



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume XLVII

Number V

May 2023

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

Calendar

May 10, General Membership meeting, John R. Williams School, Stockton.

May 13, One Fly Contest, White Pines Lake, Arnold.

May 17019, Eastern Nevada outing.

May 17, BOD meeting, Oak Grove Park Nature Center

May 24, Open tying, cancelled

May 31, Gurgler tying, Oak Grove Park Nature Center

June 3, Catfish Derby, Oak Grove Park

June 5, Lower Mokelumne Float.

June 14, DFF Barbecue

June 18-21, Lake Almanor outing

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May's program topic for the membership meeting is valley shad fishing and it couldn't be more timely

At our May meeting the club has the pleasure of listening to one of our own, Al Smatsky on valley shad fishing. Al was asked, "Why are some anglers more successful than others?" and developed this program as a reply. The program is intended to help the novice angler understand the key ingredients to make every shad trip an enjoyable experience.

The program will focus on fly fishing for shad in our Central Valley Rivers. He plans to have an in depth open discussion on; selecting the right fly line to match the water conditions, what effect water conditions have on the shad migration, time of year, what is "holding water" and "traveling water", leader material and fly selection. And most importantly HIGH-WATER TACTICS

A little about Al.

Encouraged by lifelong friend and fishing buddy over 50 years ago, Al purchased his first fly rod for a trip to the Yuba River for shad. From that point on, he was hooked for life. Since that time, he has been fishing from Alaska to South America in pursuit of most fresh and salt-water species.

Joined the Delta Fly Fishers in 1977. Board Member and past president (twice) of the Delta Fly Fishermen.

Awarded the honor of "Life Member" in 2003.

Licensed California Guide since 1994.

Owner of Excellent Adventures, a fly-fishing guide and travel business.

Following Al's presentation, the club will offer another great and generous raffle with a sheet of 15 tickets at a cost of \$10, And Mike Dempewolf will have his treat wagon of cold and hot drinks and snacks available throughout the meeting. Don't forget to drop a tip in the jug.

The meeting will be held on May 10th at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Dr. Stockton. Doors open at 6:30, program at 7:00, Admission is free and the public is always welcome.

Editor's note: This is an extremely timely program. Shad enter the American River system early in May and are vulnerable to anglers from their entry through May and into mid June when their numbers decrease. They are a prime target for wading fly fishers.

Individuals are welcome to join Al as club speaker for a pre-meeting no host dinner at BJ's Brew House on Pacific Avenue at 5:15. It's a fun dinner with lots of conversation and maybe a few exaggerations,

Hey Wulffies, this article is for you!

A Casting Day Wrap Up, relaxing at Dena's cabin, the One Fly and more...

By Amy Terra

We had an amazing time at the Wulffies' Casting Morning on April 22nd's Casting Day. Eleven women gathered in the morning for coffee and pastries before we broke into two groups led by certified casting instructor, Sarah Trenchel and casting instructor candidate, Amy Terra and all around extraordinary teacher, Dena Mason.

The two groups targeted instruction for each person's level and then came together for an on-the-water roll cast lesson in the park's pond. The women's program wrapped up with several casters participating in the bronze level Fly Casting Skills Development activities.

Several participants earned the bronze level and several have just one more to master to earn the bronze. It was a fun morning that turned into a delicious lunch and day with the entire gang at the Delta Fly Fishers' Casting Day at Panella Park.

The turnout included several new faces and some cherished familiar faces. It is wonderful to have this growing community of support develop around such a wonderful activity of fly fishing. Wulffies recommend all participants check out the all club activities listed in this newsletter. Delta Fly Fishers is a wonderfully welcoming group and you

would be welcomed at any and all of the general club activities.

If you are looking for some women's specific activities though, May 12-14 is the Women's Fly Fishing Weekend in Arnold. Dena is the weekend's host and this activity overlaps with the club's One Fly Contest at White Pines. Friday evening usually involves some fun small stream fishing and/or a relaxing time sitting on the cabin's deck taking in nature.

Saturday participants join the club in the One Fly Contest which requires a flotation device and PFD. Sunday morning can find some anglers exploring local waters- often in Big Trees depending upon water conditions. For more information contact Dena at 209-662-3079.

Our June activity will be a watercraft safety day at Rancho Seco. This is always a day of fun as we practice getting into and out of our float tubes. Look for more information next month!



Casting day action with the Wulffies at Panella Park.

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FLY FISHERS
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Skills night and casting day. We must have done something right!

By Jerry Neuburger

Both the skills night and casting day programs had a noticeable increase in attendance and participation, a pleasant surprise over recent events. Skills night brought almost 30 members to the John R. Williams School and Casting Day, another 30 to Panella Park.

In addition, the monthly raffle at Skills Night and the lunch contribution bucket at Casting Day, while not overflowing, showed a healthy increase from recent activities.

Attendance at previous monthly meetings had dropped off to what can only be de-

scribed as unacceptable levels of sometimes barely over a dozen individuals to receive a presentation from a noted west coast angler charging the club fees of between \$350 and \$450. The low attendance was almost embarrassing on some occasions.

In any case, hopefully things will change for the rest of the year, starting with May's program, followed by the steak BBQ in June. One thing is sure however, the success of both Skills Night and Casting Day call for a follow up next year and a new approach to thinking about programs in the future.

We're missing, "Letters to the Editor."

By Jerry Neuburger

Years ago when I was editor of the newsletter the first time round, (in the footsteps of the great John Fanucchi, the original club editor and namer of the club newsletter) we would maintain a Letters to the Editor column. While not a permanent fixture, and appearing only when someone wrote a comment, the feedback, some complimentary and some critical, was helpful in plotting the club's direction.

So, if you, the reader are so inclined, how

about writing the editor of the newsletter and letting him and the club know how you view things either club wise or sport wise. Of course some topics are taboo including national politics unless they are directly related to water and fishing. To write, send an email to the editor, [Jerry Neuburger](#) with your letter as content.

The editor promises on penalty of breaking off ten fish in a row that if you want to sign the letter as Anonymous, he'll do so and keep your name secret, even from the officers and directors of the club.

Hey guys and girls, it's still cold up there!

By Jerry Neuburger

In December of 2020, our club had a full day presentation by noted Sierra guide and fly angler, Jon Baiocchi. Jon highlighted some of his favorite lakes during that presentation, with Lake Davis being one of them. He was especially sold on fishing the lake early in the season and late, right after ice out and before the lake became frozen over since that's when the lake would yield its biggest and strongest trout.

Jon passed away some time after, taking much of that knowledge with him but he left me enough to give his instructions a try. And wow, what results. I was able to

fish the lake early in 2021, fishing the south end using small chironomids under an indicator for some of the hottest lake bound trout I've ever hooked. Best of all, these fish were easy to find and willing to take a fly.

I tried to repeat the adventure in 2022 but my calendar just wouldn't fit. I was hoping to lead an outing to the lake this year but ran into problems with reports of piles of snow, a frozen lake and campsite troubles.

While the camping could be overcome, a frozen lake is tough to fly fish. Well, maybe this fall...

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

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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.

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PhoneVite is coming but we need your help at implementation.

By Jerry Neuburger

Before you feel like someone is pulling your nose hairs, relax, it's not that big of a deal. First, what is PhoneVite, It is a subscribed robocall system featuring a voice recorded reminder of an up and coming event, in DFF's case, a coming general membership meeting being most likely. The cost is a nickel a call. And yes, it will leave a message on most answering machines.

How does it work. The club member responsible for its use opens the program, records a message and then assigns it to a call list. It can be scheduled days in ad-

vance. When the time comes, the program makes the call and plays the recorded message to anyone answering. In other words, the dreaded, ROBOCALL.

Why did the club select this maybe invasive? means of reminding members of coming meetings? Because the directors felt that this brief and barely invasive method of reminding you of an important and imminent event that may have just slipped your mind in this ever increasingly demanding world may give you that last bit of incentive to attend and worth a nickel, especially if you heed the call.

But to make the whole thing work

smoother, we need some input from you.

We need you to let us know what phone number or numbers you would like to receive the calls on, As it is right now, we have 157 numbers for our 105 members and we're sure some of them are wrong or old. And if for some reason, you'd like to opt out of the experiment, let us know that as well. (We also understand that the program offers an opt out feature but, since we're newbies, we're not sure how that works exactly.)

So let us know whether you're in or out and if in, what phone number(s) to call.

You can email your preferences [here](#).

Welcome to this month's Casting Corner! It has been a busy month in the casting world. Here are some highlights from this last month:

What casting can do- I never imagined that learning how to cast would bring me amazing experiences beyond lessons and clinics- but it has. For the second year in a row, I have joined certified casting instructor Sarah Trenchel in teaching fly fishing and casting for the program, Casting for Recovery. Casting for Recovery serves women who have or have had breast cancer. Sarah and I spent the weekend teaching, learning, laughing and crying with 14 amazing participants and a team of volunteers at the Indian Creek Lodge on the Trinity River. We taught fly fishing, entomology, casting and knot tying. But, more importantly, we saw and supported amazing women as they bonded over not only fly fishing, but also their experiences with breast cancer. It was an amazing weekend spent in the presence of such strong women. So grateful that casting has brought these opportunities to me. It reminds me of the saying, "Building skills builds pride, but sharing skills is sharing love."

NCCFFI is rolling out this year's Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) program replete with a variety of sessions for trainers and participants. Our own club got a jump on the FCSD program with our very own Casting Day on April 22 at Panella Park. About 30 participants joined 6 casting instructors for a day of learning and fun. There was a Women's Welcome in the morning as well as open

support for everyone from 11:30 until 3 pm including a delicious hamburger lunch provided by Jerry and Al. Thanks for the deliciousness! Congratulations to everyone who earned or made progress towards the bronze and silver skill levels. There will be even more opportunities to achieve on our Friday night casting and upcoming NCCFFI FCSD activities. A special thanks to all of the volunteer instructors from Golden Gate Casting and Angling- Sarah Trenchel, Russ Carpenter, Rick Radoff, Ken Gotelli and Mike Thompson who drove from all over to volunteer their day. Being around such great teachers who share their love and passion for fly casting made for a wonderful day for everyone.

While we were enjoying our Casting Day, Spey-O-Rama was happening at the casting ponds in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. This combination of events (our casting day and Spey-o-Rama) caused some discussion amongst the casting instructor volunteers from Golden Gate. They not only shared that they would like to contribute to our casting day next year, there was also a suggestion of holding a Spey Casting Day this fall for DFF! Be on the lookout for more information, but we are looking towards cooler weather and on-the-water activities involving spey casting skills development.

Second Saturday free casting classes continue at the Casting Ponds in Golden Gate Park. The ponds are a true oasis in the city and I highly recommend the adventure to experience this amazing spot for casting instruction and fly fishing history. I am honored to have taught the beginner classes and am excited to be teaching the novice class this coming month. I would love to see some friendly DFF faces in the crowd as I make this step in my casting coaching adventure!

Our very own Friday Night Casting returns in May. This year the fourth Friday from 5 to 7 looks like it will work for all involved. We are looking for a spot to cast and I have been practicing in the front of Hutchins Street Square at 125 S. Hutchins Street in Lodi. There is a beautiful open lawn in front by the marquee sign with benches for relaxing in the shade along the brick walk. Whether bathrooms will be available is not known at this time but there is a call into the office for availability. Hope to see you on May 26th! Ice waters will be available. Liability waiver required.

Feel free to contact me if you are interested in specific casting support. Especially if you are planning a trip and want to tighten up your casting before you go! Amy (209)329-4801

Recent DFF Outing and Events

By Bob Fujimura

The last few months have been a busy season for club outings and monthly evening sessions. So busy with these club events and my personal trips that I am overdue with sharing my observations of these events. With my apologies, here are a few updates on outings/ events that I had led.

Lower Sacramento River – March 11: *Despite dodging some winter like cold weather fronts, seven DFF members and their relatives gathered in Redding to fly fish the Lower Sacramento River with professional guides led by Scott Sugimoto. Most members arrived the day before and stayed overnight in Redding hotels, put on warm waterproof clothing and waders the next morning, and float fished the upper section of the twice in one day. Previous heavy rains had made the lower sections difficult to fish due to poor water clarity. Constant rain was also forecasted in the afternoon. Scott and his team of guides, friends and relatives pitched in to make this club outing*

a success. They arranged to double float the upper section between the Posse Ground boat launch and the Bonnyview Boat Launch in the morning, shuttled drift boats and guest back to the Posse Ground for lunch and fished again and finished at the Aqua Park Boat Launch that evening. Despite the tough weather forecast, we had light and infrequent showers in the morning and had a relatively dry and cloudy afternoon. Everyone caught several nice sized resident rainbow trout. Doug Fritz and his son had the highest boat total (in the double digits) of landed fish in just the morning drift alone. Afterward, four of us had dinner to share stories of the day. Some outing photos can be viewed at our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=706916377895196&set=pb.100057305206473.-2207520000>.

Open Fly Tying Night – March 22: *Five DFF members gathered at the Nature Center to share a grilled chicken dinner, tie favorite flies, tell*

some fishing stories, and one new member Mary Midgett got instruction of tying two fly patterns for the upcoming Pyramid Lake outing. Mary was also kind enough to bring some rolled appetizers. I worked with Mary who is a beginning tier, but Leo Guterres also coached on basic tying skills. I am a novice at teaching fly tying so Leo was a great help with that session.

Pyramid Lake Outing – March 26-31: *Even though the official club outing was cancelled on March 26 due to forecasted winter snow front was expected to arrive on March 28, five DFF members went anyways to fly fish for the world's largest Lahontan cutthroat*

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trout. Scott Sugimoto who is also a DFF member, Greg Reiner, Mary Midgett, Jean Fujimura, and I had already arrived in the Sparks NV area when we read the cancellation notice. Most of us also had guide reservations to fish with Mike Curtis on March 28. We stayed at local hotels or with relatives in the area.

The morning of our first day fish had below freezing temperatures and strong headwinds made fly fishing at Pelican Beach unfishable despite that conventional spin fishers were hammering the fish. We took shelter at Windless Beach and joined the morning lineup on the south portion of the Beach. Scott Sugimoto landed the seven fish and I landed one cutthroat that day.

Despite the worst wind and cold conditions were forecasted for our guided day, it was our best day of our trip with everyone landing sev-

eral fish mostly using both indicator nymphing and active strip-ping. We were very happy to see Mary land 3 fish in her first fly fishing trip to Pyramid. Jean landed 6 fish including one fish over 8 pounds. I landed 12, which was excellent number for me. However, Scott caught at least twice as many fish and said he lost track of his count. His largest fish weighed over 9 pounds. Greg, who was not in the guided group but fished nearby also caught several fish. We caught mostly fish in the 20-24" range.

On our last two fishing days the weather dramatically changed to clear skies with little or no wind. We did not catch a single fish on our third day and Greg was the only person to land a fish on our last fishing day. Despite the slow fishing, everyone was glad to have come and looking forward to the next trip to this awesome fishery. A few photos can be found on our Facebook page: [https://](https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=716454683608032&set=pb.100057305206473.-2207520000)

www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=716454683608032&set=pb.100057305206473.-2207520000.

Open Fly Tying Night – April

26: *Nine DFF members met at the Nature Center in two sessions: Greg Reiner and Don Smith met with me to discuss fishing opportunities and answer questions on the upcoming Eastern NV stillwater outing with guide Rob Anderson. This session met prior to the later Open Fly Tying session. Larry Schmidt, Randy Baxter, and Mary Midgett came to tie flies while Mark Shimozaki came primarily to ask questions on the upcoming Kistler Ranch outing. I worked with Mary again on how to tie the Red Ryder streamer. Mary brought her boneless chicken wings – which were a big hit with the attendees. Jean Fujimura brought hot pizza to share with the fresh fruit and drinks that I brought earlier. Mary, Randy, and I shared stories of our recent fishing trips.*

Coming Outings and Events

The 2023 One Fly Contest, May 13

Bob Fujimura

Date: Saturday May 13

Location: White Pines Lake near Arnold, CA on Hwy 4; approximately a 90 minute drive from Stockton.

Summary: Join other DFF members in a friendly fly fishing competition with the host club Calaveras Fly Fishers (CFF) on their home waters. DFF members have often won both contest prizes for most trout caught, and for the largest fish landed

during this annual fly fishing tournament. Participants pay a modest entry fee that goes toward CFF's scholarship fund for local high school students, a light breakfast, and a great tri-tip sandwich lunch. This year, the CFF organizers have arranged two trout plantings by DFW so participants have a good chance of catching several trout.

Introduction: White Pine Lake is a small lake with a power boat ban, free public access, and has well maintained park facilities operated by local volunteers. Typi-

cally, the lake is usually stocked with hatchery trout by the CDFW before the event. But the lake has also a healthy population of wild trout and good numbers of bass and sunfish. This event is a lot of fun and well attended by DFF members of various skill levels. Fly fishers can fish from shore or wading the lake's banks – however, the most competitive way of fishing White Pines Lakes is from a personal watercraft. Fly fishers new to fishing lakes and other stillwater are encouraged to attend since it is a good opportunity.

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nity to closely observe both clubs' best fishers and learn their basic techniques.

Event Agenda: The contest registration starts at 7:30 am but all competitors must pair up and wait until 9 am to start fishing. Most DFF participants drive up that morning, set up their crafts and tackle, partake the coffee and donuts provided by SFF, and smack-talk with the other members until the start of the contest. Participants can fish using a single fly until 1 pm and enjoy the all-you-can use buffet lunch and watch the awards presentation afterwards. DFF host Bob Fujimura will provide the official rules and schedule after he receives your ASAP.

The Fish: This contest coincides with the normal CDFW hatchery trout stocking schedule and a special plant arranged by CFF. When this occurs, fly fishing can be easy and numbers of planted trout have been caught by fishers of all experience levels. When hatchery trout are scarce as in the 2022 contest, the contest can be more challenging. Resident wild rainbow or brown trout or holdover hatchery trout are usually

available. However, White Pines Lake has good populations of largemouth bass, black crappie, and other sunfish.

Techniques: Most serious fishers are stripping or trolling streamers, wooly buggers,



Ron Forbes, winner of most trout and largest fish in 2021.

or medium to small size nymphs from an intermediate or slow full sinking line. This is probably the best technique to use for beginning stillwater fishers. Indicator nymphing or dry fly fishing is possible although generally less productive. We can provide more specific suggestions when it gets closer to this event. The re-

cent stocking history, contest rules, and weather/water conditions often dictate the best methods for this contest. Usually, any 4-6 wt single-handed rod and reel with the above line type should be suitable for this event. A personal watercraft such as a float tube, oared pontoon boat, or pram should be well suited for fly fishing this small lake. A personal floatation device is required for floating any lake and all participants must possess a valid CDFW fishing license.

How to Register: Register and pay your contest fee on the day of the event. However, CFF wants an accurate head count prior to this event so the organizers can ensure that they have enough food for lunch. If you are an DFF member who will participate in this event, please notify Bob Fujimura by email at: deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or

by cell (209) 329-1692 by no later than Monday May 8th. A 2022-2023 DFF liability waiver form is also a requirement for participating.

We encourage all DFF members to join this fun event.

Eastern Nevada with Rob Anderson, May 17-19

By Jerry Neuburger

Six DFF members will make the long trek to the Duck Creek Paiute-Shoshone Reservation at the northeast corner of Nevada for two and a half day's fishing with Rob Anderson and a group of anglers he's assembled.

The six, Bob and Jean Fujimura, Greg Reiner, Don Smith, Bill Brown and Jerry

Neuburger will pull their travel trailers almost 600 miles to fish a small reservoir on the reservation property. Because of the distance, most, if not all, plan to add a few days to their trip since two outstanding Nevada lakes are close by as well, Wild Horse and South Fork Reservoirs.

While the distance to drive, especially when pulling a trailer, seem absurd, in the

past the fishing has justified the efforts. Bob and Jean Fujimura have been attending this outing for almost a decade and this will be Jerry's third trip. Newbies to the adventure include Greg Reiner, Don Smith and Jerry's trailer buddy, Bill Brown.

Long range weather forecasts show warm days and pleasant nights with low winds. Fingers crossed.

More Casting Sessions Opportunities

By Bob Fujimura

If you attended our recent DFF Casting Day event and want to another opportunity to participate in another Fly Casting Skill Development session. Or you missed our club's event (read Amy's Casting Corner for more details on our event) and want to experience the fun and

educational FCSD event. NCCFFI is partnering with local fly clubs and offering two more free events in our area.

□ May 20, 2023 at Sierra Meadows Park, Rocklin, CA. Clay Hash will be the NCCFFI representative. There will be a Train the Trainers session from 9 AM to 11:00 AM. The

Fly Casting Development session which is open to our members will be held from 12noon to 3 PM. Please note that attendees of the Train the Trainers sessions must be nominated by our club officers. Contact either Amy Terra or Bob Fujimura if you are interested in becoming a casting mentor

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for our club.

□ June 24, 2023 at Los Gatos Creek County Park, Campbell, CA. Clay Hash and Ron Beltramo will be NCCFFI repre-

sentatives. Train the Trainers will be held from 9 AM to 11:00 AM. The Fly Casting Skill Development Session will be held from 12 Noon to 3 PM. Attendees of Train the Trainers session need to attend a Zoom meeting on June 8th.

Expect more opportunities to attend similar FCSD sessions in the upcoming months as more fly club adopt this fun casting program. Amy Terra is also planning to resume her Friday casting

May Open Tying Night Cancelled

By Bob Fujimura

Due to my absence due to extending my visit to Elko County NV after the Eastern NV Stillwater Clinic, I have cancelled the

May 24 session. Sorry for any inconvenience but mark your calendars to attend the next session on June 28. However, please take advance of Jerry's tying in-

struction session on Wednesday May 31 (see Jerry's article in this issue). July is typically a no DFF event month so we will have another break from all club routine

The Gartside Gurgler: Simple to Complex, a tying opportunity, 6:00pm, May 31st at the Oak Grove Nature Center

By Jerry Neuburger

I doubt if there is any topwater fly responsible for catching more fish and more species than the Gurgler. The fly was developed by Jack Gartside. His credentials as a fly tyer and fly angler are impeccable, not surprising since his first tying instructor was Ted Williams. Jack's innovative patterns include the Sparrow, the Soft Hackle Streamer, the Gartside Pheasant Hopper and, of course, the Gurgler. Unfortunately, Jack passed away in 2009. But his legacy lives on. As Lefty Kreh said, "His paint don't dry."

ture how to tie the gurgler and how to 'bend' it to meet the demands so necessary for a good fly; size, shape, and color. Jerry will rely on his 12 years of experience as a

Jerry will bring a supply of hooks and materials for participants to tie several of the patterns shown. Fly tying kits containing



The Gartside Gurgler in black, photo courtesy of the Hastings Fly Fishers, NSW, Aust.

Jerry will lead a class in tying Jack's innovative fly at 6:00pm, May 31st at the Oak Grove Nature Center. The class will fea-

ture Delta guide to recommend patterns to be used for both striped bass and largemouth bass and cover the best times of the day to fish for both with topwater flies.

all the tools necessary are available for those not possessing these essentials.

This class is a precursor to the coming outing on the Mokelumne, a drift of the river on Monday evening, June 5th from B&W Marina to either the Lighthouse launch ramp or the launch ramp at Korth's Pirate's Lair. A separate article on the outing is included in this newsletter.



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A drift down the lower Mokelumne, June 5th

By Jerry Neuburger
If you are a top water addict and enjoy watching toilet bowl action as a big bass engulfs a popper this outing is for you. The Mokelumne downstream from B&W Marina to its mouth where it joins the larger San Joaquin is ideal for topwater action. It has lots of weeds and a well defined "trough" next to the bank on both sides that's full of water at high tide.

On weekends this section of the Delta is subject to lots of boat traffic. So much so that it makes the water un-fishable except for early in the morning and late in the evening. Weekdays are not as bad and that's why, when tide and water temperature are added in, Monday, June 5th was selected for this outing.

Details:

When: Monday, June 5

Time: 4:30 pm.

Launch location: B&W Marina, Brannon Island Road.

Take out locations: Lighthouse Bar and Grill or Korth's Pirate's Lair, Brannon Island Road.

High Tide: 8:49, 2.7 feet

Sunset: 8:26 pm, Twilight 8:54 pm,

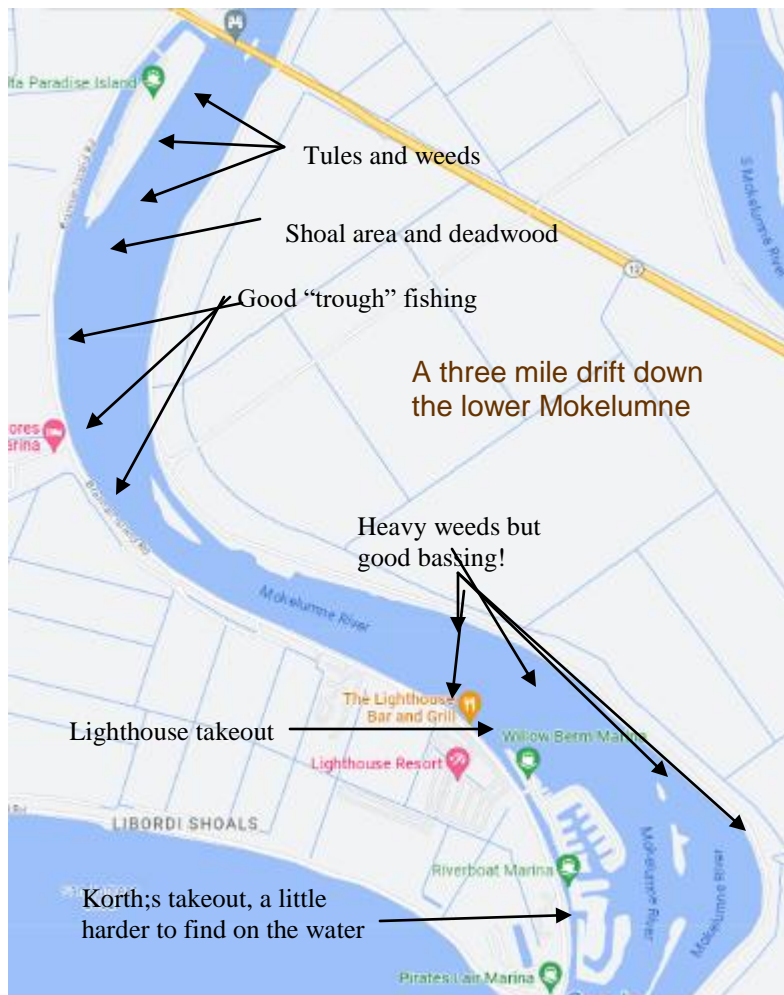
Rods: 7 weights Line: Floating Leader: Leo's twisted Flies: Poppers

After dinner: No host, BurgerKing, Flag City

The evening starts at 4:30 at B&W Marina

where participants launch their craft, be it pontoon boat, kayak, pram, canoe or trailer

Pause before and after crossing weed lines.



Pause before picking the fly up for a recast.

(A pause can last 30 seconds)

Don't beat the water with false or bad casts.

Fish at some distance from the target area, bass can sense your presence if too close.

Look for shaded water in the early evening.

If few takes, change flies, starting with size, then consider shape and lastly color.

If the river is "on", anglers should expect at least 15 or so strikes and 5 to 10 hookups with the action really starting about 5:30.

Make sure you bring a pair of forceps or long nosed fishing pliers. Topwater poppers have a tendency to get stuck in the fish's gill plates and a long reaching tool to remove the popper allows for releasing the fish almost un-harmed.

Other, "musts" include sun block, a PSD (lifejacket) and always handy, an anchor. A hat with a bill and a pair of polarized sun glasses should complete the outfit.

boat. Float tubes are NOT recommended because of lack of mobility.(Be prepared to pay a launch fee, at last check, trailer boats, \$15, hand launched craft, unknown) Once in the water, anglers spread out and work both banks of the river downstream against the slow moving upstream tide.

It's not a big deal if you're following someone ahead of you since bass are ambushers, and will usually strike when the fly is very close, within two feet of their territory. Since most fisher's casts are at least six feet apart, it makes for a lot of undisturbed water.

Hints for more action:

Cast just inches from the shore line.

Let the fly "rest" before starting a retrieve.

If some trailer boats participate, they can ferry people back to B&W at the end of the fishing to get some of the vehicles to pick up smaller craft left at either Lighthouse or Korth's. If not, participants will have to drop one of the cars at the parking lots at Lighthouse or Korth's. We'll know more when the day approaches. Drifters should be prepared to pay launch fees at both the put in and take out locations although the current policies of the marinas are not known.

It's expected that everyone should be out of the water and loaded up and ready to head home about 9:15-30. Since everyone will be heading east on the way home, a stop at the BurgerKing at Flag City for dinner would make for a full evening.

Wow, It's almost time for the Catfish Derby at Oak Grove Regional Park, June 3rd, and the DFF are needed to work the snack bar.

By Jerry Neuburger

The trout bouts and the Catfish Derby are really big deals for the San Joaquin Parks and Recreation and they count on our support to make the days a success. These hugely expensive (the cost of stocking the park's lake with fish and the maintenance of the lake to keep it viable for fish life) events draw participation from a large swath of county residents. It's an opportunity for the club to put it's best foot forward.

Luckily we have a core of people who

dedicate their time on an almost regular basis. However, they are not enough to get the job done. To make the day a success, we need more club volunteers.

It's a half day deal. Early volunteers arrive at 6 am to get the coffee started, start the hot dogs coking and get things started in general. As soon as possible, the county supplied golf carts are loaded with food and drink and sent on their way. That's a spot for four more volunteers. In the meantime, more volunteers are needed to work the inside food counter and help with reg-

istrations.

If you can, please put the event on your calendar. It's a great way to do a public service effort and meet your fellow DFFers at the same time. The event wraps up at 1 pm.

More information will be published in the June edition of Rx Fly Fishing! But please put this event on your calendar NOW so when the day arrives, you'll be ready to be a service to the community and your club.

The club BBQ and potluck is June 14th and I'll speak to the butcher about the steaks, 65—10 oz, ribeye or New York, 3/4 of an inch thick.

By Jerry Neuburger

The club's **free steak** barbecue is a long standing tradition. In the 47 year history of the club, it was only suspended once, in the middle of the COVID pandemic. While COVID is still here and appears likely to be around for a long time, most of us have learned to live with it.

I'm presuming COVID fears were the case for the diminished attendance at the last few BBQs. If you did attend last year's, you were served with a less than pleasing

vey thin cut of meat. Although the steaks were 10 oz, they were only a quarter of an inch thick and actually tore apart when the chef tried to pull them from the cooler and put them on the grill.

This year I'll make sure that the butcher cuts the steaks to our liking, and suitable for barbecuing. After all, they will cost the club close to \$400, a good chunk of money.

The suggested list of potluck dishes to go with the steaks will come out in the June

edition of Rx Fly Fishing but put this event in your calendar NOW. And don't forget, immediate family is welcome to the event as well as members, regardless of member status. In the past, we've had hot dogs and buns available for the wee ones but no takers. Unless notified, we'll drop that option.

The raffle chair also has some really nice items for the BBQ raffle as well, 15 tickets for \$10 or multiple sheets of the same.

Sign Up for the Hex Hatch Outing at Lake Almanor



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By Bob Fujimura

Date: Sunday June 18 to Wednesday 21, 2023

Location: Almanor Campgrounds. Canyon Dam, Plumas County, CA 95023; approximately 75 miles from Chico, CA.

Summary: Join other DFF members to observe and fish the annual Hexagenia mayfly hatch on Lake Almanor. We've scheduled this outing for participants to have the best chance to observe this awesome natural

event and learn to fish for trophy sized trout that feed during these evening events. This outing is for any interested intermediate to advanced fly fishers who have never fished this hatch or for those who would like to become more proficient at fishing this event. To give participants' their best start, we have local guide Lance Gray to give an orientation class prior to our first evening fishing on June 19th. Participants should be familiar with safely fly fishing from a personal watercraft. Personal

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floatation device, a valid CA fishing license, and a valid and signed 2023 DFF liability waiver form on file with the DFF Secretary are requirements for participation.

Introduction: Lake Almanor is a large reservoir formed by several tributaries of the drainage for the upper North Fork of the Feather River and natural springs. It covers 24,000 acres and has 55 miles of shoreline. The reservoir's name is a combination for the daughters of the Vice President of Great Western Power, Guy C. Earl: Alice, Martha, and Eleanor. The lake's dam is currently owned by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and the lake is a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts, campers, boaters, and swimmers. Thanks to stocking by CDFW and local sportfishing volunteers and its productive habitats, the lake offers large (+20') rainbow and brown trout that feed aggressively during these hatches of the largest mayflies in North America. Fishing the Hex hatch is largely evening fishing event on Lake Almanor's south shoreline - however, we will share other daytime fishing locations nearby.

Outing Agenda: We plan to arrive on afternoon of Sunday June 18 and camp at the USFS Almanor Campground. Next day we will initially meet at Plumas Pines Resort, 3000 Almanor Drive West, Canyon Dam CA 95923 at 2:00 pm, move to a

nearby beach, and receive instruction by Lance Gray for one hour. Lance will go over the best locations to fly fishing the hatch, watercraft safety, and his recommended techniques and riggings for dry fly and subsurface nymph fishing using sinking lines or using indicators. He will explain the reasons for his techniques and provide handouts covering the highlights of his presentation. Afterwards, we will rig up and prepare to fish the

Jean Fujimura will be doing the latter and staying until Friday June 23 or Monday June 26 respectively. The timing of the Hex hatch, the location, the intensity, weather and water conditions, and trout catchability varies from day to day. Therefore, there are advantages to be able to fish more days if it is possible.

The Fish: Holdover or pen-reared hatchery rainbow or brown trout are the primary targets of this outing with good opportunities for fishing for smallmouth bass during the daytime. Rainbows and brown are usually in the 16" to +20" size range with occasionally browns in 28 to 30+". There is a smaller population of stocked Chinook salmon, but they are rare.



Jean Fujimura with a big Lake Almanor brown. Photo by unk.

remainder of the evening. The hatch and its fishing end after darkness sets and we will pack up our gear and return to our campground or lodging. The next day (June 20) participants are free to fish or explore the area until approximately 5 pm where we will gather at one beach location and fish the evening hatch again. On June 21, participants will either return home or extend their fishing independently. Jerry Neuberger, Bob and

Techniques: Lance will provide more detailed information on his recommended methods during his shore clinic, and we will provide some recommendations for equipment and flies prior to the outings to all registered participants— however, Lance will fo-

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(Continued from page 11)

focus on three basic techniques. The most productive method is to slow retrieve Hex nymph patterns through the water column using intermediate or slow sinking fly lines. The next popular strategy is surface fly fishing Hex emerger or dry dun patterns during the Hex hatch – very challenging and exciting during the heights of the Hex hatch when there may be dozens of live Hex flies nearby your artificial fly. The newest method is to indicator fish Hex nymph flies.

Single-handed rods in the 5 to 7 weights with matching floating, intermediate, and Type 3 full sink lines should be suitable for these types of fishing. A personal watercraft with approximate safety equipment such a personal floatation device, anchor and line, a good headlight, and a signaling device are required gear. A depth finder is

highly recommended. Those who sign up will be offered a basic equipment and flies list, area map, and recommendations for Hex flies prior to the outing for this exciting and fun fishery. We highly recommend ordering Lance's Hex Hatch Fly Kit from his online store at <http://store.lancegrayandcompany.com/laalhexkit.html>; order yours before May 1 to ensure their arrive before this outing. Lance's kit contains a good assortment of the essential fly patterns needed to fly fish this hatch. Bob & Jean Fujimura used these patterns successfully for many years.

Accommodations: If you are planning to camp near the lake, the USFS Lake Almanor North or South campgrounds are the most convenient location and economical option. PG&E Rocky Point Campground has more developed camp sites and

near some popular fishing locations. Motels, bed and breakfast lodges, and short-term rentals are also available in Chester and other nearby communities. Try to make your reservations ASAP since the lake is extremely popular especially during the weekends during the Hex hatch. The massive wildfire a couple of years ago has also reduced the number of private and public camping/lodging venues in the area.

How to Register: Contact Bob Fujimura by email at: deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or by cell (209) 329-1692 for more information on how register. The cost to participate is \$25 for covering the cost of the shore orientation clinic and submission of a 2022-23 liability waiver form is a requirement for signing up. Your fees are non-refundable but you are welcome to sell your spot to another member.

Eastern Sierra Focus & bears

By CJ Webb

"I won't be writing an October report due to my brother-in-law arriving from Texas and we had to call 911. He is in Renown hospital due to his oxygen level and Influenza A, and the other is 2 bears that have ripped off shutters on 16 of the 19 cabins, broke windows, torn screens, and we repaired and re-hung everything, two days later it knocked of the shutters to #8 and #6 and we re-hung them, 3 days later the bear did it again to 16 cabins, broke windows, frames and doors on the creek cabins. Also broke into #6 and did a lot of damage to the double pane windows,

screens and a few frames, cabin #3 needs a new front door, and the east end of the workshed door had some damage. The only cabins they or he did not touch were #1, #2 and #5 and the Lodge. DFW brought up a trap and placed it in Trumbull campground and plans to keep it unlocked during the day and lock it up at night and if he goes into it he will not be stuck in it overnight.

They planned to return on Monday with 2 traps for both bears. The damage is horrendous and had us mentally and physically exhausted in re-doing the shutters and broken windows, frames, ripped curtains, busted doors, etc., we have to take

everything down and measure and try and get some of the doors replaced along with windows and just no time to try and outwit this poor creature of the woods. Of course, we have to watch the weather. I have someone with a bear tag coming on Saturday the 21st and again on the 28th to see if he can locate the bear. It kills us to have to do this."

The whole thing, when the heavy snowfall this year is added sounds like a bad dream or something from a Morton's Salt commercial. "When it rains, it pours." Hang in there C. J., better times are coming. Ed.

Earth Day

I sit here thinking about what to write to all of you who are ready to go fishing, and wanted to remind you that **tomorrow, April 22nd is Earth Day, 2023**. It is a day to remind us that we only have one planet that supports life as we know it. There is only one earth, and it is our home. Take a look:

There are no borders. All of it is our home. We tend to identify only with the region that is close to us and our residence. Then identify with our state and our country. For most, the rest of the world is "over there". But, is it really?

I came to a difficult time recently when we moved to Santa Barbara and left Northern California. I miss all of you and the place where all of my fly fishing life has been spent. I know little about the watersheds down here and most of what is trout country is a long way away. I still yearn for time on Fall River, the Lower Yuba, bass in the Delta, and steelhead on the north coast. I also miss the beautiful vistas - The crest of the Sierra, driving up Hwy 5 along the Upper Sacramento River, fishing on the Delta for stripers, and the ocean around San Francisco.

After reading a great book - ***The Sense of Wonder*** by Rachel Carson, I came to a new reality that has helped me with my move. In the introduction it says, "*She captures the essence of the wonder-filled world of children and stirs in us that ancient longing for unity with the living world.*" What I know for me is that when I'm outdoors I do feel more 'connected' to the planet, and it gives me a *feeling* like nothing else I do. This sense of connectedness started when I was about 8 or 9 and being at my grandparents cabin in the San Bernardino mountains. I'd spend the day fishing with worms in the creek and watch deer come for a drink, birds playing in the trees, a beaver swim-



ming by, and fish swimming. Those moments changed me.

Then I grew up and went off to college, work and a family. As an adult I became connected to my work and family, but was uneasy inside until I got outdoors and re-connected with other planetary residents - trees, fish, birds, deer, etc. Fly fishing was my vehicle to get connected again, and rediscover that child within me. I love that feeling, and do all I can to have that connected experience often. Ask yourself if this isn't true for you. Do you feel "more connected to the planet" when fly fishing. Is it the fishing that you love, or is it the sense of connectedness? Maybe it's both.

An experience I had in B.C. fishing steelhead was one moment I never forget. I was alone fishing a run at 9 p.m. in the evening in July (still light) when a nice fish grabbed my submerged spey fly. We fought for maybe 12 minutes and when I got her to the bank, grabbed her tail, eased the hook out, I was stunned by her beauty. Silver, sleek, clean, shiny, with a slight streak of rose on her cheek and side. She was Gorgeous! She lay on her side with one eye just looking at me, and I looking at her. We were one for that moment. I thanked her for the meeting, let her catch her breath, and

let her swim back to complete her journey to spawn. At that moment I was totally connected - to her, the place and the planet. It was special.

Now, when I'm asked, "where do you live?" I respond, "**planet earth**". My residence is in Santa Barbara. To me, that response tells me I am still connected to Northern California, and I'm connected to all of the planet. I'm working my way through a new reality that is more comforting and wholesome. My home is our planet, not this one place. This has changed me forever.

So, this Earth Day, let's all think about what we can do to help the planet deal with we humans. We are currently a stressor to the planet, and we have to all find it in our hearts to act differently. Leave a light footprint as we walk, and use less, dump less, reduce our carbon footprint, call on our elected officials to move NOW on ways to reduce carbon. After all, we are taking care of our home by these actions.

Join FFI as a start: <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/>. They are our fly fishing brothers. A recent paper from FFI - ***A New Conservation paradigm*** - connects caring for our watersheds and the importance they play in sequestering carbon. Science now says that the plants and watersheds can sequester 37% of the carbon we need removed from the atmosphere. Learn more about this, and how you can help here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZdvXYBASbRvPb9IOv6XpQI06q6FhnoXo/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103694342699691456221&rtqpf=true&sd=true>

Happy Earth Day! We all live here together. Let's all find a way to help! FFI, NCCFFI, your fly fishing club are all brothers and part of the fly fishing clan. Let's play!

From CDFW

Successful Salmon Recovery Efforts in California



CDFW NEWS

Millions of dollars have been expended on efforts to increase salmon populations throughout the state. In the Sacramento–San Joaquin river system, Butte Creek and Battle Creek stand out as examples of how humans can make a positive difference, as does the Russian River on the north central coast. Butte Creek today supports the largest spring run of wild Chinook salmon in the Central Valley. Restoration efforts have included the removal of four diversion dams, placement of five juvenile fish screens, installation of 11 fish lad-

restored, using large boulders and willow sprigs and planting native trees and shrubs

on the banks. Migrating adult Chinook and steelhead were observed navigating the new dam passage, and the following year young Chinook smolts and steelhead smolts migrated out. This successful restoration project continues to provide Chinook salmon and steelhead with access to the headwaters of the



Russian River. DFG is only one of many players uniting in the effort to rebuild California salmon stocks. Californians are enacting their stewardship of salmon resources now and in the future. Each restoration effort is another step leading to healthy salmon populations. Above, graphic evidence of the success of the Butte Creek restoration. At far left, a re-

cord-sized Chinook found in Battle Creek during a 2008 DFG spawning survey. Near right, the restored salmon habitat above Mumford Dam on the Russian River. Since 1993 more than \$35 million has been spent on these successful efforts. The number of returning salmon has increased from less than a thousand fish to several thousand annually. Battle Creek is one of the most important tributaries of the Sacramento River. DFG and its partners have committed \$67 million to re-establishing endangered and threatened winter-run Chinook and steelhead in these waters. Plans call for the restoration of 42 miles of habitat along Battle Creek and the removal of several hydroelectric diversion dams, which will increase the flow of the creek while protecting fish and creating passage



An adult female salmon uses her tail fin to construct a redd, a shallow depression in the streambed gravel, where she will lay her eggs.

ders, acquisition of additional waters to increase instream flow and acquisition of riparian areas. will be the biggest watershed restoration and dam removal project in the state. On the Russian River, the Sonoma County Water Agency and DFG implemented the Mumford Dam Fish Passage and Riparian Restoration Project, which restored salmon and steelhead fish passage to nearly 50 miles of spawning and rearing habitat above Mumford Dam. More than 560 feet of the channel's bed was elevated to improve migration conditions. Riverbanks were regraded, and riparian canopy was

another step leading to healthy salmon populations. Above, graphic evidence of the success of the Butte Creek restoration. At far left, a re-

