

THE LEADER

VOICE OF THE

GRANITE BAY
Flycasters

SEPTEMBER 1986
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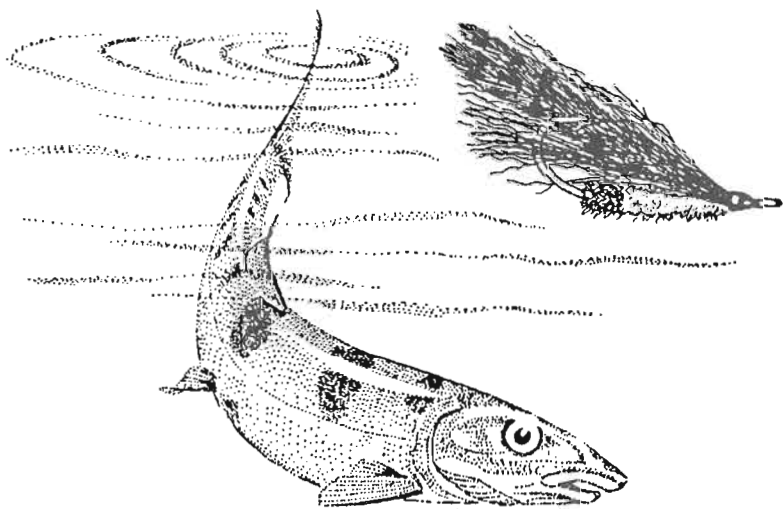
GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS
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number of my flies are tied with white and some other color. More important than color can be size. The anchovy is the standard bait fish in Southern California. These fish vary in size from say a couple of inches to four or five inches. At times you'll see the schools of bait fish near the surface. Try and match their size with your fly. For starters, if you don't see any bait fish use a fly in the 3 inch length. Surf perch, corbina and mackerel seem to like smaller flies, while fish like yellow tail, barracuda and calico bass like them larger about 4 to 5 inches in length. Although, there are named tried and true salt water patterns, the beginner could start fishing with flies tied for striped bass and the comet series, which are sold in most fly shops." John who ties all of his flies, uses cadmium plated hooks, his favorite being the Mustad 3407. Another is Eagle Claw's 254. He'll use hooks in size 6 all the way up to 4/0. Remember, if you tie your own, keep them sparse and simple.

So, in summing it up, it seems to me there is a lot of room out there for anyone interested in this wonderful sport, an a lot of room for exploring new techniques. Remember, my friend John Loo's salt water expertise, was gained while fishing the Southern California and Baja California coasts. However, the chances of you gleaning what you can from this and applying it to other coasts and oceans is certainly worth a try. It just takes some effort and time on your part. Need I say more.



GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

The Officers

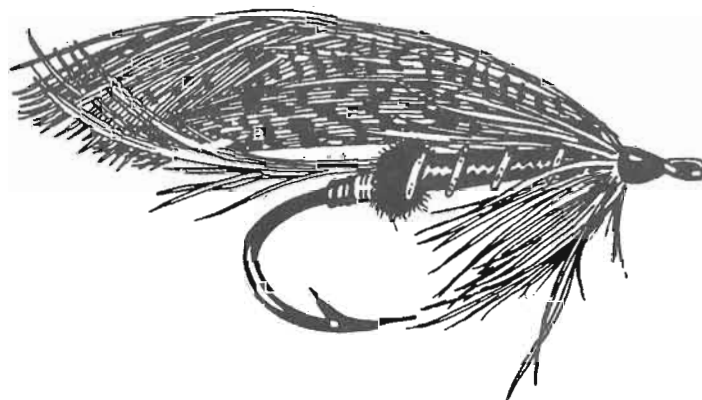
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Vice President	Morris Schlesinger	782-5277
Secretary	Warren Schoenmann	725-2542
Treasurer	Fred Zimmerman	652-0678

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Jim Ferguson	781-2358
Nicolai Laquaglia	783-4001
Fred Rollins	988-9319
Morris Schlesinger	782-5277
Warren Schoenmann	725-2542
Ken Winkleblack	988-7129
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Leader Editor	Jim Ferguson	781-2358
Raffle	Morris Schlesinger	782-5277
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Refreshments	Stan Hellekson	786-3470
FFF Membership	Stan Hellekson	786-3470





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Not a day goes by that I do not think of some potential goal for the GBFC. Club's can become vehicle's for individual's in the membership to develop talents or test ideas not within the realm of normal everyday personal or business life. Those of us who are putting in time on the club house have had the chance to experience so skills that otherwise we might not have. Newsletter participants are experiencing from paste-up to deadlines. One

thinks how can I set new or higher goals for the club, when there has been some hesitancy on the part of membership to even participate. This is not a critical statement, but more an honest analysis of the potential of the GBFC to realistically reach the goals that I might dream up.

As president, some of the direction that the club takes is in the reins I hold. For the record, I must state that our club stands alone in the amount of headway we have made. This is after all only our ninth month. For the record, also it is necessary to state the goals that I have "dreamed" for our outstanding club.

In the future I see the development of tournament casting ponds. This can open us to regional, national, and potentially international tournaments, leading into a large membership and a newsletter in the sense of a regular magazine. Our youth organization can be developed into an enhancement to existing groups such as 4H, boyscouts, etc. This would be by setting standards that the organizations could use to award badges, or appropriate symbols signifying levels of achievement to certify a fundamental understanding of fly fishing. This could be construed as lofty goals, but look what we have done so far. We have time on our side, and a very special membership to execute what we mutually decide to be where the GBFC goes in the future.

Nicolai Laquaglia

over and/or diving into the water. They are after bait fish being driven to the surface by larger predatory fish. When to see this kind of activity, cast your fly into the middle of it, and immediately begin a fast retrieve to imitate the swimming motion of the frightened fish.

"Now," I questioned, "What about equipment? How many rods does a person need anyway?" "Well," he began slowly, "you could get along with one rod of 9 or 9½ feet for a 7 or 8 weight line. I like graphite, because, it can be stiff enough to cast into the heavy wind. Also, if possible there should be a second rod of the same length for a 9 or 10 weight line. Those two rods would cover a lot of fishing."

Although you can, John feels you do not have to put out a lot of bucks on an expensive reel made especially for salt water fly fishing. There are good inexpensive reels on the market. What you want is a reel, fairly narrow, of large diameter, with a smooth click and adjustable drag. You need that large diameter narrow reel so you can reel line in fast.

Most all of John's fishing is done with either high density, or lead core shooting heads. A floating line can, at times, come in handy. Be sure and have plenty of backing on your reel. From 200 to 400 yards is good.

Usually a 5 to 7½ foot leader tapering from 8 to 12 pounds, is plenty. Tippet size, like in fresh water fly fishing, depends on the size fly being cast. The larger the fly the heavier the tippet. Leader tapers need not be complicated. For toothy fish, a short section of wire tippet can be added.

"What about fly patterns," I quizzed, "do you need many, and are they very complicated?" "No, you do not need a tackle box full of flies," he replied. "Flies for salt water, are of the streamer type, and for the most part should be kept simple and sparsely tied. Bulky flies might be ok in murky water, but most salt water species seem to prefer sparse flies, and they sink better and cast easier." "What about colors, do they vary from species to species?" "You can't go wrong with white," he answered matter of factly. "Some fish like yellow tail may prefer certain colors. At times they seem to go for a green and yellow combination. Calico bass often go after pink, dorado red and yellow, but they will all hit white. The greatest

tides will appear as sandy colored areas in the waves. A lot of people don't realize that rip tides will move up and down the beach. A good bet is to follow and fish them, but be careful not to be caught in one. They can be funnels of very strong current capable of carrying the unsuspecting angler out into deep water." John told me you do not have to wade very far out to fish the surf. Often, the fish are very close to shore. In the winter the perch feed in close. During the summer it seems spotfish croaker and corbina feed in close. "At time, Loo stated, "the barred perch move in so close to shore that I have accidentally caught them almost between the legs of my fishing partner." Something he finds valuable is a pair of polaroid glasses. "There are times," he said smiling "when you can almost stalk the fish if you're wearing polaroids."

Surf fishing seems to be pretty seasonal. Typically, you won't catch many barred perch in the summer in Southern California. They seem to be more common during the fall and winter months. In the summer you will catch mostly corbina and spotfin croaker.

In the winter, when water temperatures are colder, John wears waders, but summer or winter, he rarely will cast his fly more than 40 or 50 feet.

"I've found," John continued "that in salt water fly fishing not always, but in general, being in the right place at the right time is much more critical than having the right fly. The effect of tides can be a very important factor in this kind of fishing. Especially when fishing the surf, and fishing the bays. The fish become more active during certain phases of the tide. It's not, however, always the same in every place you fish. The rule of thumb in surf fishing is that incoming tides are usually best to fish. In bays, the incoming tide may be best to fish in some spots, while the outgoing tide might be better in others. It's really a learning process."

When fishing bays, a good spot to fish can be a bait receiver, which supplies fishermen with live bait. Other places are pilings. These can be real good spots for bay bass and perch. A narrow inlet to a bay can be very good. Both the incoming and outgoing tides can carry a lot of food, and often fish will congregate there to feed. Some good places in open water can be kelp beds, rocky points and reefs. When out in the open sea always keep your eyes peeled for a flock of gulls or other sea birds hovering

- CALENDAR OF EVENTS -

September

General Membership Meeting	Thursday, Sep 11, 7:30 PM
Workshop Night	Thursday, Sep 18, 7:30 PM

October

General Membership Meeting	Thursday, Oct 9, 7:30 PM
Workshop Night	Thursday, Oct 16, 7:30 PM

November

General Membership Meeting	Thursday, Nov 13, 7:30 PM
Workshop Night	Thursday, Nov 20, 7:30 PM

December

General Elections and General Membership Meeting	Thursday, Dec 11, 7:30 PM
Workshop Night	Thursday, Dec 18, 7:30 PM

Note: Meeting of the Board of Directors will be announced at General Membership Meetings. These meetings are open to the membership. The Granite Bay Flycasters meet in the Granite Bay Community Center located at Granite Bay State Park.

September Program: Will be presented by Milt Jensen on fly fishing the Almanor country. Milt runs Merganser Outfitters which specialize in stillwater and spring creek fly fishing. His program will deal with fishing on Yellow Creek, Butt Lake, McCoy Flat Reservoir, and Long Lake. All of these waters are within 4 hours drive or less from Sacramento.

The film will be Part II of "Aquatic Insects." A real educational film on those little buggers we try so hard to simulate.

Coming attractions include; Darwin Atkin on small stream fishing, Ken Winkleblack on the Babine in British Columbia, and Joe Patterson and Ed Hobbs on lakes of Central Oregon.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Aug 14, 1986

The meeting was called to order by President Nicolai.

Welcome to new members Donald Hansen of Roseville and Bill Stobbe of Citrus Heights.

Old Business:

Still need help at the conclave registration table. Those interested contact Nicolai.

The artwork for the club logo is complete thanks to Keith Haviland Sr. Jim Ferguson will obtain prices on patches, pins, etc. and present his findings to the Board of Directors.

New Business:

We discussed the possibility of the club obtaining a commercial booth at the conclave. A motion was made and carried that the club only man the registration table and not participate in any other commercial endeavor this year.

An announcement was made for those interested in participating at an exhibit at Cal Expo this year contact the secretary immediately following the meeting for details.

Registration envelopes need to be completed (filled with conclave information) for our buddies who are going to man the registration table at the conclave. Materials will be brought to the next club business meeting for those who want to come and help stuff envelopes before and after next months short meeting.

Adventurama at Cal Expo October 3, 4, and 5. Maybe space will be available for fly casting, tying, and club promotion if enough interest is generated. Further discussion to be continued at next board meeting.

The clubhouse is now 85% complete. The kitchen cabinets need to be set in and appliances installed. Thanks to a couple of swell gentlemen (sorry gents I did not get your names) this should also be completed within the next few weekends.

bonefish and tarpon in Florida." John went on to say it's just a matter of fishermen changing their view points and looking at the opportunities they have. He feels there is a probability of good salt water fly fishing to be had no matter what coast you would fish. "Get out there and do it. Explore it. Experiment," he stated firmly. "Certainly there are those situation in salt water that are not very condusive to fly fishing, but there are plenty of situations that are."

One thing John suggested is that if you do not know anyone who salt water fly fishes, meet and learn from the guys that fish using conventional methods. What he means is learn where and how they fish. That would form a strong base. Learn where the various species of fish are and go after them with flies. Learning the habits and whereabouts of salt water fish is just as important here, as fishing streams and lakes for fresh water fish. Another place to learn from is a good salt water bait and tackle shop. The people that run them are usually right on top of where the fishing is hottest, and how they are being taken.

I asked John to give me some examples of where to fish, and what species you might expect to catch. First off, because it is probably the handiest, he began with fly fishing the surf. He said the most common fish caught in the surf in Southern California is the barred perch, spot-fin croaker and coroina. All are strong fighters, found in the surf along stretches of open beach.

Since there are a lot of open beaches I asked how to go about finding these fish. "Look for some kind of anomaly in the floor of the ocean, like a sandbar or a hole or depression," he answered. "You can locate these by the way the waves come into shore. They'll break, roll some more, then break again close to shore. That's a good indication there's some kind of bumb out there. Often the sandbar will be out of casting reach, but frequently the fish will come into the through between the bar and shore to feed. A good time to check for these anomalies is during periods of low tide. Another thing to look for are rip tides. Typically, what will happen in a rip tide is the water, after it hits the shore, will recede in a funnel of strong moving water. What this funnel does is move a lot of sand with it. There is food to be found in this sand, sand crabs being one of the most common. Rip

SOME SALT WATER FLY FISHING BASICS

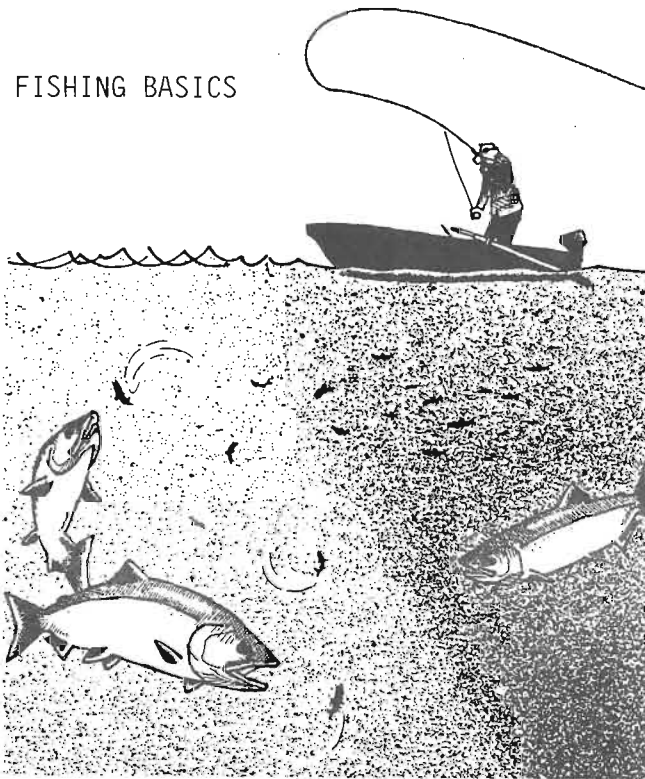
By Jack L. Parker

Fly fishing in salt water can be a fun and thrilling experience. I was born and raised near the ocean in Southern California. As a teenager, when my friends and myself weren't fishing the mountain streams, we could usually be found fishing the Pacific Coast anywhere from Palos Verdes to down below Ensenada in Baja, California. Although most of

this fishing was done with conventional tackle, one friend and myself dabbled around with fly fishing gear, usually with very minimal results. That, however, was many years ago, almost more than I care to remember.

In 1963, my wife and I moved to Northern California. When we returned to Southern California for visits I still dabbled around fishing the salt with a fly rod. Still, with very minimal results.

My friend John Loo who lives in the little coastal town of Leucadia, located north of San Diego has been of considerable help to me. His apartment is just a long cast from the rolling Pacific surf. On our last trip to Southern California I spent a lot of time with John. Thanks to his willingness in sharing his knowledge, I learned a great deal about how to get started on the right foot in salt water fly fishing. "Interest really doesn't seem to have grown much in salt water fly fishing out here in the west during the last few years," he told me. "Probably," he continued, "because so little about it is known. Possibly people may think it is more of a hassle than it's worth except, of course, in those areas where it is one of the accepted methods of fishing, such as fishing for



This month's Workshop Night will be conducted by Ken Steers. I heard that the Silver Hilton will be one of the flies tied but you will have to be there.

The program on fishing the McCloud River was presented by Tom Hesseldenz of the Nature Conservancy.

The raffle was held. Some very nice prizes, including another float tube, were given away.

The meeting was adjourned.

CONSERVATION ITEM

We are still signing up volunteers for the wild trout stream survey work. Please check the following dates and let Nicholai know if you are interested:

October 21-24: West Walker Drainage.

October 29-31: West Walker Drainage.



Remember those "bargain-basement" waders I bought last week . . . ?

FLY TYER'S BENCH

By Terry Hellekson

This month I would like to reflect back to my youth and share with you a fly pattern that I consider to be one of my top producers. Montana fly tyer, George F. Grant, can and has, varify the following statements.

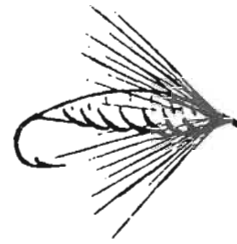
F. B. Pott of Missoula, Montana, is responsible for tying and selling a complete series of hair hackled flies, or "Mite" patterns. Frank Pott developed these flies some years ago between 1920 and 1925. His first patent in the year 1925 was the first time a fly tying procedure has ever been patented. Patent number was 1,523,895. Frank was a barber and a wig maker which gave him a background in the workings of hair.

One pattern has stood out from all others and that is the Sandy Mite. As a boy I lived in Portola for a year and had the opportunity to fish with the late Norman Brown who introduced me to my first Sandy Mite. At age 10 I was able to take some very nice fish from the Feather River right in town using this pattern.

For more than 60 years this fly has been one of the more successful Montana fly patterns. However, it works just as well in other areas. When George Grant was active in the commercial fly business he states that the Sandy Mite outsold all other patterns by at least five to one.

I know from my own experience that when fished properly this fly can perform wonders. Not knowing it at the time, but I learned to fish the Sandy Mite using todays nymphing methods. One experience we had was fishing the beaver ponds on Indian Creek east of Quincy. We would make short cast into the clear ponds as watch the fly sink. When the fly appeared to go out of sight we would instantly set the hook. A fish every cast. If we hesitated for even a split second the fly would reappear indicating a fish had picked up the fly and spit back out again.

The "Mite" type flies unlike the standard wet fly patterns, most of which came to the West from England and Scotland with a brief stopover in the East, they are Montana originals from start to finish.



Many things have changed in fly tying since the twenties and Frank Pott. Frank's original Sandy Mite pattern is as follows:

ORIGINAL SANDY MITE

HOOK: Mustad 9485.

THREAD: Black silk.

BODY: Light sandy ox hair.

WOVEN STRIPE: Heavy orange silk thread.

HACKLE: Light sandy ox hair.

Today neither the hooks or the materials are available to us and it becomes necessary to make substitutes. My own preferences which work well are described below. When you consider what Frank Pott regarded as sandy you must relate to the fact that he was a barber and spoke in terms of human hair color. This then would be interpreted as tan or light brown in color. I came to be the proud owner of a wig made of nylon hair and the right shade which I tied from for several seasons but other materials work as well.

TODAYS SANDY MITE

HOOK: Mustad 3906, sizes 8 thru 16.

THREAD: No. 100 Black Flymaster Plus.

BODY: Any long tan (sandy) hair. Artic Ram dyed tan is presently my preference.

WOVEN STRIPE: No. 7 Orange Rayon Floss. As the body is being wrapped, weave in the floss with each wrap of the hair. Your finished body should have a nice taper with an orange stripe up the belly.

HACKLE: Other hairs will work but I now use the body hair from finely barred blacktail deer. Using a hair evener with this fine textured hair you can make an attractive hackle.

Besides the Sandy Mite there are a number of other hair hackled fly patterns developed in Montana you might want to discover.