



# Rx Fly Fishing!

*The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!*

Volume XLIX

Number 11

November 2024

Randall Baxter, Editor

Stockton, California

## Calendar

November 13, General meeting, John R Williams High School. Meadow Ave., Stockton. 6:30 pm. (pg 1).

November 16, Trout Bout, Oak Grove Regional Park. 6am.

November 20, Board of Directors Meeting, Oak Grove Nature Ctr, Eight Mile Rd., Stockton, 6:30 (pg 2).

November 27, CANCELLED. Open fly tying and casting, Oak Grove Nature Ctr. and ponds. 6pm. (Upcoming Events pg 2).

## Club Announcements

- **The November General meeting will again be held at John R Williams High School, Stockton. See below for speaker details.**
- **We need additional volunteers for the Nov 16 Trout Bout. Discussion at the November General meeting.**
- **Delta Fly Fisher Classified: sell, trade or give away equipment. (pg 11).**
- **Fly Tying Day with Ben Byng (pg12)**

## November General Meeting

**Date: Wednesday, November 13th**

**Time: 6:30 PM, doors open; meeting begins at 7 PM.**

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

**The program: Al Smatsky — Fly Fishing the Salt**

by Jerry Neuburger

Al's back from Baja California with lots of new tales to tell (over 40 Dorado to the boat this year) and that's exactly what he's doing at the next general membership meeting when he covers, "Fishing the Salt," a review of fishing salt water on both sides of Central America, from Belize to Baja, from permit to dorado. He has over 30 years of experience fishing in the tropics, starting in the early 90s. He'll cover everything from costs to equipment in this travelogue adventure so come prepared to sniff some salt, cervezas and margaritas as well as enjoy some exotic cuisine, even if, "just pretend." The show starts at 7:00 at the John R, Williams School, 2450 Meadow Avenue, Stockton on Wednesday, November 13th. In addition to Al's presentation, Mike Dempewolf will have some coffee, cookies, and soft drinks, and the BOD with the help of director Nancy Baker, our treasurer, Brenda McIntosh, and VP Dena Mason will have a few raffle prizes to give away so bring a few bucks extra to participate. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting is open to the public.

Prior to the meeting, a speaker's dinner will be held at BJ's Brew House on Pacific starting around 5:15. If you plan to attend the no-host dinner, call Jerry Neuburger (209-327-5993) by Tuesday evening or email him at [gneuburg@gmail.com](mailto:gneuburg@gmail.com) and let him know so he can reserve a seat for you. The dinner is open to anyone wishing to attend.

Find DFF  
online at

<https://www.deltaflyfishers.com>

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

# Upcoming Events

By Bob Fujimura

**Saturday Nov 9 – NCCFFI Hall of Fame Dinner:** The Northern California Council of Fly Fishers International (NCCFFI) Hall of Fame Dinner for 2024 will be held on Saturday, November 9 at 4:30–10:00 PM at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center in Lafayette, California. The NCCFFI is partnering with The Fly Shop to bring back the event, which honors people who have contributed to excellence in the sport. The 2024 winner of the Hall of Fame Award is Mike Mercer, who is known for his fly pattern creations, articles in Fly Fisherman, and his 2005 book Creative Fly Tying. Go to the official website at: [https://www.nccffi.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=195494&module\\_id=671405](https://www.nccffi.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=195494&module_id=671405) for more information or to purchase your dinner tickets online. If you are attending the dinner and are a fly tyer, there will be a special pre-dinner session to meet Mike. Members should contact Bob Fujimura (email: [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com)) for more information on this pre-event.

**Wednesday Nov 13 - General Membership Meeting:** Our guest speaker will be our own Al Smatsky. More program information is available on page 1. We urge all DFF members to attend since we should have our annual Board election that night. We will meet at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Drive, Stockton starting at 6:30 pm. Contact Program Chair Jerry Neuburger for more information.

**Saturday Nov 16 – Women’s Intro to Fly Tying:** Learn the basic skills of fly tying with Amy Terra and Mary Midgett as your hosts. More details when they become available. Contact Amy or Mary for more information on this clinic.

**Saturday Nov 16 – Trout Bout:** Join other DFF members to help run this community fishing event for the San Joaquin Parks and Recreation Department at the Oak Grove Regional Park. More information on how you can help should be available in this issue or contact Charlie Reames for more information.

**Tuesday Nov 19 – Luk Lake Outing:** Fly fish a 65-acre private lake for a full-day in a game reserve next to the Rolling Hills Casino in Corning, CA. This lake is stocked in early November with hatchery trout and has a permanent population of largemouth bass and sunfish. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Bob Fujimura (email: [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com)) ASAP. We have already 6 members who will be attending and have reserved the entire lake to ourselves. More information on this event can be found in a ear-

## DFF Officers



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## Committees

Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)  
Chair needed

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Rx Fly Fishing!  
Randy Baxter

Trout Bout (November)  
Charlie Reames

Webmaster  
Amy Terra

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FLY FISHERS  
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## Upcoming Events with Delta Fly Fishers (continued)

lier email announcement that can be read here: <https://us20.campaign-archive.com/?u=110dbe1f46cf9ff647fd6ffc1&id=55d24676ab>

**Wednesday Nov 20 – Board of Directors Meeting:** Held at the Nature Center, Oak Grove Regional Park, Eight-Mile Rd, Stockton starting at 6:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend and participate.

**Wednesday Nov 27 – Open Fly Tying Session: *Cancelled*** to allow all members to travel or prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday period.

**Saturday Dec 7 – Fly Tying Day:** Let celebrate the resumption of a great club event and join others learn from our guest tyer Ben Byng. Ben will be demonstrating how to tie his favorite Delta striped bass streamers. Enjoy a fully catered breakfast, lunch, and dessert while learning and tying some of Ben's patterns with your friends and fellow fly tyers. We have a special gift for all participants and a fun raffle at the conclusion of the event. Open to all fly tyers and these sessions have been well attended in the past. Don't miss your opportunity to attend; register online soon. Go to the official website at: <https://deltaflyfishers.com/dff-flytying-day> for more information and to sign up.

**Wednesday Dec 11 – General Membership Meeting:** Our members are invited to share their favorite fishing trip of the year at this meeting. A short presentation about 15 minutes is all that Program Chair Jerry Neuburger is seeking. Contact Jerry if you are interested in speaking at this annual event. More program information when it is available. We will meet at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Drive, Stockton starting at 6:30 pm.

**Wednesday Dec 18 – Board of Directors Meeting:** Held at the Nature Center, Oak Grove Regional Park, Eight-Mile Rd, Stockton starting at 6:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend and



## A Note from Amy

Every now and again, I run out of a little something that I need to get on the water. Whether it's tippet, leaders, floatant or flies, I often find myself in need of a little something to function on the water. Local resources are diminishing with Sportsman's Warehouse cutting back on their

fly fishing department. It would be great to have a small local resource for these fly fishing supplies. As luck would have it, a small local business is developing a local fly fishing corner in its shop. More information to come- but just know that soon you will have a local spot to meet that fly fishing need! More info to come! Look for specifics in next month's newsletter.

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# Lower Sacramento River Outing Report

By Bob Fujimura

Eight participants and four guides floated and fly fished the Lower Sacramento River on Saturday October 19. The participants arrived the day before our float to ensure that they were fresh and well rested for their group float trip. Mike Dempewolf and his friend Jason Yordy fished the Lower Sacramento and Trinity River that same day.

We met at the Anderson River Park Boat Launch on Saturday morning. Typically, we have ended previous group trips at this location. However, the upstream section of the river was fishing poorly and was crowded with guide boats. We paired off with Mike and Jason fished with Tom Phillips of Big Tom's Guide Service; Norm Cassin and Robert Broderick fished with Scott Sugimoto of On The Riffle Guide Service; Jean Fujimura and Larry Schmidt were guided by Nick Stetser; and finally my brother Calvin and I fished with Gary Whitmire of The Fly Shop.

After an orientation session, we floated and fished the first section of river between our put in and Balls Ferry Boat Ramp. For many of us, this morning period was the most productive in terms of the number of resident trout caught. This lower section had many more trout although they tended to be smaller than the upper section of the river. The guides arranged to have a feast of freshly grilled cheese burgers, butter toasted buns, grilled onions, and all the fixings along with deli potato and macaroni salad, chips, fresh fruit, and cold drinks at our lunch stop.

After our generous lunch and early fishing stories, we drifted again downstream toward our takeout after the "Barge Hole". The Barge Hole is a famous salmon fishing location near the confluence of Bathadtle Creek. It is also known for its larger resident and steelhead trout. Despite repeated passes through this location, we did not catch as many fish at this location. The Lower Sacramento River had poor returns of adult Chinook Salmon last year and this year, and the abundance of larger resident trout appeared to be adversely affected this year. However, everyone had plenty of grabs and landed several smaller trout throughout the day.

Most of us had a light dinner together with Scott afterward and shared more fishing stories. Many thanks to Scott, his fellow guides, and outing assistants who made it a fun day. We are looking forward to doing it again next year.



## Good things happen when you grab the wrong rod...

By Amy Terra

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I used to fish twice a week. Wednesdays and Sundays you could find me somewhere on the water. But life gets complicated and busy, and my priorities shifted away from self care and fly fishing to head in other directions. I looked up from this busy life and realized I had not had the chance to step in a river for way too long. So finally, this last weekend, I quickly grabbed some gear, threw it in the truck and headed to the river. Never mind the laundry or the dirty house. Ignore the yard that simultaneously needs to be mowed and raked and trimmed and watered. It was time to reconnect- with the river, with the fish, with myself.

I got to my favorite spot in the entire world. I parked my vehicle. As I started to get ready, I was thinking about fishing my confidence fly on that intermediate line that I love to fish so much. The joy of casting and swinging this fly was fresh in my mind. I could almost feel the tug of the line in my fingers. The tug is the drug and I was eager to get on the water to feel that again. Imagine my surprise when I opened the rod case and found it held a different rod than I was expecting. Then I opened the reel case and

there was not my intermediate line- rather a floating line. What a bummer! I had my heart set on fishing a certain way. Fishing my favorite fly in my favorite place like I have done a hundred times before. Oh well, I thought. I am here. I am going to fish. However, I just couldn't bring myself to tie on an indicator rig. I wanted to cast my line so I tied on a dry fly and stepped into the water.

While I wasn't thinking much about dry fly fishing with its topwater takes, that is what I found on the river. Fish broke the surface time and time again providing me with hit after hit of visual adrenaline. One fish even leapt out of the water trying to eat my fly before it even landed on the surface of the water. I laughed out loud at their antics. I briefly held the sleek fish in my hand as I released them back to the shadowy depths. I fished and fished until I finally sat down on the water's edge completely content. I had almost forgotten that I grabbed the wrong rod and reel at the start of this day back at the house. Good things had happened because I grabbed the wrong rod. Things I hadn't even considered when I thought about this day. Apparently, the only real mistake one can make with fly fishing is to not go in the first place. I am going to make sure I don't make that mistake any more. I need to make the time. Maybe I won't be able to go twice a week like I used to. But I am going to make sure it isn't that long before I set foot in a river again!

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## The Dirt Cheap Angler: Chinese Rods

By Jerry Neuburger

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I suppose I'm not the average fly fisher since I don't consider any of my equipment as artwork, just a fishing tool. That's especially true of fly rods and reels, not to mention the flies themselves. In fact, lifelike flies are generally not as productive as something of the general shape and color of the natural. But I digress. This article deals with cheap Chinese rods you can find on Amazon and on the manufacturer's websites.

The problem: You arrive at your fishing location, unzip one of your rod tubes only to find that the enclosed rod with mounted reel has a broken tip. It is not a big problem since the rod is one of four you have brought on the trip. However, it is (or was) your favorite rod and the most expensive rod you own, an Echo costing over \$300. And it's the beginning of "the season" when the fish are voracious and you have a string of trips up. It will take two weeks minimum, to send it in and procure a replacement. While you have plenty of backup rods, you'd be lots more comfortable having four rather than three rods ready to go. You decide to look on Amazon for a quick replacement. A pile of rods are available from some close to \$20 to Sages with a weighty price of \$900. Time to do a little more research. Over at YouTube, I found several field tests of rods by Western guides and fly shops. After watching a few I learned that the Chinese rods offered by MaxCatch and Pacifun were judged to be the top of the heap. Namely, the Pacifun Sword and the Maxcatch Premier models. What was even better was the price. To me, although I can afford an expensive rod, the price for what is essentially a fishing tool is important. A nine-foot, 5 weight, Pacifun Sword was listed at \$43. Even better, shipping was free

using my Amazon Prime account and it would be delivered tomorrow. I was hooked. I hit the, Buy Now, button.

The solution: I waited patiently the next day for the Amazon truck, finally, at about four in the afternoon the bell on the front door rang, signaling a delivery. I went out and found a cardboard box, undamaged, leaning next to the door. I took it in and opened it to find a clear plastic tube, with end caps held on by small bungee cords with a rod in four pieces inside. I pulled a cap off and examined the rod. Windings, well done, alignment dots on all four pieces, and a graphite and aluminum reel seat with double locking rings with a nylon washer between to keep them locked when tightened. So far so good. I assembled the rod and found that the alignment dots were dead on. I fastened on a reel containing some floating line and tried some lawn casts. The rod was quick, at least as quick as my Echo. The next test would have to wait until my next fishing trip.

A week later I was in my fishing kayak at Baum Lake, casting the rod using my Midge line. The rod cast perfectly and felt as good in my hand as my old Echo. I ended the day with something in excess of 45 fish, a typical day at Baum and while fishing I didn't feel handicapped at all with the rod, I'm a happy angler and will buy either this or the \$20 more expensive MaxCatch Premier in the future and not be embarrassed when asked by other anglers what rod I'm using. After all, except for the most expensive Sages, Winstions, and Scotts, most of the rods for sale are made in China anyway.

Author's notes: While the rod mentioned above uses a Chinese blank as its foundation, I've seen other offers featuring South Korean and Japanese blanks. While some of these may be superior to the rod mentioned, at some point the two graphs cross, the price vs. performance graphs. For me, the crossing point is low but as I said, to me, a rod is a tool, not art. Obviously, given the inventory most fly anglers own, my opinions are not the standard in the fly fishing community but then again, I am, "The dirt cheap angler."



# This Month's Fly Box

## FLY TYING

### Balance Leech or Fry



Photo from Flyfishfood.com

Balance leech or fry patterns are my favorite stillwater patterns when cold weather causes wild or holdover trout to cruise the shallow banks for larger prey items. After the first hard freeze, water temperatures drop significantly and trigger the breakdown of submergent vegetation. Leeches, snails, dragonfly nymphs, and fish fry lose their cover habitat and become vulnerable to fish seeking to fatten up before winter. Balance leech or fry patterns can be deadly when fished suspended from an indicator.

There are many recipes and varieties of balance fly patterns, and most are effective in the right situations. I tend to use a black-red body and tail with a copper or black nickel bead head as my initial balance leech pattern – however, I also have tied and fished successfully rust, brown, and olive leeches. Where fish fry is an important food item, I fish a balance fry pattern using UV purple collar, tan or white body, and light olive or tan marabou tail.

The basic techniques for tying balance leech patterns can be learned by watching this tutorial video by Flyfishfood.com for its Midnight Fire Balance Leech at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkb-NAEbnv4>. An infinite number of different patterns can be created by changing the color or materials to suit your preferences or fishing conditions.

I recommend using a very slow retrieve when using these patterns in the fall. Unlike fishing in the Spring, movement seems essential for successful fishing. Another tip is to fish these patterns close to the shoreline. My latest trip to Wild Horse Reservoir, NV affirmed these tips using a balance fry pattern and resulted in landing rainbow and cuttbows in 20" to 24" range.

Bob Fujimura



## Mettler

**Tasting Room:** 7889 East Harney Lane  
Lodi, CA 95240  
Thurs to Mon 11am-5pm (209) 369-3045



### Rx Fly Fishing! Advertising Rates

2 column inches each newsletter issue for the year for \$400 or in-kind goods and services, six months \$200, quarter \$100, one month \$40. The ad may include artwork and will link to the advertiser's website.

Additional column inches of ad space may be purchased at \$200 for the year, \$100 for six months, \$50 for a quarter year, \$20 per month.

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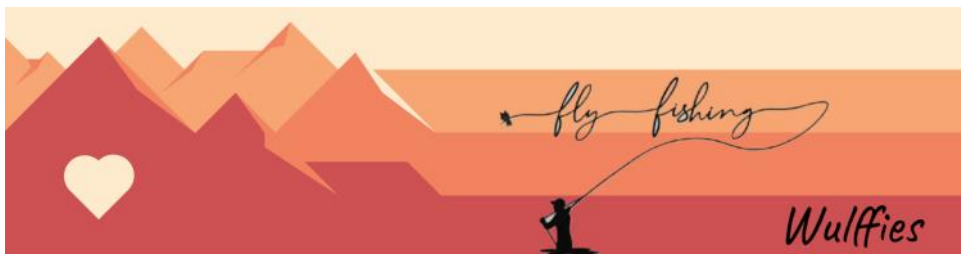


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## Wulffies Happenings:

Where has this year gone? It is hard to believe we are wrapping up the Wulffies activities for 2024. Before we get busy with holiday preparations and festivities, let's take some time to thank all of the amazing women who have organized Wulffie events, fed, prepped or attended a Wulffies event this year.

Brenda and Nancy opened our year with a great fly box organization evening. We explored knots and leaders at the Lodi Library community room. Then in March, Dena got us ready to get on the water with gear swap and gear prep just in time for the season to open. Mary M. led the most amazing largemouth bass trip to Lake Oroville with Ryan Williams. (You know it is a great trip when your arm is tired from holding up giant bass.). Late April brought us our Women's Welcome at the Casting Day in Stockton. Dena stepped up once again and hosted the One Fly weekend in Arnold. Then in June, Nancy and Brenda hosted our watercraft safety at Rancho Seco. July brought our most popular repeat outing- smallmouth bass fishing with Bryce Tedford. Bryce was the consummate host making sure fish were caught in great numbers by every angler. There is a reason this is our most popular outing year after year! July brought us to San Francisco for casting lessons at Golden Gate Park. Once our cast was dialed in, Mary led another popular and successful outing to Yosemite. We spent a day being guided by Echo Adventures out of Groveland- fishing beautiful places with amazing people. Our next few outings got disrupted by weather and that brings us to our upcoming winter activities:

## November 16th: Intro to Fly Tying hosted by Mary M. and Amy

— Winter is the time to work on your tying skills and we will have a super supportive, low stress instruction in basic tying skills as well as some yummy food. Come and join the fun- no need for tools or supplies. Tools to borrow will be available and all supplies provided. This falls on the snack bar day at Oak Grove Park fishing derby so we will be holding inside of the boat house while the snack bar is happening. Feel free to come by anytime from 7 to noon. There will be a crockpot of soup, some salad, bread and dessert available. I will have the supplies to tie some beginner friendly flies and we will make sure you have good basic tying skills so you are ready for the December tying day with Ben Byng.

**December 7th- Fly Tying Day** — DFF will be hosting a fly tying day and we will have a women's table set aside so we can enjoy the day together and enjoy some special snacks for our women participants. There will also be a special raffle prize or two geared towards women anglers. [Sign up here!](#)

Thanks to everyone for a great year. Our Wulffies have grown from Dena and I hanging out and fishing to about 20 women anglers who love to learn, fish and have fun together. As we wrap up this year, let me know where you want to fish next year and if you want to lead or co-lead an outing. Let's keep supporting each other and enjoying this amazing sport of fly fishing!

## Local Water Orientation Clinics

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# Casting Corner—

By Amy Terra

A special thanks to everyone for their patience the past few months as my casting training essentially took over my life in preparation for my certification exam that happened in September. My casting instructor journey started at the end of COVID restrictions when I went to visit a friend at the Golden Gate Casting Ponds in San Francisco. I was struck by the beauty and history of this spot in the city. I am not a city girl and rarely venture into San Francisco but after this experience, I found myself going back to "The Ponds" month after month to partake in the free second Saturday casting lessons. As I worked through the instructional levels of the lessons, I attained my bronze, silver and gold level casting skills levels. Once I had my gold level skills, I was able to petition for membership in Golden Gate's Casting and Angling Club's casting instructor training program. Two years of monthly drives to The Ponds for teaching and training, monthly lessons with Master Casting Instructor Gary Turri and monthly sessions with my awesome training partner in Elk Grove resulted in me finally passing pretests for the pretty rigorous casting examination. This meant that I was ready to take the exam itself. The casting exam has a 30-40% pass rate and involves 15 casting tasks and 7 teaching tasks in addition to a written test. The practical casting portion of the exam can take anywhere from an hour and a half to 3 hours. The exam is offered across the world during the summer including here in North America at specific sites where they can gather qualified examiners and examinees for weekends of testing and casting.

I flew to Colorado to take the exam. My exam was scheduled for the last testing slot on Saturday afternoon so I got to watch a variety of casters attempt the exam. Bluebird weather greeted the Friday exams that happened in windless conditions all day long. By the time my exam rolled around Saturday afternoon, the weather was turning dark with gusty winds and ominous clouds in the sky. This made my exam a little challenging, but after about 2 hours, I received the feedback that I had passed the exam- just in time for the skies to open up with rain pouring from the dark clouds. It felt like the rain was washing away the stress and sacrifices of the past few years. I sat in my rental truck and wrote thank you cards to everyone who helped me train and develop my casting skills. The attainment of this goal marks the end of that journey while it simultaneously marks the beginning of my journey of empowering anglers with better casting skills if they want to pursue this skill development. You can catch fish without a good cast- but you can fish better with a better cast!



## 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

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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.

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# CONSERVATION

By Ron Forbes, Conservation Chair

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*Scholars have long known that fishing has turned men into philosophers. Unfortunately, it's almost impossible to buy decent tackle on a philosopher's salary. I have always thought that it would be better if fishing turned men into Wall Street bankers, but that is not the case. I became a philosopher at the age of twelve, after a scant six months of fishing. One evening at supper I looked up from my plate and announced, "I fish; therefore therefore, I am."*

— Patrick F. McManus, *Never Sniff a Gift Fish*, 1972

## UPDATE ON THE KLAMATH RIVER SALMON RESTORATION

The primary goal of the Klamath's Dam Removal Project has been the reestablishment of the once flourishing salmon population on Klamath River. The four dams on the river effectively wiped out one of the most productive populations on the Pacific coast for 112 years. The dams also set in motion an ongoing disintegration of the five Native American Tribes culture. The Klamath River Tribes depend on salmon for sustenance. The antiquated dams continue to destroy both commercial and recreational fishing. Now, with their removal, no longer will the water on the Klamath be toxic from harmful algae blooms, or cause gill-rot in salmon that on one occasion killed over 69,000 fish.

Efficient management of the dam removal project enabled removal of the dams in time for this year's salmon run. In observing the decade old dam removals on the Elwah River, many involved in the Klamath's project have hoped for a modest reemergence of salmon. Hopefully, the run would extend upstream from the location of the former Iron Gate Dam. However, in mid October members of Oregon's Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) saw the dorsal fin of a large fish. At first they could not confirm whether the fish was a salmon or a large trout. Returning the next day

they were able to confirm the fish was a salmon. The team was elated! Also, the salmon was not in the Klamath River but in a tributary. The salmon had traveled 230 miles upstream to reach the tributary. Since spotting the initial Chinook, a redd has also been identified. The dams have been removed for only four months. For the Chinook salmon to migrate over 200 miles on a river that has been closed to spawning or more than 100 years, this is a good sign

The native Americans of the Klamath River Tribes feel a strong relationship with the salmon. Roberta Frost, Klamath Tribes secretary, stressed the importance of the salmon's return home. "The return of our relatives is overwhelming to our tribe. This is what our members worked for and believed in for so many decades. I want to honor that work and thank them for their persistence in the face of what felt like an immovable obstacle. The salmon are just like our tribal people, and they know where home is and returned as soon as they were able."

## A GREAT IDEA BUT IT DOESN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM

With much fanfare and ceremony, in mid-September Gov. Newsom announced the completion of the Lookout Slough Project (LSP). The LSP will restore 3,400 acres of the Delta by allowing tidal water to flow into a lost habitat. It is a unique project being the [largest] restoration project within the Delta [Revised, Ed.]. In late September, state officials gathered to watch the breaching of a levee on the eastern boundary of the project to once again allow tidal water to flow into the area and become a tidal wetland. The goal of the project is threefold. First, is to restore a tidal wetland. Second, to reduce flood risk providing 100 year flood risk protection, and third, to support fish and wildlife. The LSP will provide 40,000 acre feet of flood storage for the Yolo Bypass area to help protect local communities.

Gov. Newsom was enthusiastic about the LSP. "California is building on our global climate leadership with innovative solutions that work with nature to safeguard our communities, local economies on the front lines of climate change, floods and droughts. This project and the strong partnerships at the heart of its success demonstrate how we can meet the needs of Californians while protecting our rich natural heritage for generations to

*(Continued from page 9)*

come."

The LSP began mid 2022. It excavated 26 miles of the tidal channels. The project was designed to provide 100 year flood protection with allowances for anticipated sea level rise by building a three mile long, 25 foot tall setback levee. The state hopes to restore a native environment within the restored wetland using only natural vegetation. The project will include wildlife viewing stations and fishing areas.

The Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) claims to be involved in over 100 projects within the state directly or with their support. Searching the usual resource area for a list of these projects has proven to be a difficult task. Constantly the DWR voiced their concern to "manage the water needs of millions of Californians, industry, agriculture and balance that with the needs of our environment and ecosystem." Early this October Jerry Newburger and I attended the annual luncheon sponsored by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). This year's keynote speaker was DRW's director Karla Nemeth. Her presentation was the usual "nuts and bolts" of the DRW speech as one would expect. My interest was how long it would take her to make the states' almost obligatory comment about their concerns for the water needs of California's industry, agriculture, and people versus the water needs of the environment and ecosystem. It took just over three minutes this time. The state's history of dealing with California's water needs from Gov. Pat Brown's administration has been consistent. The environment and ecosystems invariably lose.

Is the LSP a good investment for the public? Of course it is. But what about the restoration of the southern, western, and eastern Delta? Nothing has been done to rectify the sustainability of the environment or the flood protection for the residents of the five Delta counties. This project involved 3,400 acres. The Delta is over 738,000 acres, over 500,000 of which is some of the world's prime farmland. We have a lot of catching up to do.

**NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECORDED HISTORY, HUMANS HAVE ALTERED THE SYSTEM THAT MOVES WATER AROUND THE GLOBE**

During the last week of October the Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW) published an alarming report. The GCEW is an organization of well-respected international scientists and academicians. The organization is led by four co-chairs and 19 commissioners who represent multi-faceted research projects on water issues. The first paragraph of their report is sobering. Their report entitled, "The system that moves water around the earth is off balance for the first time in human history". We have now destroyed the existing balance of our global water cycle.

The GCEW concludes the current imbalance of the water cycle will generate disastrous repercussions world wide. The first will be serious disruption of many nations' economies. Another major concern the GCEW observes is the production of our foods. With the increasing advent of climate change, California is already deep in the throes of a major agricultural disruption. During a recent train trip to southern California, we saw almond and pistachio orchards either dying or pulled from the ground. Because of very problematic water sources land values in the lower San Joaquin Valley have recently dropped by 25% to 50%. Almost nightly newscasts have stories of agriculture disruption. The GCEW predicts we are now on a downward agricultural spiral. Another major concern of the GCEW involves the quality of life of our world's people. Currently over 3 billion people globally face food and water insecurity.

The water cycle is complex as water moves around the globe. First, water evaporates from the ground, lakes, rivers, and plants into the atmosphere and forms massive bodies of water vapor. The vapor, or atmospheric rivers, are able to flow for a long distance before the temperatures drop and condenses the vapor which returns to earth as rain or snow. The report identifies two water types. Blue water and green water. Blue water is from aquifers, lakes and rivers. Green water is from plants and water stored in the soil. Green water has long been neglected as a water source. Plants, however, generate about half of all our rainfall.

In the United states the average person uses between 50 to 100 gallons of water per day for personal and household uses. The United Nations says that world wide between 14 to 27 gallons of

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

water per person are needed to live a "dignified life". We need to understand that local water sources must be able to provide the water we need. Long term water diversions projects will fail.

Richard Allen, climate scientist at Reading University, England, observed the report "paints a grim picture of human-caused disruption of the global water cycle, the most precious natural resource that ultimately sustains our livelihood. Human activities are altering the fabric of our land and air above which is warning our climate, intensifying both our wet and dry extremes, and sending wind and rainfall patterns out of kilter." The crises can only be addressed through better management of natural resources and massive cuts in planet-heating pollution."

The GCEW identified three major causes for the global water cycle crises. Number one is climate change, second is destructive land use, and third, mismanagement of water supplies. They also have increasing concern that areas with highly dense populations are in serious risk and are now facing fresh water shortages. Northwest India, northeast China, southern Europe, and eastern Europe are now in jeopardy along with those already facing freshwater shortages. If the current trend continues, the GCEW predicts that more than 50% of the world's food production will be vulnerable by 2050.

It's interesting to realize that humans are the only species with the ability to alter their environment to improve their sustainability as a species, yet do nothing to improve that probability.

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## Delta Flyfisher Classified

(contact the newsletter editor directly if items sell or are removed from sale; randy.baxter23@gmail.com)

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### ***Eight foot Pram for sale***

Very useful for fly fishers. Easy to row, stand up to cast, fits in back of full size pickup. Included are trolling motor, oars, anchor. Removable wheels fasten onto transom. Fiberglass, old, licensed until 2025.

Weight is about 100 pounds. This is a 1969 TPL brand.

Call John 209-426-1135

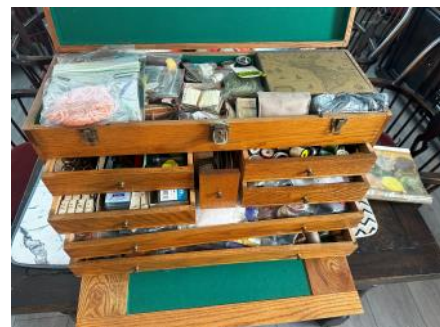


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***Fly tying storage chest:*** For all of you fly tyers looking for a material, look no further. This Golden Oak 8-Drawer Chest is loaded with all of the material needed to tie your favorite trout patterns.

Member Bill LaCommare, (925) 872-7090 is looking to sell the chest and all of the materials. There is no manufacturer's label on the chest, but it is well made out of beautiful oak material. It is very similar to a Gerstner chest and could be very valuable just by itself.

Please contact Bill directly, if you are interested.





## Another Reason to Attend the Hall of Fame Dinner

By Bob Fujimura

By now you have probably seen the announcements for the NCCFFI Hall of Fame Dinner scheduled for the evening of Saturday November 9 to be held in nearby Lafayette. If not, check out the links mentioned below. However, what is not mentioned is that prior to the dinner program, there will be a **special meeting with the event's honoree, Mike Mercer**, beginning at 3:30 pm. This session will be limited to the first 25 people who purchase their HOF dinner ticket online then contact Bob Fujimura (email: [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com)) that they are coming. There are a few openings that are still available, but they will go quickly once this opportunity becomes more known. People who should attend are fly tyers or attendees who would like to meet this honoree.

For more information on why you should attend this event, check out the official website at this site: [https://www.nccffi.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=195494&module\\_id=671405](https://www.nccffi.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=195494&module_id=671405)

There will be a reception, a nice dinner, with speeches ending with the award for Mike Mercer.

There will be also an amazing assortment of fly fishing gear and bucket list fishing trips offered at the silent and live auction. Three DFF members have already signed up and they would welcome other members to join them at this event.



## December 7 Fly Tying Day

Delta Fly Fishers have reinstated a great tradition of an annual fly tying day. Our club leadership has found an amazing fly tyer to come and spend a day, sharing his tying and fishing knowledge. We are fortunate this year to be hosting Ben Byng for this event. Ben's bio on his videos on the popular "The Weekly Fly" website shares:

*"I have been fly fishing and tying flies for years. From 2001 to 2005, I worked for the late Andre Puyans helping at his fly fishing seminars in Idaho. More recently, I'm a fly fishing instructor for Wilderness Unlimited and The Becoming an Outdoor Woman programs.*

*You can find me hanging around the tier's row at the west coast fly fishing shows and expos in the early spring. Bass fishing with a fly in the California Delta on hot summer nights for a double digit fish is the current goal."*



Ben with his super effective Delta fly in action.

Ben Byng is a master fly tyer who ties at many of the fly fishing shows including the International Sportsman's Exposition and Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show. Fishing has been in Ben's blood since he was a young boy. His grandfather took him on many journeys from the Great Lakes to the Florida Keys. (continued on next page)

His father took him on summertime trips to eastern Idaho for remote small stream fishing and high mountain adventures. These experiences have armed Ben with lessons that would follow him into fly-fishing. Having the California Delta in his backyard, Ben has spent many hours jamming in his boat through this 1200-mile waterway looking for Striped Bass. This is his fly-fishing wintertime playground. Ben has chosen the Delta Baitfish Rattle Clouser as the fly for our tying day. We will tie a variety of color patterns of this incredibly effective fly. These flies sell for \$15 each at local fly shops and you will tie minimally 2 of them during the tying day. This makes the cost of the day, \$30 seem like a heck of a deal. Especially when you consider that breakfast and lunch will be provided, a tying gift and a raffle will all be a part of the day.



Some of the possible variations of the fly we will tie.

**This event will take place at the:**  
Fairfield Inn and Suites  
262 Rocky Lane,  
Lodi, CA 95240

**Sign Up Today! Attendance limited to 25 people.**



**DELTA FLY FISHERS  
FLY TYING DAY**

**December 7, 2024. 8am to 2:30pm**  
Spend the day, tying flies with expert tyer, Ben Byng. Ben will lead participants through a series of bass-focused flies. All tying materials and instructions will be provided. Tying tools will be available to borrow for the day. Breakfast, lunch and dessert included. Come and join the fun!  
Sign up <https://link.waveapps.com/baed4a-mnvt2>



SCAN ME

**Explore bass patterns with tying expert Ben Byng!**

**\$30 per person includes tying instruction, tying materials, breakfast, lunch, dessert, a thank you gift and entry into door prize drawing!**

**Raffle with great prizes**



**FAIRFIELD INN AND SUITES**  
262 Rocky Lane  
Lodi, Ca 95240  
December 7, 2024  
8am-2:30pm  
For More information email [deltaflywebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflywebmaster@gmail.com)

**Follow this link to secure your spot!** \$30 per participant. Any questions? Email [\*\*deltaflywebmaster@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:deltaflywebmaster@gmail.com)

### **The day's planned program:**

- 8:00 AM Doors open, check in, breakfast
- 9:00 AM Start of the Program
- 9:20 AM Ben's first tying demo session
- 10:30 AM 15-minute Break
- 10:45 AM Ben's first session continues
- 12:00 to 12:30 PM Lunch
- 12:30 PM Ben's second session
- 2:00 PM Second session ends. Closing of the day. Drawings held.