



# Rx Fly Fishing!

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Jerry Neuberger, Editor

Stockton, California

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## Calendar

April 13—General Membership Meeting, John R. Williams School

April 20—Goard of Directors Meeting, Oak Grove Park Nature Center.

April 23—Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing, Snelling

April 27—Fly of the month session, Oak Grove Park Nature Center

May 7—One Fly Contest , White Pines Lake, Arnold

**April Fly of the Month tying session  
Wednesday,  
April 27,  
6:30pm. Oak Grove Park Nature Center.**

## Rain makes the world a better place!!!

Rain, Rain, glorious rain. It is amazing that the lack of something so simple can leave us with worry and doubt. But March has brought us what has been needed for several years, a normal rainfall season! For all of us invested in nature, can I get an Amen? A return to 50% capacity doesn't make us overly giddy but it is a damn good start! April showers could give us the that added topper that might allow a final sigh of relief. Some ski resorts announced today they plan to stay open into May!

I hope everyone in the club is taking note of how much activity our organization is producing. This month alone we have six members going to Pyramid Lake for a clinic on fly fishing for Lahotans with Doug Oulette, we have long time member Al Smatsky leading the Kelsey Ranch outing, we have fly tying with Mike Nicolson and Bob Fujimura, we are representing ourselves at community and trout events, lead by Larry Schmidt, Bud Heinz, and Mike Nicholson. Bug Fest, Trout Fest with our Stanislaus club neighbors, and we have a table at the

"Magnificent Stockton" promotion of city wide organizations. I am proud of our club and who we have become. Again, I want to invite and encourage our members to come forward and get involved. We could use your help! This stuff is fun. What could be better than working side by side on some activity and swapping fish lies at the same time? I still need a VP to help run the club, it sounds like way more responsibility than it actually is! Another need is We need a computer savvy person to assist with the newsletter and postings on our web site! This is not necessarily one person. We would be better served if we had two or more working together on it! Long time active member, Jerry Neuberger, is stepping down and taking a long overdue break, next year. But he is available this year to help transition! This again is not a task that is overwhelming, it is usually a once a month job requiring an hour or so of time, but contributes a huge impact on who we are as a club! You can do this, take a leap of faith!  
You will be glad you did!  
See you on the water.

## Bill Ferrero will cover the Moke at the April meeting

April's program at the John R. Williams school, Stockton, 7pm, April 13th, will be on the Mokelumne River, presented by guide Bill Ferrero, Mokelumne River Outfitters. Bill will be discussing the Lower Mokelumne River, specifically, the tail-water section below Camanche Dam. He plans to cover history, past and present environmental issues, fishing, a few funny

"you can't make this up" stories, maybe a tall tale, and a lot of what he has learned fishing his home water for over fifty years. His presentation is anywhere from 45 to 60 minutes using a Power Point style visual. He encourages asking questions at the end.

Bring a friend. The public is invited.

# Kelsey Bass Ranch outing should be spectacular this year

.The **Kelsey Bass Ranch outing will be April 23.** Al Smatsky says the lake is full and the fish were biting on 3-2-16. He landed 12 bass to 3lb---all subsurface. Top water action should be available

by the end of April. A sign up list will be circulated at tonight's meeting and at April's meeting. Al will also take sign ups via phone **(209-368-9261)** or email [algofish@softcom.net](mailto:algofish@softcom.net). Please con-

tact him by **April 8.** There will be an **\$85** fee---which includes a BBQ lunch. More details about Kelsey will be sent later.

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## April's Fly of the Month is a "Top Secret"

April 27<sup>th</sup> will feature a not-so-secret variation of DFF's favorite fly pattern the "Red Ryder". Bob Fujimura will show how to tie the pattern that won the 2015 One Fly

Contest. Lacking a name until now, Bob calls it a "Psycho Green" Ryder. It is a simple pattern to tie and very effective on newly planted hatchery trout.

There will be only material for 12 members so arrive promptly at the Oak Grove Native Center at 6:00 pm. Cost for the session will be \$5.00 per person.

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## April's Membership Update from Membership Chair Bob Fujimura

April is the start of the annual period where new memberships receive the next 2016-2017 year for no additional cost. So if you meet a prospective new member, let them know that they can take ad-

vantage of the great introductory membership deal.

April is also the month that the update 2016 phone directory will be sent out by email attachment.

Please let Bob Fujimura ([deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com)) know if you have any preferences on listing your primary telephone number.

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The One Fly Contest is scheduled for May 7th

## 2016 One Fly Contest – Can DFF Maintain its Past Dominance?

By Bob Fujimura

Last year's contest DFF won the competition for the most caught over the members of the Calaveras Fly Fisher. We lost the competition for largest fish caught. But the pressure will be on the participating DFF members to ensure that last year's partial victory wasn't a fluke or to aim for total dominance. Come out on May 7th and see how we do or better yet... join the participants in the friendly fishing event.

The event is held at White Pines Lake near the community of Arnold just a short distance from Highway 4 (see map). The lake is a relatively small in beautiful forested area. Locals maintain this free and well-maintained park. No motorized watercrafts are

allowed on this lake making it a very beginner-friendly for fly fishers in personal watercrafts.

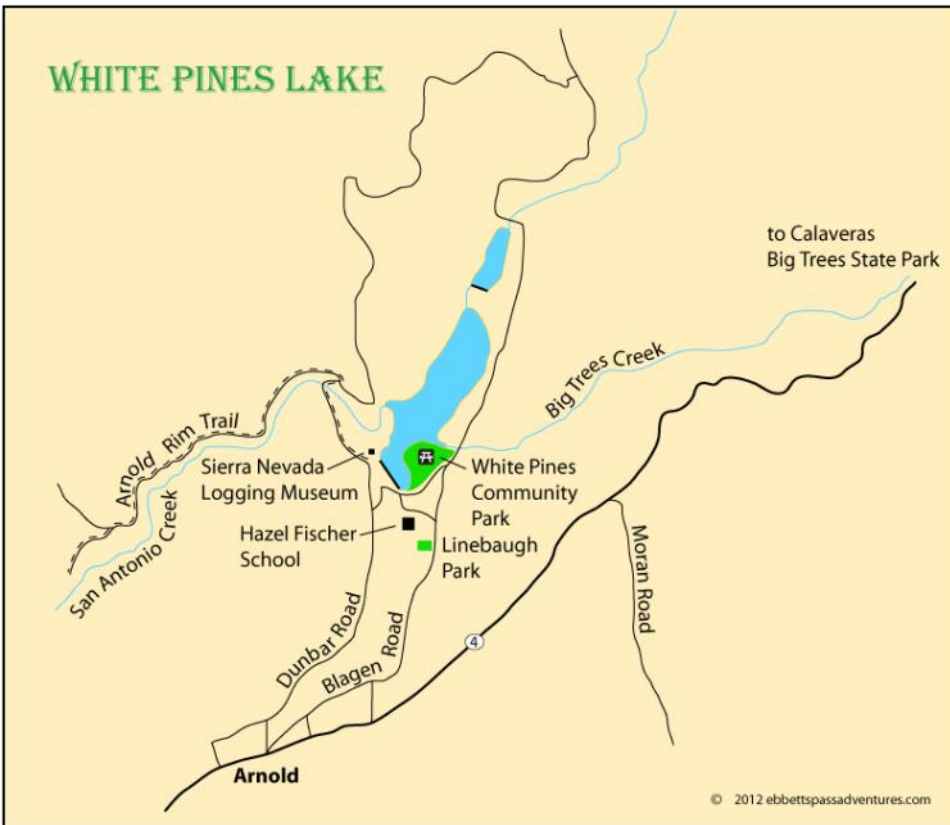
This event is a lot of fun and well-attended by DFF members of various skill levels. The contest registration starts at 7 am but all competitors must wait until 9 am to start fishing. Usually most DFF participants drive up that morning, enjoy set up their crafts and tackle, partake the coffee and donuts provided by SFF, and smack-talk with the other members. Anglers must pair up and verify each



other catches. If you lose your fly during the contest, you can continue your fishing but any additional fish do not count toward the contest. Awards are given for the most trout caught and released and the biggest fish. The

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\$25 contestant fee includes a great lunch serving BBQ tri-tip sandwiches, side dishes, soft drinks, and dessert. Funds from the event go to a local education fund.

Float tube or personal watercraft is necessary to be competitive in the contest. Although fly anglers can catch fish from the shore especially

with an intermediate or slow full sinking line (Type I or II) for subsurface nymph or streamer patterns are the most commonly used set up with 7.5 or 9 foot 4x leaders. Small wooly buggers, damsel fly nymphs, red riders, or sheep creek specials are some of the popular choices. Personal floatation devices are a must. No fish-finders are allowed during the contest.

Most anglers target recently planted hatchery trout. If this lake has been recently planted good fishing conditions and high catch numbers are usually the rule. During these periods this lake can be an excellent venue to learn basic still



near the inlets or from the dam, the best fishing is from a watercraft. A basic trout rod (8.5 or 9 foot, 4-6 wt)

water fishing in early spring. If the lake has not been recently planted or

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if the lake becomes temperature stratified then fishing for trout is more challenging for the beginning or intermediate fishers. This lake contains a good population of wild and hold-over trout. Late spring carpenter ant falls and Callibaetis hatches can produce exceptional dry fly fishing. Other fishes that can be fished during the summer and fall include largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, and common carp. Beginning fly fishers can learn a lot about lake fly fishing by just watching the expert fishers and this event is one of the best ways to get to know the other members of the club.



If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Bob Fujimura at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or (209)

339-0683 by April 25. The Calaveras Fly Fishers need a head-count of members who are coming so they can have enough food for lunch. This is

Bob's personal favorite lake for new fly fishers and can provide referrals on local restaurants or campgrounds.

## Is the Delta being sold to the highest bidder by our politicians

*Fishing is a discipline in the equality of men...for all men are equal before fish.*

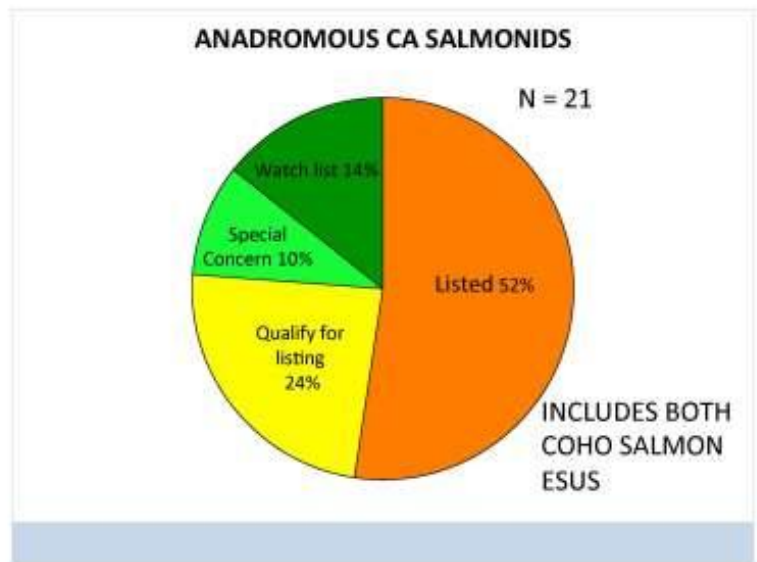
Herbert Hoover

Last months' conservation article was about Congressman Jeff Denham's ongoing attempts to wipe out the striped bass fishery in the Delta. Denham is starting the bill through the legislative process and I will keep the club advised of its progress. However, now Sen. Diane Feinstein has joined forces with a group of 12 congressmen from the House of Representatives lead by Kevin McCarthy, in writing a letter to President Obama in another attempt at a Delta water grab.

Feinstein is asking the President to direct the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to maximize Delta water flows from the Delta to

the south San Joaquin Valley for Westlands Water District, the Kern County Water Authority, and Steward Res-

nick's Paramount Farms. She recognizes that there are issues with the biologic health of the Delta but ascribes these problems to "a limited monitoring regime". She then suggests that, "I understand that the biological opinions impose a ceiling of 5,000 cfs, but these agencies have the discretion to exercise at least



some flexibility to pump above that level". What she is referring to is the ongoing, illegal pumping of Delta water south. The State Water Board has never enforced legal sanctions against state and federal agencies, and they continue to operate with impunity. There have been literally thou-

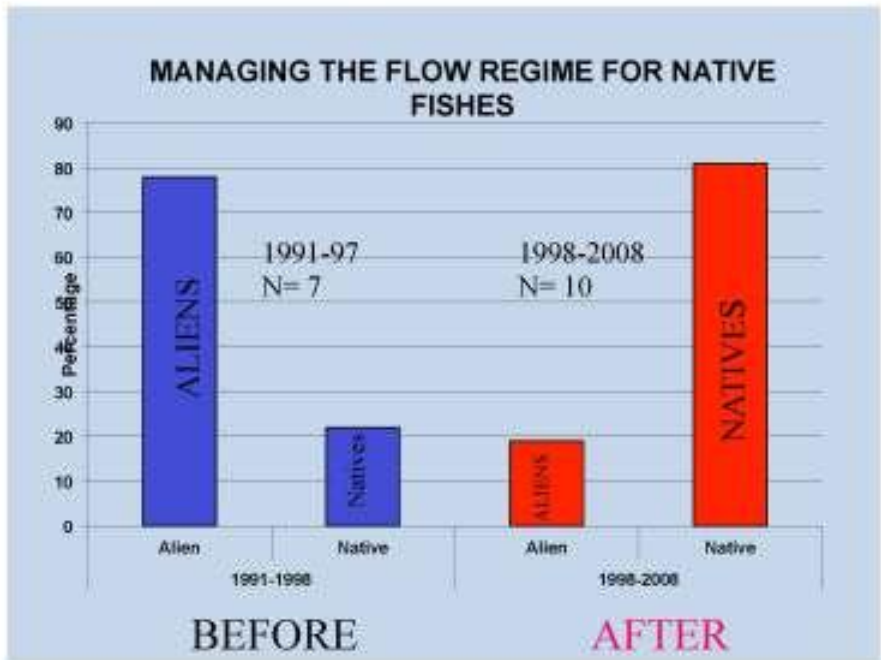
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sands of violations. These violations are bringing disaster to the Delta's environment, and it's fisheries. To paraphrase Feinstein's logic in her letter to President Obama, over pumping the Delta is placing the Delta smelt close to extinction and few fish can be found in the Delta so why worry about sending more water south.

As one would expect, Kevin McCarty's letter is much in the same vein as Feinstein's. McCarthy often uses the phrase, "Our constituents and the residence of California" when he is referring only to the Westlands Water District et al. He then precedes to give his reasons for sending illegal water south. At no point in their joint letter to the President do they mention that sending illegal water south has devastated the Delta's farms, it's environment and it's fisheries. They consistently overlook 4 years of draught exacerbated by poor water management and say now we can continue to send water from the Delta rather than suggest using effective solutions for water storage. Their mentality is based on corporate agriculture's 20th century greed despite the fact we are now in the 21st century and facing climate change.

In the past, Diane Feinstein had



the repetition of being a pro-environmentalist. However, in the past several years she has been a strong supporter of Stewart Resnick and his wife (Paramount Farms), the multi-billionaire "farmers" from Beverly Hills. On Resnick's direction, Feinstein used her influence to involve the National Academy of Science (NAS) to dispel the "pseudoscience" used to protect the Delta. The NAS found, "at best" the Resnick-Feinstein "science" was sloppy.

Sen. Feinstein lives in San Francisco. Last December, it was discovered that

she and her usual advisors, Republicans Mc Carthy, Nunes, Valadao, McClintock, Denham, and seven others were meeting behind closed doors to push for a continuing water-grab for Resnick-Westlands et al.. San Francisco and the Bay Area were furious that she had betrayed the Delta and the San Francisco Bay. Now, three months later they are back doing the same thing.

It is important to note that in Feinstein's last election, the Resnick's

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gave her and the Democrats over 1/4 million dollars. It should also be noted that McCarthy and the other 11 republicans are heavily supported by Westlands, Kern County Water Authority, and the Resnicks. For politicians, money gets their attention quickly.

Can We Save the Salmon in our Changing California ?

Last year the newspapers were filled with stories of the devastating losses to our salmon population. There is a serious question as to whether our salmon and steelhead populations can survive if the drought continues and California continues its anti-environmental water policies. Recently, Dr. Peter Moyle, Associate Director of UC Davis Center for Watershed Science, gave a presentation on what will have to be done to preserve our anadromous populations.

He started by pointing out that in years with good ocean conditions and good fresh water conditions, the salmon populations tend to be abundant. If either the ocean conditions or the fresh water conditions are poor, the salmon population can still be fairly abundant. However, if both the ocean and fresh water conditions are

poor the fish can quickly move toward extinction. Boyle pointed out however that "almost never do we have good fresh water conditions".

There are 21 species of anadromous salmonid populations in California. Of these salmon and steelhead, 52% are listed, 24% qualify for listing, and 10% are considered of special concern. The state has both a history of wide variability in our climate and mis-management of our water re-

courses. In the last 100 years we have had 10 droughts. Recently we have recorded that 40% of all California streams flowed at only 10% of their recorded history levels. And mis-management of our water projects never cease. California's anti-environmental water policy is pushing our anadromous salmonids populations to the brink of extinction. We have built 753 dams that inhibit cold water flow. The bottom line: There is no pristine habitat left in the state!

Boyle has put together a six-part action plan for the salmon in our current environment:

1. Adopt a statewide strategy for aquatic conservation. We have many water strategies in the state but none protect the environment. All current operating plans will lead to extinction of our salmon and steelhead.

2. Protect the best of what's left. We have to do this. Doyle has been working with the Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) in the Klamath River Basin on Blue Creek. The creek is a cold water pool that provides major resting location for adult salmon moving upstream. WRC purchased the entire watershed from the Yurok tribe

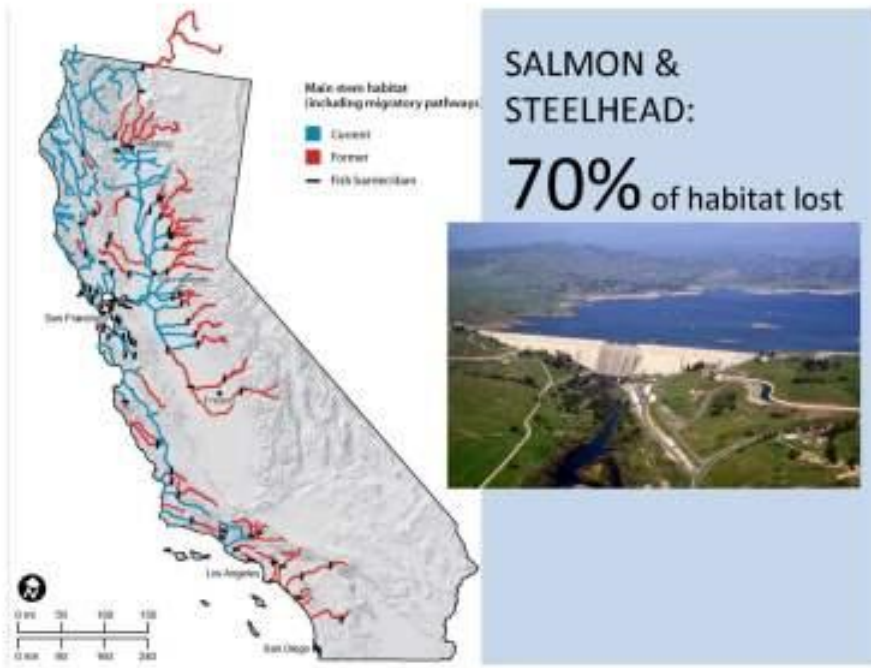
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## Statewide strategy for aquatic conservation

- GOALS:
- Protect examples of all major habitats
- Self-sustaining populations of all native species
- Drought protection

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to make it into a sanctuary and will manage it in perpetuity for the Yurok. We will have to use that mentality to save the fisheries.

3. Protect spring-fed streams in the state and manage them for salmon.

Our spring-fed streams are important because they provide both cold water and have a high productivity. If we manage these streams correctly the fish have a better chance of dealing with the negative conditions we force on them.

4. Restore and reconnect floodplains.

Last year we read article after article on the 100's of thousands of salmon lost when they could not swim back and reconnect to the Lower Sacra-

mento River. Many were trapped in the Yolo floodplain. Floodplains make excellent salmon habitat. Floodplain fish will grow to twice the size and weight of the river fish the same age. They thrive in floodplains. Crops like rice can be planted and harvested in the summer, then the salmon, waterfowl, and other species will flourish in the winter. Everyone wins.

5. Improve environmental flows below dams.

This is not just a good idea it is legally required by the law. As Moyle pointed out however, "Environmental flows seem to be the first thing sacrificed during these droughts as we found out."

Some of the legal tools for dam reoperation are:

a) Section 5937 of the Fish and Wild-

life Code

b) Public Trust Doctrine

c) Does not say "except in drought"

d) Data base (Grantham et al. 2014) Identifies dams that must comply

6. Reconcile ecosystems.

A good example of this ecosystem is the aquatic/riparian system of Lower Putah Creek. Despite having almost no rain for the year 2014 year, the creek was doing well. "The riparian vegetation, the birds, the trees, and everything in the creek is really doing well in the drought, and that is because there are guaranteed flows downstream as released from Monticello Dam. This is an ecosystem that is managed in part for native fish and native birds".

Several months ago I wrote an article on how the local fly fishing club worked tirelessly for years and has turned the 30 miles of Lower Putah Creek into a world-class, catch and release, trophy trout stream. Trout have been caught the size of salmon. That's success!

It is not going to be easy to save our trout, steelhead, and salmon. We face greedy agricultural, urban interests with huge amounts of money to spend, and politicians who have neither the understanding nor concern for the environment. This year it will be crucial to save fisheries. We have to be successful in our fight. If we are not, fishing as we have known it will disappear in our lifetime.

Ron Forbes

Spring in the Delta is a great time for fly fishing. The big female stripers are moving into delta waters to spawn and the largemouth bass are waking up from their winter naps. Rental boats are available for those without at reasonable prices (\$85 for eight hours) at the Sugar Barge, Bethel Island. Give your home water a try. It's one of California's premier fisheries.



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

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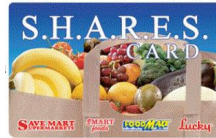
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