

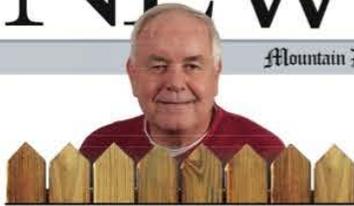
From: [Roberta Long](#)
 To: Alvarez_Eric@DeltaCouncil
 Subject: Mountain Democrat stories
 Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 10:21:45 AM
 Attachments: "Science Day" flows at Delta Stewardship Council-MD.pdf
[Delta Council rotates members-MD.pdf](#)

NEWS, etc.

Section B

Mountain Democrat ■ mtdemocrat.com

Friday, August 15, 2014



Heard over the back fence

Bob Billingsley

T-SHIRT

RECOMMENDATION: John Chapman provided the following T-shirt statement: "We have enough youth. How about a fountain of smart?"

RAILROAD HISTORY

LECTURE: A lecture titled "History of Railroads in El Dorado County" will be presented on Aug. 21, from 1 to 3 p.m., in the Social Room of the Cameron Park Community Center, 2502 Country Club Drive.

STAGECOACH RIDES IN PLACERVILLE:

Davey "Doc" Wiser informs us that stagecoach rides will be available on Saturday, Aug. 16, from noon to 3 p.m., on Main Street, Placerville.

DESTRUCTION DERBY

TIME! Round up the kids and attend the annual Hangtown Destruction Derby on Aug. 17 at 3 p.m. at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds in Placerville. You can watch the police, fire and emergency medical personnel slam each other with their old cars.

KEEP THE DEER AWAY:

A class titled "Deer Are Rats with Big Eyes" is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 21, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Cameron Park Community Center, 2502 Country Club Drive. This is a free class. Are the deer eating you out of house and home ... literally? Learn how to stay one step ahead of the deer and keep your yard healthy. You can have a garden in the foothills, keeping the deer away organically and safely. Pre-registration is required. Call 530-677-2231 to register.

BBQ, CAR SHOW AND

MORE: A car show, barbecue and kids activities festival is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Fire Station, 501 Main Street, Diamond Springs. The car show starts at 10 a.m. and will be over at 3 p.m. The day's events also include a barbecue, bounce house for kids and great music. For more information, call 530-626-3190.

THANK YOU, JACK AND

CINDA: The "featured volunteers" for the Cameron Park Library are Cinda and Jack Walton. Cinda is a past president of the Friends of the Library and the current president. Cinda brings all her

out there!

USED BOOKS SALE: Used books at the El Dorado Hills Library are sold by the pound. The early bird sale starts Friday, Aug. 22, from 4 to 7 p.m. for Friends of the Library members only. If you are not yet a member, you are welcome to stop by and join for an annual cost of only \$10. Get a chance to pick your favorite books that night. The sale continues Saturday, Aug. 23, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The library is at 7455 Silva Valley Parkway.

WAITING ROOM

ADVICE: Jewel Blair-Smith forwarded the following "Life Hacks" quote: "Listening to music literally changes your brain's perception of time and reduces the amount of time you think you're waiting." Maybe we need to install relaxing music in hospital ER rooms and in the DMV waiting area?

ROCK WITH THE

ROBOTS: On Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m., the "Techie Tigers Robotics Club" meets at the El Dorado Hills Library, 7455 Silva Valley Parkway. If you are a student in seventh through 12th grade, interested in technology, engineering, computers or robotics, this may be the group you have been looking for. The club is preparing to take robot "Mild Sauce" to competition. Walk-ins are welcome.

KACIE'S RIDE FOR

HOPE: "Kacie's Ride for Hope" to end domestic violence is a motorcycle ride scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 13. Registration begins at 8 a.m. at the Belltower, Main Street, Placerville. The ride cost is \$25 per person or \$45 a couple. You may also register at KaciesRideforHope.com. For more information, call 530-626-1450.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY

COURSE: The AARP Driver Safety Course is an eight-hour classroom course to help drivers, 50 years or older, to refresh their driving skills. The following classes are available in September: Placerville Senior Center: Saturday, Sept. 6 & 13, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., both days. Cameron Park CSD: Monday and Thursday, Sept. 22 and 25, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Both days participants

Lake view



Democrat photo by Pat Dillons

A WATER SKIER enjoys Jenkinson Lake in Sly Park July 22. As of Aug. 7 the lake was 80 percent full with 32,759 acre-feet of water. At the Aug. 11 El Dorado Irrigation District meeting, Engineering Manager Brian Mueller predicted that due to conservation efforts by customers the lake would complete the summer season with 25,000 acre-feet, enough to carry over for next year if another dry year follows this one.

Delta Council rotates members

Roberta Long

Democrat correspondent

Four years after the Delta Stewardship Council was formed as an independent state agency, four new members have joined the council.

Of the seven members on the Delta Stewardship Council, four are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, one member is appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, one appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and one is the current chairperson of the Delta Protection Commission.

In order to provide for staggered terms, two of the original gubernatorial appointees were given six-year terms. When those terms expire, all appointments will be for four-year terms. The chair is a full-time position. The other six council members are one-third.

At the first meeting of the Delta Stewardship Council on April 1, 2010, Phil Isenberg was elected chair. Randy Fiorini was elected vice chair. In January of this year, at the end of their four-year terms as officers, Isenberg



Aja Brown
Mayor of Compton

and Fiorini were elected to the reverse offices.

The current Delta Stewardship Council members are:

- Chair Randy Fiorini, Turlock — managing partner of Fiorini Ranch, former Association of County Water Agencies president, former Turlock Irrigation District Division 5 president. Appointed March 2010 by Gov. Schwarzenegger, six-year term.

- Vice Chair Phil Isenberg, Sacramento — former mayor of Sacramento, former California State Assembly member. Appointed March 2010 by Gov. Schwarzenegger, six-year term.

- Patrick Johnston, Stockton — president/CEO California

Association of Health Plans, former Senator and Assembly member. Appointed March 2010 by Senate Committee on Rules. Reappointed January 2014.

- Larry Ruhstaller, Stockton — chair, Delta Protection Commission, San Joaquin County supervisor. Appointed October 2013. Succeeds Don Notolli — Galt, Sacramento County supervisor, former chair, Delta Protection Commission. Appointed February 2010 as chair of the Delta Stewardship Council by Gov. Schwarzenegger.

- Frank Damrell Jr., Sacramento — former federal district judge, California deputy attorney general, Stanislaus County deputy district attorney. Appointed March 2013 by Gov. Brown. Damrell succeeds Felicia Marcus, Emeryville — Natural Resources Defense Council western director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX administrator, Los Angeles Board of Public Works commissioner. Appointed July 2010 by Gov. Schwarzenegger.

She succeeded Richard Roos-Collins, Berkeley — Natural Heritage Institute outside general counsel, appointed March 2010 by Gov. Schwarzenegger. Roos-Collins resigned in July 2010 before receiving Senate confirmation. Marcus was appointed to the California State Water Resources Control Board in May 2012 by Gov. Brown.

- Susan Tatayon, Rocklin — the Nature Conservancy associate director, California Water Program, Floodplain Management Association board member. Appointed May 2014 by Gov. Brown.

- Susan Tatayon, Rocklin — the Nature Conservancy associate director, California Water Program, Floodplain Management Association board member. Appointed May 2014 by Gov. Brown. Tatayon succeeds Hank Nordhoff, Del Mar — former chairman and CEO of Gen-Probe Inc. Appointed March 2010 by Gov. Schwarzenegger.
- Aja (pronounced "Asia") Brown, Compton — mayor of Compton. Appointed August 2014 by Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins. Brown succeeds Gloria Gray, Inglewood — West Basin Municipal Water District director. Gray was appointed in February 2010 by Assembly Speaker Karen Bass.

expertise as a past president and makes planning and organizing the business end of the Cameron Park board that much easier. Jack's expertise was very valuable in the planning of the golf tournament, and he continues to offer great fundraiser ideas.

ANIMAL OUTREACH FUNDRAISER: A "French Bistro Fundraiser" is planned for Sunday, Aug. 24, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Crystal Basin Cellars and Bistro at 3590 Carson Road, Camino. Proceeds will benefit the "Animal Outreach" program. Tickets are \$25 per person and include five gourmet courses of superb French cuisine prepared by the Crystal Basin Bistro. A vegetarian option is available. A cash bar will be open and will include Crystal Basin's award-winning wines and various micro brews. Entertainment includes a traditional French repertoire plus live music from 3 to 6 p.m. by Jeremy Norris and The Dangerous Mood. Tickets will be available at the door and also in advance by calling Animal Outreach at 530-642-2287.

BE CAREFUL ON THE TENNIS COURT: The tennis group I play with has suffered two broken wrists and a head injury in one week. Be careful

must attend both days of the course to receive a certificate of completion. The class fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-AARP members. Pre-registration is required.

DIABETES PLAN FOR SUCCESS: Marshall Medical is sponsoring a class titled "Your Plan for Success" on Tuesday, Sept. 23, from 1 to 3 p.m., at 681 Main Street (second floor), Placerville. Class topics will include: Reducing your risk — long term complications; Exercise — make it work for you; Staying motivated; Diabetes and emotions. For more information or to register for this class, call 530-672-7021.

A ZEN ZINGER: Look at the "Zen" calendar, and you will find the following quote: "And what is it, the heart? It is the sound of the pine breeze there in the sumi painting." — Ikkyu

Send your jokes and event items for *Heard Over the Back Fence* column three weeks in advance to Bob Billingsley at the *Mountain Democrat*, PO Box 1088, Placerville 95667, or drop them off at 2889 Ray Lawyer Dr. First and last name of contact person are required. Phone 530-344-5036. Follow @BillingsleyMtDemo on Twitter.

What? Me worry? End guilt

Life Enriching Communication
News release

Life Enriching Communication is offering a workshop, "Overcoming Guilt, Transforming Shame: The Power of Compassion," to El Dorado County. The workshop will be held at Federated Church on Saturday, Aug. 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The workshop will help participants work through guilt by compassionately embracing it and transforming it. There will be a number of activities that will assist individuals in getting to the root of guilt and shame.

"Whenever we experience guilt it is usually because there is a value of ours that is not being lived out in our lives," said Eddie Zacapa, who will be facilitating the workshop. "When we can compassionately embrace this value we transform guilt into something that motivates us to live out what is most important to us. It is radical when this occurs."

The workshop will also go over the negative tapes

we play in our head that lead to shame and will give participants practical strategies to deal with them. The workshop will also address false guilt and self-forgiveness.

The workshop will incorporate the teaching of Compassionate Communication, also known as Nonviolent Communication (NVC). Marshall Rosenberg founded NVC approximately 40 years ago. It has been used around the world to mediate conflicts, nurture relationships, and promote peace.

Life Enriching Communication is dedicated to supporting individuals, families and organizations in learning nonviolent communication and supporting individuals and communities in living compassionate lives.

The workshop will be held at Federated Church on 1031 Thompson Way in Placerville. For more information or to attend, contact Zacapa at 916-409-0879 or e-mail eddiez@lec-nov.com. The cost is based on a sliding scale and no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Rotary accepting mini-grant applications

Pollock Pines-Camino Rotary
News release

The Pollock Pines-Camino Rotary Club is seeking applications for mini-grants that will be used for any project or program that is designed to benefit local children or the residents of the Pollock Pines-Camino communities.

Applications should deal with projects up to \$1,000. Those applicants selected will be requested to make a presentation describing the results of the project at a Rotary meeting upon project completion.

Applications are available at pollockpines-caminorotary.org and must be submitted online to

carolabbanat@gmail.com.

Applications will be not accepted by mail or in person. Application deadline is Sept. 15.

For additional information on both the mini-grant program and the "Evening in the Orchard" fundraiser, consult the Rotary Website at pollockpines-caminorotary.org.

Mountain Democrat Friday, August 15, 2014 B7

'Science day' flows at Delta Stewardship Council

Roberta Long
Democrat correspondent

Delta Stewardship Council Chairman Randy Fiorini is fond of saying, "There is no silver bullet" when it comes to meeting the council's co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem.

At the council's meeting on July 25, representatives of two independent science panels confirmed the chair's viewpoint.

The meeting was held at the Park Tower Plaza in Sacramento. All council members were present: Chairman Randy Fiorini, Vice Chairman Phil Isenberg, Gloria Gray, Patrick Johnston, Frank Demrell Jr., Larry Ruhstaller and Susan Tatayon.

The presentation covered a review of the scientific studies, reports and papers, mainly produced by various agencies and stakeholders, on the waters flowing into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta and the waters flowing out into the San Francisco Bay. Two panels of independent scientists from different disciplines were engaged by the State Water Resources Control Board to help narrow areas of scientific disagreement

the primary indicators of the low salinity zone (LSZ), including measuring phytoplankton abundance and indicators of fish populations, particularly Delta smelt and longfin smelt.

Phytoplankton, also called microalgae, are single-cell floating plants common to an area that drift with the currents. They provide a crucial source of food to many fish.

The focus of the interior Delta flows review was survival of juvenile salmon and smelt. Both panels paid attention to the interaction with related stressors.

Haradar introduced Les Grober, board assistant deputy director, division of water rights;

Denise Reed, chief scientist, Water Institute of the Gulf; and Kenneth Rose, professor of oceanography and coastal sciences, Louisiana State University.

Delta flows

Grober described the Delta as the "choke point" for considering water quality, beneficial uses and water rights. He said the foundation of the current requirements are contained in the board's 2006 Water Right Decision 1641. Depending on the water-type (wet, dry, moderate) and season,

to protect public trust resources." Using high-end flows, Grober noted, has high economic and hydrological costs.

He said the multiple back-to-back dry years are giving everyone a chance to evaluate drought as part of long-term planning when freshwater supplies are scarce.

Reed spoke as the chair of a seven-member panel. She said that X2 was originally thought of in 1993. "We've been at this for two decades, and the system has changed," she said. "A single indicator for a complex system like this is really unrealistic to expect. A suite of indicators, including X2, is probably a more reasonable approach."

There is so much going on there is no definite cause and effect, she said. She cautioned: Beware of what data goes in. "It's critical that quantitative analysis communicate uncertainties in recommended flow criteria to decision makers."

Regarding the use of adaptive management, Reed described it as a "Catch-22" situation. "Decision-makers are hesitant to adopt costly policies in the absence of relatively convincing model predictions that indicate they will achieve the desired objectives. However, it is very difficult to improve

fish "condition," including routine sampling; 3) identify dominant biomass pathways that support fish at different life history stages.

"This is very difficult," she said. "There are no easy solutions."

Isenberg noted the panel did not prioritize any recommendations. He inquired what six things are most important to add to X2. Reed suggested a better way to get at the answer is to specify management objectives.

Fiorini commented, "There are real issues on the non-ecosystem side." Reed responded, "We face similar issues in Louisiana. We are moving freshwater areas and people are protesting in the streets. Science is not a tool. There are societal preferences and priorities."

Kenneth Rose is the only person who served on both panels. He was the spokesperson for the six members who reviewed the scientific studies on the interior Delta inflows. The emphasis on the interior inflows presentation was on Delta smelt, salmon and steelhead.

Rose said the Bay Delta has a complex mix of interacting factors affecting native fish vital rates and spatial distribution. "It's not a good idea to keep talking about flows," he said.

quantified. He added that invasive species are more successful in establishing in the Delta during drought periods.

Flow measurements are regularly taken seasonally or at specific locations. The seasonal cycles have shifted. The panel recommends creating a hydrograph that depicts changes in the rate of flow over the entire year.

Rose said the use of adaptive management is limited in the Delta. The system is constrained by limitations to manipulate the system to see effects. Monitoring is often not sufficient. It is expensive and the system is complicated.

Overall, he said, there is a lot of good science and historical data. He said that one of the problems in synthesizing progressive studies is that sometimes important information gets lost.

He mentioned another problem is the level of distrust in the scientific and stakeholder communities. "It's a people problem," he said. In answer to questions from the council about what scientific studies to depend on, Rose suggested looking at the ones cited in the panel's report.

In answer to the issue of distrust, Rose mentioned bringing in outside people, young people and more universities to create a

storm runoff, rainfall, wastewater. Salts affect the quality of water used for irrigation or drinking. Every organism has a typical salinity range that it can tolerate.

Delta salinity is regulated to protect three broad classes of water use: 1) municipal and industrial; 2) agricultural; and 3) fish and wildlife.

Delta salinity is managed by the amount of Delta outflow that prevents saltwater from the Bay from flowing too far east. The California Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation manage most of the waters stored upstream of the Delta, plus the flow control structures within the Delta and the pumps in the south Delta that transfer water into conveyances for export. DWR and the bureau have primary responsibility for managing salinity within the Delta.

Herrick described salinity-related crop effects in the south Delta. High salinity measurements create osmotic stress and foliar (leaf) injury to plants. The salt accumulates in the root zone, and the plant expends energy it would otherwise use to grow in order to draw water from the salt.

High sodicity, the ratio of sodium to calcium plus

and uncertainty over the flows necessary for a healthy Delta.

The current Delta outflow standards were adopted by the board in 1995. The panel's report will be used by the board to help set flow objectives for the Delta as part of the board's update of the 2006 Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. Meeting the flow objectives is one of the requirements for consistency with the Council's Delta Plan.

The panels held a two-day public workshop in February, where it heard about a number of wide-ranging topics besides flows. The panels' reports were given to the board in early July.

Smelt update

At the council meeting on July 25, Sam Haradar, science program manager for the board, explained that the focus on Delta outflows review was on

the flow requirements for fish and wildlife beneficial uses are based either on specific Delta outflow requirements or a water quality standard that specifies the position of "X2." X2 marks the distance in kilometers from the Golden Gate Bridge to a point where the salts dissolved in the water measure 2 parts per 1,000 grams. In wet years, it is naturally more seaward. In dry years, saltwater incursion moves the mark upstream. X2 is the standard approach used to set flow standards for estuaries internationally.

In 2010 the board produced a report on flow criteria. It was a technical assessment that dealt only with flow and the operational requirements that provide fishery protection under existing conditions. The 2010 report stated, "The best available science suggests that current flows are insufficient

model predictions without implementing these policies in the first place."

The rate of learning about the effectiveness of alternate flow policies in the Delta will likely be very slow." She recommended explicit adaptive management plans and realistic experimental designs.

There have been long-term changes in the Delta water system, she said. The water is less turbid, more clear, allowing more light to penetrate. There is more phytoplankton growth. There are algae blooms in the low salinity zone. There are higher concentrations of ammonium and nitrates.

"Beware of latching on too quickly to one specific attractive explanation. Think broadly," she said. The panel suggested: 1) build on improved hydrodynamic models to a "Delta ecosystem model; 2) increase assessment of

"Fish don't care about the flows. They care about the components of flow. What fish perceive are pressure, gradients, salinity and velocity. Understanding fish cues and migratory patterns is improving."

He emphasized that fish live in evolutionary times. They adapted to the Delta in the pre-history period. The interior flows have dramatically altered since then. Tides are still important. So are timing and volume of flows, availability of habitat and transport of sediments and nutrients. The interior Delta is still too much of a "black box" for native fish in terms of survival, he said.

Rose said he does not favor ranking stressors. "They are too interrelated and confounded."

He said that predation is a problem for survival of the native fish, but how much it contributes to mortality is not

turnover of ideas. There needs to be a reasonable expectation of benefit, he said.

Grober added that in balancing the competing uses of water, the process needs to be transparent.

Salinity effects on agriculture

John Herrick, counsel and manager for the South Delta Water Agency, represented the four members of a board panel on managing Delta salinity in a time of drought. The South Delta Water Agency is statutorily charged with protecting the quantity and quality of water in the southern Delta.

Salinity is a measure of the amount of salts in water. It can have different components. In water, salt breaks into positive and negative ions that conduct electricity. Conductivity varies with water source: groundwater,

magnesium, results in loss of soil permeability, making it more claylike.

Increased levels of chloride, sodium, boron and other ions have direct toxic effects on plants. The most sensitive are dry beans, almonds and walnuts. Tomatoes, corn, alfalfa, melons, squash and vineyards are moderately sensitive. Safflower, wheat and sudan (sorghum sudan grass hybrid) are moderately tolerant, and asparagus and oats are the most tolerant.

Herrick said the San Joaquin River salts stay in the south Delta. The export pumps remove water, and upstream water dilutes the salt, but doesn't push it out.

In preparing for the worst—multiple dry years—DWR has three alternatives: 1) reduce allocations; 2) petition the board to modify Delta standards; 3) plan for emergency drought rock barriers.

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*The Worship Directory
runs each Friday
in the Mountain
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Worship Directory

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to 7:00 p.m.
644-7036 or 621-4276

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