow Ave., Stockton, CA every second Wednesday evening of the month (excluding June, July, and August). Doors open at 6:30 pm. Club business begins at 7 pm. Presentation at 7:30. We will have the usual fishing reports, fun raffles, business reports, snacks and refreshments. All are welcome! Open to the public! (See pg 14 for a brief biography)



Upcoming Events with Delta Fly Fishers

By Bob Fujimura

Bob McMillen Memorial Fish Tournament – Saturday March 7: Come out for a fun day and lend a helping hand at the annual Bob McMillen Memorial Fishing Tournament. Early helpers arrive about 6 am at the Boat House in the Oak Grove Regional Park, Eight Mile Road, Stockton. Tell the gate attendant that you are a DFF volunteer and your parking fee will be waived. We will be responsible for registration and weighing of tournament participants and running the snack bar and driving food carts. Everything wraps up around 1 pm. This is a great day to hang out with other DFFers and help our community and county parks! Contact Greg Pettis at (209) 609-8605 if you are interested in helping and have questions about our roles.

General Membership Meeting - Wednesday March 11: Check out the details on our guest speaker Lance Gray and the pre-meeting dinner in this issue of the Newsletter. Our club's monthly general meeting is held at John R Williams Elementary School located at 2450 Meadow Ave., Stockton, CA every second Wednesday evening of the month (excluding June, July, and August). Doors open at 6:30 pm. Club business begins at 7 pm. Presentation at 7:30. We will have the usual fishing reports, fun raffles, business reports, snacks and refreshments. All are welcome! Open to the public!

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Contact Bob Fujimura at (209) 329-1692 for more information on the program presentation and pre-meeting dinner with guest speaker.

Free Casting Classes in SF Park - Saturday March 14: Attend free casting lessons at Golden Gate Casting Ponds at 1232 John F Kennedy Dr. San Francisco, CA 94122. Lessons run from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Rods available for loan for the lessons. Clinics available for all levels of casting led by the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club of San Francisco. Participants must preregister online via the GGACC website.

A few of the DFF officers and members participate in this monthly GGACC event; contact Amy Terra at (209) 329-4801 for more information on this event.

Board of Directors Meeting - Wednesday March 18: The executive officers and interested volunteers will meet and discuss club business. We are fortunate that new members are joining our Executive Team and existing members are accepting new roles in 2026. However, we need more volunteers to make this year a successful one. It is a good time to get familiar with the business side of the club and its most active members. All club members are welcome to join us at the Nature Center at Oak Grove Park, Eight Mile Road, Stockton starting at 6:30 pm. Contact Vice President Dena Mason at (209) 662-3079 for more information on this meeting and how to enter and exit the Park after hours.

Mokelumne River Coffee & Cast Outing - Friday March 20: Norm Cassin will host another coffee and cast outing at the first parking lot at the fish hatchery. Please RSVP Norm if you plan to attend or have questions about this event at (209) 712-1993. Norm will be providing coffee and bagels in the morning. Please have a valid fishing license, a 2026 steelhead report card, and have a signed 2026 DFF liability waiver on file or bring one with you. More information on suggested equipment and flies was published in an early announcement that can be read [here](#). (cntrl+click)

Open Fly Tying Session – Wednesday March 25: Tie with your fellow members, sharing the latest fishing stories, and hang out with new and old friends. Host Bob Fujimura will be sharing another fly of the month pattern and maybe a light snack for those participants who just got off work. This session will start at 6:00 pm in the Nature Center in Oak Grove Regional Park, Eight Mile Road, Stockton. Contact Bob at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or call (209) 329-1692 if you are coming and to get information on how to enter and exit the Park after hours.

General Membership Meeting – Wednesday April 8: We are having a fly fishing swap meet instead of our usual guest speaker. Bring any lightly used or new fly fishing or outdoor gear that you

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DFF Officers



President
Vacant

Vice President
Dena Mason

Secretary
Bill Brown

Treasurer
Brenda McIntosh

Directors

Nancy Baker

Ron Forbes

Larry Schmidt

Randy Baxter

Bob Fujimura

Charlie Reames

Norm Cassin

Sam Thompson

209-368-5767

209-482-8742

209-200-9739

Committees

Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)
Chair needed

Casting
Amy Terra

Catfish Derby (June)
Chair needed

Conservation/Restore the Delta
Ron Forbes 209-368-5767

Education/Outreach
Dena Mason

Monthly Raffles
Chair needed

NCCFFI Representative
Bob Fujimura

Outings
Bob Fujimura

Programs
Chair needed

Property/Historian
Charlie Reames

Refreshments
Mike Dempewolf

Rx Fly Fishing!
Randy Baxter

Trout Bout (November)
Charlie Reames

Webmaster
Amy Terra

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Any correspondence regarding this publication should be directed to:
The Delta Fly Fishers Inc.
PO Box 77862
Stockton, CA 95207-7862



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
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want to sell or trade. All transactions are strictly between the individual parties. Our club's monthly general meeting is held at John R Williams Elementary School located at 2450 Meadow Ave., Stockton, CA every second Wednesday evening of the month (excluding June, July, and August). Doors open at 6:30 pm. Club business begins at 7 pm. We will have the usual fishing reports, fun raffles, business reports, snacks and refreshments. All are welcome! Open to the public! Vice President Dena Mason is seeking donations of old fly fishing magazines for her educational youth outreach.

Free Casting Classes in SF Park – Saturday

April 11: Attend free casting lessons at Golden Gate Casting Ponds at 1232 John F Kennedy Dr. San Francisco, CA 94122. Lessons run from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Rods available for loan for the lessons. Clinics available for all levels of casting led by the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club of San Francisco. Participants must preregister online via the GGACC website.

A few of the DFF officers and members participate in this monthly GGACC event; contact Amy Terra at (209) 329-4801 for more information on this event.

Annual Casting Day – Saturday April 11: This is a repeat of our successful casting clinic started in 2023 and held annually at Panella Park in Stockton (5758 Lorraine Ave, Stockton, CA). We will provide more information on this annual event when available, but it will be probably very similar to last year's with a women's program in the morning, lunch and afternoon casting clinic

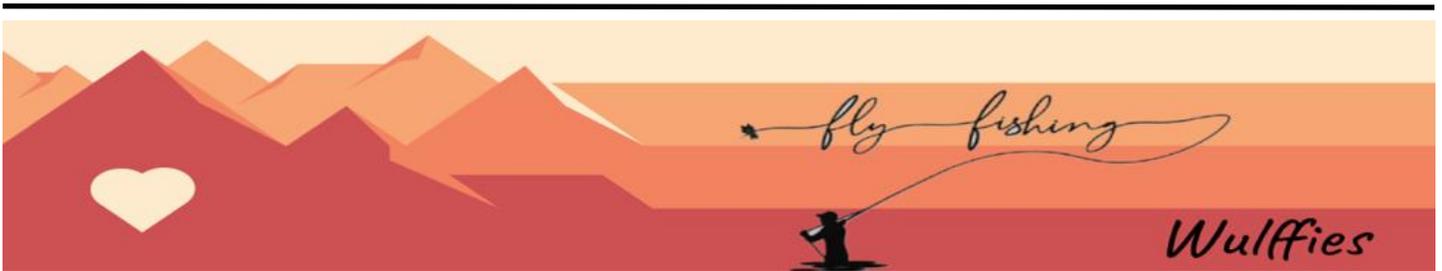
open to everyone. Instruction will include support for first time casters, casting practice for those looking to develop fundamental casts and for advanced caster working through the Fly Casting Skills Development Program. Open to any female angler regardless of club affiliation. 2026 DFF club waiver required. Free to all participants. Lunch will be served at noon and casting will continue until 2 pm open to the public. Loaner rods will be available for use. For more information or to sign up, call Amy at 209-329-4801.

Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday

April 15: The executive officers and interested volunteers will meet and discuss club business. We are fortunate that new members are joining our Executive Team and existing members are accepting new roles in 2026. However, we need more volunteers to make this year a successful one. It is a good time to get familiar with the business side of the club and its most active members. All club members are welcome to join us at the Nature Center at Oak Grove Park, Eight Mile Road, Stockton starting at 6:30 pm. Contact Vice President Dena Mason at (209) 662-3079 for more information on this meeting and how to enter and exit the Park after hours.

Pinecrest Reservoir Outing – Saturday April

18: Greg Pettis hosts a fly fishing outing to this waterbody – more information to coming in club announcements and the April issue of the club newsletter or call Greg at (209) 609-8605.



Wulfies are ready to fish in 2026!

By Amy Terra

I am so excited for this year’s Wulfie’s activities. We are off to a great start. Our year started with the amazing Summer (A Bush in the Woods) YouTube watch party. Summer graced us with her presence for the day. She provided lots of information and guidance and I am confident that many a trip was planned that day. We then had our fly box organization in February. A great turnout with so many fun people. Mary M. hosted a fantastic trip to the Trinity river for 4 anglers. Thanks Mary for such fun!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

MARCH:

Our March activity will be a gear check and social on Sunday, March 8th from 11-3. As always, tyers are welcome to come and hang out and tie throughout the day at Lodi Cyclery.

When we talk about a gear check, we mean bring your rod and reel combinations. We can check the balance of your rig, the quality of your line and make sure everything is in order to get on the water. If you have a pair of leaky waders, we can use the flashlight method to find those holes for you to repair. Have something that you don’t know what it is for? Bring it in and we will figure it out together. No RSVP needed. Open to the public.

APRIL:

We have two fun activities in April. Our first is **Casting Day from 9-11AM, April 11th at Panel-**

la Park in Stockton. These hours are reserved for our women participants only. All skill levels are welcome. Rods available to loan. Waiver required for this free activity. There will be a lunch at 11 and open casting for everyone after lunch.

Our second April activity is our **Fishmas brunch.** Fishmas is the opening day of the fishing season. While we are lucky enough to have some

waters open during the traditional closures, it is always exciting to celebrate Fishmas. The Wulfies have been talking about having a holiday celebration but, as so many women experience, the holidays can be a stressful and incredibly busy time. Because of this, we are shifting our holiday celebration to Fishmas! So, on **April 25th, from 9:30-11:30 at Lodi Cyclery,** the Wulfies will enjoy a brunch gathering. This is a time for socializing, planning trips, and finding fishing partners. Bring your list of trips or

dates you are available and we will chat and plan. Nothing better than spending time with amazing women than planning trips with these very same women. Please RSVP to Amy at 209-329-4801 so we can make sure we have enough food.

MAY:

The **One Fly Weekend is May 8-10th.** Participants will stay at Dena’s Arnold cabin. Friday night we usually eat a light dinner and fish White Pines at dusk. Saturday we participate in the One Fly Contest at White Pines and a communal dinner.

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The die-hards often go fishing again in the evening. Sunday morning is Mother's Day so many of us head home but some of us go and fish some more. The guarantees for this weekend are great company, fun fishing and lots of yummy food. Let Dena know you are coming!

JUNE:

June is when we really get our fishing going.

June 12th-14th is our Lake Manzanita outing. Amy has a campsite in the national park. The limit on the site is 6 people including 2 cars and 3 tents. Amy has one car slot occupied but everything else is up for grabs. Lake Manzanita is a float tube or pontoon boat friendly lake full of gorgeous fish in one of the world's most beautiful settings. Let Amy know if you want a car spot or tent spot. No charge other than the National Park entry fee. If we get enough people, we can arrange food plans together. 209-329-4801

June 19th is our annual Rancho Seco outing.

Rancho Seco is a small local lake that has blue gill, crappie and bass. Some years we catch bunches. Some years not so much. We always have a fun lunch. This outing is from 9 to lunch at noon. There is a park entry fee and golden mus- sel check for all watercraft. There are no gas mo- tors allowed. Questions? 209-329-4801

June 29th to July 1st is our Yosemite outing.

It appears the cabin is full with a waiting list started. However, if you are able to arrange your own lodging, all activities are available to unlimited participants. We will have a list of destinations in and out of the park for us to visit and fish over the three days. Let Amy know if you want to be added to the waiting list or have your own lodging and want to join us in the activities. (209)329-4801

JULY

July will be our always popular smallmouth bass outing with Bryce Tedford on **Friday the 10th.** This outing is limited to 4 anglers who will spend a half day fishing with the amazing Bryce but two spots are already filled. The cost is \$100 per angler. Fishing is great for anglers of all experience

levels. This trip requires a deposit of the guide fee in advance of the trip. Contact Amy at 209-329-4801 to sign up. This one fills quickly so don't delay!

August

In **August** we will have surf fishing and a 108/395/205 road trip.

September

September is TBD- Thinking about a Yuba ad- venture... more info to come!

October

October will be a resurrection of Bridgeport out- ing from the 5th to the 8th. We have one hotel room booked and two guided days with Andrew- our favorite Bridgeport guide! Two spots of the 2 guided days (4 anglers total) are booked so let Amy know if you are interested. 209-329-4801. This trip requires a deposit for the guide fee in advance of the trip.

November

November we will have a beginner fly tying class.

December

December is our Tying Day on Dec 5th!

Emails and texts will be going out to those who have signed up for outings to verify interest. Our most popular outings have waitlists and we want to make sure everyone has accurate information and the opportunity to participate. Any outing re- quiring a guide payment will require that you de- posit the guide fee a minimum of 2 weeks in ad- vance of the trip. This deposit is non-refundable but is transferable if you are able to identify a re- placement for your spot. We do this to ensure guides receive their compensation for the day's booking. Any ideas, questions or concerns? Call Amy at 209-329-4801.

This Month's Fly Box

FLY TYING

Pheasant Tail Flymph



Photo from Patagonia

By Bob Fujimura

Recently I reviewed '*Pheasant Tail Simplicity*' by Yvon Chouinard, Craig Mathews, and Mauro Mazzo and loved this new fly tying/fishing book. I was vaguely familiar with Yvon Chouinard's passion about simple pheasant tail patterns, but this book convinced me of his conviction of using simple patterns to improve your fly fishing.

Yvon stated that the pheasant tail flymph would be his choice if he had only one fly to fish. With that recommendation, I recently began tying this pattern despite my long apprehension with soft hackle patterns. Fortunately, this pattern is a relatively simple pattern to tie with good tying references.

I recommend Yvon Chouinard's recipe in this book with a helpful video by Yvon that can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hK0zqwwVFB0>. It is a very simple and straightfor-

ward pattern to follow.

For beginners who need a good closeup view of the basic tying techniques, two videos can help you with this pattern. First, Fly Fish Food has an excellent photographed tutorial, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChF39LIAj10&t=1s>, showing the details of each step and a few tips for novice tyers such as building a tapered thread abdomen-thorax base and how to efficiently break off your excess ribbing wire. I prefer Yvon's use of dubbing versus using the more American use of peacock herl for thorax for simplicity's sake.

Mad River Outfitters' instructional video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMJKYVTCDevs&t=981s>, is another one inspired by this book where Tim Flagler teaches his version of this pattern. Beginners and intermediate tyers can benefit from Tim's numerous tips on thread control, proper preparation of soft hackle feathers, and use of hen saddle feathers as an alternative to more costly Hungarian partridge feathers.

Yvon Chouinard's recipe is given below:

Hook: Umpqua UC610BL-BN, 1X heavy, wide gap, barbless, #8-#20

Thread: 8/0 Semperfli, olive

Ribbing: Extra-small to medium gold copper wire

Tail: 4-8 pheasant tail barbs (4 for #14)

Body: Pheasant tail barbs used for tail

Hackle: Gray Hungarian partridge

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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.

For additional information please e-mail randy.baxter23@gmail.com



Casting Corner —

By Amy Terra

Our yearly casting routine begins with our April Casting Day. This year it will be on **April 11th at Panella Park in Stockton**. As we do every year, our morning will be dedicated to women's casting activities. 9 am to 11 am will be

women only casting. After 11, lunch will be served and we will open our Casting Day to the public until about 3 o'clock. This is open to the public and free of charge. All participants must sign a waiver and eye protection must be worn.

While we put a ton of effort into planning special programs and events for casting day, we have found over the past 3 years that most participants just want some guidance on their basic casting. Because of this, we will have resources for participants to come and get feedback on their casting. We will have a casting lane set up for Fly Casting Skills Development assessments if anyone wants to make progress on their casting skills journey.

We love Panella Park because it has its pond. This means we can work on the most used cast of all- the roll cast. We will have loaner rods available and eye protection available. Lunch will be served around 11. The menu is under construction but it is always a fun opportunity to eat some yummy food in great company.

Let me know if you have any questions (Amy 209-329-4801; deltaflywebmaster@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

After April's casting day, we will have our once a month Friday night casting gatherings at Hutchin's street Square. Be on the lookout for specific dates each month as I have had to shift them around because I plan on doing a bunch of fishing trips this summer.

As always, I am available for casting feedback. Every club member has access

to a free tune up. I also have helped people prepare for style specific trips (spey, ocean, Red-fish) and always recommend coming into such wonderful fly fishing opportunities with your A game. Remember, if you cast better- you fish better!



Panella Park Pond

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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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

Watch Party January 31, 2026

By Amy Terra

We had a wonderful guest at our watch party- Summer, who creates the "Bush in the Woods" YouTube videos we watched, drove from her home in the Bay area to join us to watch three of her videos highlighting the 108, 120, 395 fishing corridors. It was great to have Summer there for several reasons. She was eager to answer questions, clarify fishing sites and approaches and serve as a great example of an adventurous angler on local waters. And, as we found out over the course of our watch party, Summer is a smart, fun and a darn nice person so it was super exciting to have her with us.

Attendees took notes, made plans, talked with fellow anglers and browsed the Fly Corner shop, got yummy food and drinks in the Lodi Cyclery shop in addition to watching the videos. Some brought their vises and tied flies while they chatted. Lodi Cyclery has opened their doors to local fly anglers and we look forward to hosting more events at this great spot. Our next event here is the fly box organization on Sunday, February 15th from 10:30 to 2 pm.



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Bench Basics — Hooks

By Tim Costello



Hello again and welcome to this month's edition of Bench Basics: Hooks. Just as I mentioned last month with thread, before I get into talking about basic materials and patterns, we need to stop and talk about hooks. Just like thread being an important component and binding everything down, the hook is what we are binding all of our materials on. This week will be similar to last week's topic on thread as we will do a brief overview and then a shallow dive into hooks.

When I first learned to tie with DFF in the early 1980's, we were taught to tie using Mustad hooks. When I came back to tying, after my hiatus in the service, I took a few beginner classes to reinforce skills and techniques I had already learned. In the classes I took we were using Tiemco TMC hooks. These are kind of considered the gold standard in tying, but more about that a little bit later. It is important to note that before we jump into hook sizes and styles, it is imperative that we chat briefly about the parts of a hook. This will also become important when I talk about particular patterns in the coming months.

At the head of the fly is the eye. You can find the eye in a few different orientations: down-eye, up-turned-eye, straight eye and sometimes you can find it parallel to the shank. Additionally, if the eye of the hook is extended another eye this is what we call a 1XL as the hook shank has been extended "1 extra long." Two extra eye lengths is a 2XL as it is a "2 extra long" and so on and so forth. Normally, you will see shank lengths in: 1XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL and 6XL.

Next, between the back of the eye and where the bend starts is the shank. This is followed by

the bend, spear, barb and the point. Now the distance from the point of the hook to the shank is called the gap or the gape. Finally, if you draw an imaginary line from the point straight up to the shank and then back to the deepest part of the bend, this is known as the throat.

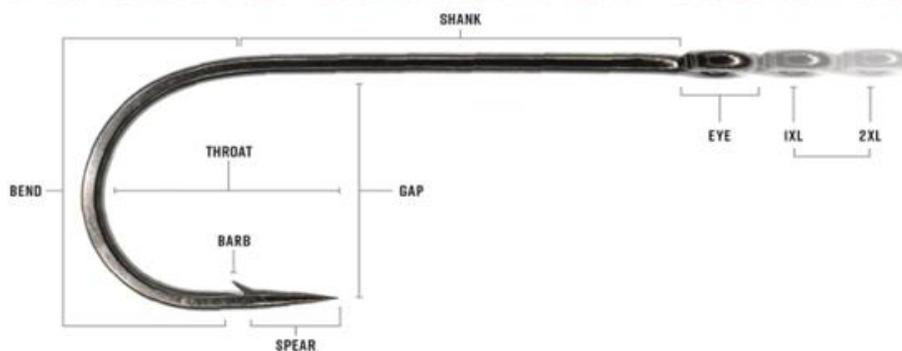
It is imperative to know all these parts of a hook, so when you research or look for different fly patterns online, many directions (written or video) will refer to these parts of a hook when tying. For example, a tyer may reference the hackle used possessing barbs $\frac{1}{2}$ the gap of the hook or equal to the gap of the hook. In other words, when the hackle is wrapped around the shank its barbs should not extend beyond the point of the hook. Likewise, a tyer may discuss advancing a material to the 50% point of the shank. This means

from the back of the fly you will advance that material no farther than the halfway point.

So with all these patterns defined and explained, let's take a moment at how

they are all tied together. Hook sizes are based on the gap of the hook...NOT the shank of the hook. In other words, all size 16 hooks should have the same sized gap. Unfortunately, with the different manufacturers and their designs, this is held too fairly loosely. A "standard" hook should have a shank that is two times the width of the gap (Craven, 2022). Now with this "standard" hook size in mind, let's examine some of the other variations that occur in hooks.

There are many variations of hooks, the most notable being hook shank length. You can have 2 extra short (2XS) all the way up to a 9XL for some large streamer (continued pg 11)



(continued from pg 10)

patterns. The most common of these are: 2XS, XS, 1XL, 2XL, 4XL, 6XL. Likewise, there are hooks that are a standard gauge (thickness), also hooks that are extra-fine (XF) as well as those that are extra-heavy (XH). For example, hooks that are classified as extra-fine tend to be used for dry flies when the fly needs to float on the surface or the surface film. Similarly, a nymph pattern such as a Kaufmann Stone is usually on standard gauge or an extra-heavy as it is a bigger fly.

There are many hook manufacturers out on the market today. As I mentioned earlier, there are Tiemco's TMC, X-series and U-series. Likewise, you have Daiichi, Ahrex, Fulling Mill, Firehole, Hanak, Dai-Riki, Gamakatsu just to name a few. Likewise, you have some online "fly shops" such as J. Stockard and Feather Craft that carry their own brands. Likewise, when talking about hooks with fellow club member Bud Heintz, The Fly Shop in Redding has their own hooks that are quite good and at a very good

price point (you can even buy them in hundred packs). I have included the adjacent table discussing six brands with their key characteristics, pros and cons.

In conclusion, you will find you have a hodge-podge of hooks from different manufacturers based on a specific need. For example, a large portion of my hooks are Tiemco TMC, but there are few applications in which I have a different manufacturer for a specific purpose (AquaFlies for shanks and trailing hooks for a mini intruder). Are you maybe a fly-tyer who has a hodge-podge

Manufacturer	Key Characteristics	Pros (The "Tie This")	Cons (The "Watch Out")
Tiemco (TMC)	The Japanese benchmark. High-carbon steel with precision-ground points and classic bronze or black finishes.	Unmatched Consistency. If you buy a pack of TMC 100s today and again in five years, they will be identical. Great "memory" in the steel.	The Price Tag. Easily the most expensive per hook. The high-carbon steel can be brittle; they are more likely to snap than bend under extreme pressure.
Daiichi	The "Technician's Choice." Known for their chemically sharpened points and the famous "mini-barb" design.	Superior Sharpness. Many pros consider them sharper than Tiemco out of the box. Excellent variety of specialized "oddball" shapes for specific bugs.	Sizing Drift. Their sizing can be slightly "off" compared to Tiemco (a #14 Daiichi often looks like a #16 Tiemco), which can be annoying when following recipes.
Ahrex	The Danish modernists. Sleek black nickel finishes, heavy-duty wire, and very aggressive, "predator-first" geometries.	Modern Durability. Their coatings are incredibly salt-resistant. They run "big and beefy," making them the gold standard for streamers and large trout.	Runs Large. An Ahrex size #8 is often closer to a size #6 in other brands. They are also heavy; their dry fly hooks can sometimes "out-sink" delicate hackle.
Fulling Mill	The "Competition Workhorse." A UK brand that has dominated the barbless and "Euro" scene with wide-gape designs.	Best Value-to-Quality. You get premium, competition-grade steel at a mid-range price. Their "Jig Force" series is arguably the best jig hook on the market.	Finish Issues. Some tyers report the black nickel finish can chip slightly when sliding tight-fitting tungsten beads over the barb/bend.
Firehole Outdoors	The "Barbless Rebels." 100% barbless by design with unique, rounded geometries and matte finishes.	Eco-Friendly & Innovative. Their 36-count packs are a great deal. The "Stupid Sharp" points live up to the name, and the matte finish is very stealthy.	Flexibility. They use a slightly softer temper. While they almost never snap, they are prone to "opening up" (bending) if you're horsing a big fish on heavy tippet.
Gamakatsu	The "Hook-Up Kings." Known for an upward-tilted point and legendary chemical sharpening.	Penetration. Their "stinger" shapes (like the B10S) have the highest hook-up-to-land ratio in the industry. Great for "bony" mouths (Bass/Tarpon).	Light Wire Bias. Many of their most popular hooks use very thin wire. If you don't manage your drag, you can straighten them out on a "log-sized" fish.

CONSERVATION

By Ron Forbes, Conservation Chair

No conservation content for March. Check again in the April issue.

How to Fish for Newly Planted Hatchery Trout

By Bob Fujimura

A recent trip to Baum Lake triggered me to write this article. Jean and I have had the privilege of fly fishing in many lakes and reservoirs since we joined the club in the late 2000's and prefer to fish for wild or holdover trout (e.g. hatchery trout that have been planted months prior). Most stillwater fly fishing guides and publications provide accurate and excellent advice on how to fish for these fish.

However, Baum Lake had not been planted for almost three months. I saw that most trout were planted within a few days to minutes after I visited this lake. I also observed that most fly fishers, especially those with experience with stillwater fly fishing, struggled to effectively fish for these newly released trout. Therefore, I offer a few tips if you happen to be fishing in the presence of these fish.

Key to effectively fly fishing for newly stocked hatchery trout is understanding the environment that they were raised. Hatchery trout are commonly raised in shallow and crowded raceways and fed artificial diet of pelleted sinking or floating food. Often, the food is dispensed or broadcast over a short period of time from a few seconds to minutes. These fish are conditioned to feed aggressively to obtain their daily ration of food.



They have no experience with natural food items (live aquatic or terrestrial insects or invertebrates).

Look for Schooling Trout – Hatchery trout will often stay in tight schools. Look for signs of rolling, surfacing, or jumping trout. It will pay to seek out

these locations or schools. Watch other successful anglers for fish location and presentation tips. I routinely spend time studying flowing and still water that I plan to fish - often using binoculars to spot surface feeding trout and insect hatches. If you are successful in hooking trout, fish in that location until you no longer get frequent bites or action. Similarly, if the

school moves away from your location, try to reacquire those fish if possible.

Forget 'Matching the Hatch' - Attractor patterns fished subsurface like wooly buggers, leeches, prince nymphs, and copper johns with bright contrasting elements like fluorescent bead heads, flashings, or tails can be very effective since these fish are naïve of live natural food items. One exception are fly patterns that simulates a food "pellet" – brown simi seal leech or small wooly buggers can be extremely effective on newly planted trout.

Use 'Unnatural Presentations' – When retrieving a subsurface fly or streamer, *try stripping your fly*

..... (continued on pg 13)

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faster than the traditional slow retrieval techniques. Spin fishers using fast-retrieved lures and jigs are very effective on newly released trout – hence, fast retrieved subsurface flies can often be more effective than slower retrieved patterns. Frequently, several trout will follow your fly, and a faster strip will encourage reaction bites among fish trained to compete for food. If you have ever raised kittens, your presentation is like playing with a dragged cat toy.

Conversely, when using a sinking line ‘*fish the drop*’. Often, hatchery trout will tend to bite your fly on the initial sink through the water column. So immediately take up any slack line after you cast and prepare for a bite during the sinking of your fly. Perhaps these bites are mirroring hatchery fish competing for sinking hatchery food.

Fish Shallow – Frequently, hatchery fish tend to initially hold higher in the water column than wild or acclimatized fish. Hatchery fish are raised in shallow raceways under typically brighter light conditions than wild fish. Their food is also broadcast on the surface. Sometime, stripping your flies immediately after you cast your line onto the water can cause near surface feeding. Jean Fujimura won the 2018 Calaveras One Fly Contest for the most trout landed using this technique. In some steep-sided reservoirs and lakes, newly released trout hold very close to the shoreline due to their preference to shallow water.

Many readers may wonder *why I am sharing these tips*. First, new fly fishers who are unfamiliar with stillwater fly fishing may choose to target these fish. Newly stocked trout in smaller waters can provide easier conditions for learning many of the basic skills of stillwater fishing. Abundant and aggressive trout can provide frequent action to practice skills such as strike recognition by feel and strip setting.

Second, most California stillwater trout fisheries are dependent on hatchery plantings – and most plantings are not accurately posted or predicted by the average fisher. In my case, I did not find trout actively feeding on emerging midges or BWO mayflies and had to settle for newly planted trout. By recognizing this situation and correctly making the appropriate changes in presentation and techniques, it allowed me to successfully salvage my annual fishing trip.

Last, some fly fishing events are centered on fishing newly planted waters. The Calaveras One Fly Contest relies on recently planted trout. Many of the contest winners display many of these techniques and new fishers can learn these tips by watching the participants of this annual fish tournament. This year’s One Fly Contest will be held on Saturday May 9, 2026, at the White Pines Lake near Arnold, CA – check out the upcoming announcements for more information on this fun event.

The Fly Corner

By Amy Terra

If you have been to Lodi Cyclery lately, hopefully you have seen The Fly Corner. Brian, the owner of Lodi Cyclery is an avid fly angler. He has created a space in his coffee/beer/wine bar/ bike shop just for anglers. While he offers cycling specific telescoping rods from Reyr gear, most of the corner’s offerings are those terminal consumables like flies, tippet, leaders, split shot, indicators. There are small tools and cool stickers and pins with the Fly Corner’s quirky logo. The flies are priced reasonably and many are tied by local fly tyers. Stop by, grab a coffee or beer and check out the fly corner. Also, if you want to have



your flies for sale in the corner, drop your name and contact info in the suggestion box and we can make that happen.



The Fly Corner

Diner Where It's Always a Good Morning

By Amy Terra

I have been fishing for a decade now. I know that is nothing compared to many club members but for me it means I have had the good fortune to fish areas and specific waters multiple times. I don't know about you, but I am a creature of habit. If I am driving up north, I have my routine. Where I get coffee. Where I get gas. Where I stop and eat.

I always stop at Granzella's for a bathroom stop and a sandwich up 15. Once I hit Redding, I have to stop and say hello to Shannon at The Fly Shop. He is absolutely the nicest guy in fly fishing. Then I head north from there and fish. I stop in at any fly shop along the way. On the way home, I always stop at Nancy's Airport Cafe.

This series of events happened a few weeks ago. I stopped at Granzella's on the way up. Said hello to Shannon at The Fly Shop. I may or may not have purchased a line and reel. I fished the Trinity with the Wulfie's outing the amazing Mary Midget arranged. On the way home, I stopped at Nancy's around 3 pm. I walked in the familiar door, nodded hello to some regulars and took a seat. The wait staff came over, handed me a menu and greeted me with a friendly



“Good Morning!”. The fact that it was early afternoon made me smile, but it was somehow very fitting. It always seems like a good morning at Nancy's- no matter the time of day.

I find comfort in my routines. I look forward to marking each and every mini milestone along the trip- whichever it is. I always stop at Olson's pottery store in Weaver-ville. Tamales when I fish the coast of Santa Cruz. The Big Foot Museum in Felton. Cook's

Station up Highway 88. The Copperpot Cafe when I am near Yosemite. Fishing trips are about so much more than just the fishing. They have become about the traditions and treasured spots along the way. These traditions are meant to be shared and there is nothing better than walking into a spot with a fishing buddy in the afternoon, being greeted with a hearty “Good Morning”, looking at each other and smiling, saying in return, “It sure is!”- because it really is a good day. We are on a fishing trip after all! Here's wishing everyone good mornings on all of their fishing adventures.

Lance & Kirsten Gray's Biography

Lance began fly fishing with his father and brother at the age of 7. In his teens, he started tying flies commercially for shops around Northern California. At 17, he went to work at Powell's Fly Shop in Chico, where he worked in the fly shop and built rods. He guided for Powell's, conducted fly-tying and fly-fishing schools, and traveled.

In 1993, Lance and Kirsten founded Saltwater Innovations, a company that manufactured and distributed products for saltwater fly fishing enthusiasts. Lance's Crystal Popper, Gray's Billfish Fly, the KO Charlie line, and the Raghead Crabs are all Saltwater Innovations products. Kirsten worked behind the scenes, handling the day-to-day operations and running the company's manufacturing floor.

In 2003, they launched Lance Gray & Company, a full-service outfitter offering guided trips, fly-fishing tours,

workshops, and a travel agency.

Kirsten is a fantastic photographer. Her images have been published in numerous fly-fishing/outdoor periodicals, including Fly Fisherman and California Fly Fisher, as well as on websites throughout the fly-fishing industry.

Lance conducts presentations at fly clubs and fly-fishing shows. In addition to volunteering with veterans, Kirsten and Lance support local groups, such as Cub Scouts and 4-H.

He's a signature tier for Aqua Flies, a pro staff member for Sage, RIO, Simms, Fishpond, and Umpqua Feather Merchants, and a featured writer with articles published in Angling Trade Magazine, California Fly Fisher, Fly Fishermen, and American Fly Fishing.

Lance is a fly fishing columnist. His column, “The Foraging Angler,” is published quarterly in the California Fly Fisher Magazine.

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