

THE LEADER

VOICE OF

GRANITE BAY
Flycasters

JUNE 1996

GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS
P.O. Box 1107
Roseville, CA 95678-8107

Warren Schoenmann
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Calendar of Events Including Fly of the Month

June

1	Callibaetis adult
13	NCC/FFF Quarterly Meeting - Joe Bania
15-16	7:30 PM General Meeting
	Fishout - One Fly - Indian Creek - Terry Eggleston
16	Father's Day
20	7:00 PM Board Meeting
21	6:30 PM Youth Meeting
29-30	Bear River Work Day

July

4	Independence Day
11	7:30 PM General Meeting
13-14	Fishout - Rucker Lake - Kim and Paul Roccoforte
18	7:00 PM Board Meeting
19	6:30 PM Youth Meeting
20-21	Bear River Work Day

August

8	7:30 PM General Meeting
10	Fishout - Truckee River
15	7:00 PM Board Meeting
16	6:30 PM Youth Meeting
17-18	Bear River Work Day

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Congratulations and Thank You, to all of us that wrote to our good Legislators. Senator Doolittle's bill to reallocate 800,000 acre feet of water that is presently being protected by Central Valley Improvement Act has been "set aside for this year". That doesn't mean it is completely defeated so, keep tuned we may need your help again.

That's the good news. On the other side of the coin, it appears that the weather has flushed the shad, just when they were starting to show in good numbers too. Oh Well, this too will pass and they will be back in a week or two.

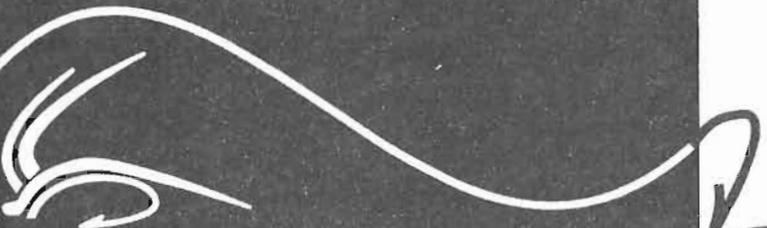
I don't know about the rest of you but our speakers at last months general meeting got me all fired up. Between **Jim Coleman's**, **Rick Radoff's** and **Frank Stolten's** stories and videos I'm ready to haul some eggs or drive some posts in the ground. Then came the rain and we have to wait awhile again because the Bear River Valley will surely be too wet for us to be work in some time now.

Remember last month, I told you that **Norm Rossignol** has volunteered to compile a Fishing Guide based on inputs he gets from the members? Well I saw his first sample results and I guarantee you're going to like it. Norm has a knack for getting the right stuff in the right place and somehow making it all come out very clear. But, he can't do it all alone, he needs your help and your inputs. Please fill out the form you'll find later in the Leader or at least call Norm (363-6435) after each trip. This will eventually be a very valuable resource for all of us and I'm looking forward to seeing the first issue.

Kudos go to **Nick English** for his flytying talents again. Nick participated in a nation wide contest put on by "Western FlyFishing" magazine. To give you an idea of his competition - one of the winners was Mark Hoerer of Stockton. Most of us have seen Mark tie and you know what an excellent job he does. Well, Nick didn't win but he was runner-up. Look out Mark our young guys are nipping at your heals.

CONGRATULATIONS NICK!

Wayne Dahl - President



KIENES

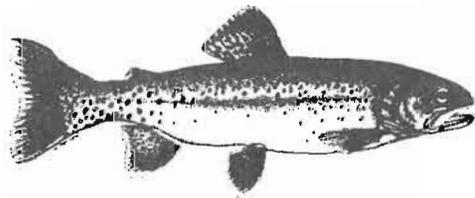
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Despite the observations of potential impacts to wild trout in other states, we have not seen effects of this type to wild trout in our waters. However, a major WD outbreak did occur this last year at the Department's Mt. Whitney hatchery, south of Bishop. This probably was the result of changes in maintenance practices which caused an increase in the accumulation of organic sediments and tubifex worms at the hatchery intake system. Department biologists remain concerned about the potential for impacts of the disease and will continue to monitor around the state for its presence.

FREE FISHING DAYS FOR 1996

While all fishing regulations, such as bag and size limit, gear restrictions, fishing hours and stream closures remain in effect; there are two Saturdays each year where anyone can fish without purchasing a fishing license. For 1996, California's free fishing days are June 8th and September 28th.

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For several years, California has been admired when it comes to producing trophy-sized black basses. If you want to try your luck (oops - I mean skill!!!), here are some lakes known to produce trophy bass: Trinity, Oroville, Isabella, Castaic and Clear Lake.

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Whirling Disease—An Update

(excerpts from article by Dave Lentz, CA. Dept. of Fish & Game)

The threat of whirling disease to wild trout populations has been highly publicized for the past year. National media and fly fishing and conservation organization publications have reported outbreaks of this disease in several western states. Some have attributed declines in wild trout populations to the effects and spread of the parasitic disease. Recently, the presence of the parasite has been reported from Colorado, Montana, Idaho, and Utah. However, the presence of wild fish with clinical symptoms of the disease is not widespread. Controversy remains over the impact of the disease to wild populations and a number of efforts to research this question are underway.

In Colorado, studies have shown that young rainbow and brown trout held in cages have been affected by the disease. Biologists involved with this study believe that some declines in younger year classes of wild trout in tributaries to the upper Colorado river may be affected by WD. Testing has shown that 13 of 15 major streams have WD organisms present. Also, 12 of 60 state, federal and private trout hatcheries in Colorado have tested positive for WD.

In Montana, clinical symptoms of WD in juvenile wild trout and in caged test trout [were] confirmed from the Madison River in September. These findings may support many reports blaming the disease for observed declines in young rainbow from this world-famous trout stream. WD has been present in California since 1965, when it was initially discovered at a private hatchery in Monterey County. Since then it has been found in many California waters. The parasite is most extensively found in eastern Sierra waters from the Truckee River drainage, and is present in most the drainages south to the Owens River drainage. Many of these streams are outstanding wild trout fisheries. In the past 30 years, we are not aware of any incidents in which this disease has had significant impacts on any wild trout or salmon populations in California.

During 1995, the Department's Fish Health Laboratory sampled wild trout from around the state to gain information on the distribution of the WD organism. Samples of tissue from the skulls of trout are examined microscopically for the presence of spores. New sites which tested positive this year include Bear Creek, below Big Bear Lake, in southern California and several sites from the North, Middle, and South Forks of the Stanislaus Rivers. Although the organism was found at these locations, no symptoms of the disease were observed in wild trout at any of the sites.

Outings

Paul and Kim Roccoforte

May Outing Was Guaranteed!!

The May fishout to Gold Rush Ranch was well attended. You should have been there! Everyone caught fish! **Steve Bertrand** caught what may have been the record for this pond. He caught a 5 pound plus largemouth bass on a green Dahlberg diver. This fish was as big as Scruffy the fishdog. When Scruffy was not "pointing" bass for **Rick and Fran Radoff**, he was relaxing in his custom made seat on Fran's Water Otter.

The entire **Hickman** family attended and **Simone** and **Ariel** got into some sunfish. **Joe** and **Barbara Bania** arrived in the morning with their pram and had caught lots of fish well before Paul and I arrived. **Frank Stolten**, **Tom Klinefelter** and **John Lewis** also attended. You'll have to ask these folks how well they did.

The "guarantee" of fish proved correct so next time don't kick yourself when you read "you should have been there."

It's Time For The "One-Fly" Fishout

Plan to join GBF for the weekend of June 15 and 16 at Indian Creek Reservoir for the annual "one-fly contest.

The campground has been reserved with room for 40 flyfishers on Friday and Saturday nights. The Bureau of Land Management operates this campground so the club received a very low rate for the entire group site which means that you can bring the entire family for the weekend at no cost! Space is available on a first come basis with one main parking areas for RVs and cars. Plan to carry in your tent and supplies to the campsites which are located right on the lake.

Sign-ups for the one fly contest will start at 8 AM Saturday morning. The fishing will start at 9 AM, with a lunch break from 12 to 1, and end at 3 PM. We will fish in 4 person teams chosen by drawing. There is a \$10 entry fee. There will be great prizes for the entire winning team. Get the written rules, map and sign-up at the June general meeting or call the fishmaster for information.

Second Annual Rucker Lake Fishout July 13

Remember to plan on joining us the weekend of July 13 for a campout and fishout on this "primitive" camping mountain lake. Rucker Lake is near Fuller Lake, not far from the Bear River Project. We met lots of new folks to fish with on this outing last year, and hope to make it an annual get-together.

From the Editor's Desk

Bruce Bartholomew

I would like to thank everyone who submitted articles for the June Leader for getting them in on time. It sure makes my job a lot easier. The cutoff date for the July Leader will be Saturday, June 22.





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Conservation Report

by
joe Bania

Whirling Disease

Whirling Disease is considered a plague by some biologist, others say we'll have to live with it. "KILL THE FISH TO SAVE THE HATCHERY" was an approach taken by Utah's Department of Wildlife resources in 1991. The disease was detected in the relatively closed drainage of Utah's Femont River, and Utah biologists decided that, to save the fishery, they would destroy the fish. Whether they would propose such a radical solution today is highly doubtful

Whirling Disease (hereinafter referred to as WD) is most frequently transmitted to trout when they ingest tubifex worms infected with a protozoa named *Myxobolus cerebralis*. The parasite attacks the cartilage of the spinal column and skull, causing deformation of skeletal structure and death. It usually affects young members of the salmonid family (particularly rainbow trout). As the trout grows older and the cartilage hardens to bone, the parasite remains in the fish in the spore form, and may be released when the fish dies to begin the cycle of infection over again.

WD has been documented in wild trout populations in 11 states so far and is strongly suspected in at least 9 more. Currently there is no known cure or vaccine to prevent the disease. WD can be spread in several ways: the spores can move downstream with infected fish, or even free-floating worms; it can move from river to river through the use of live bait (particularly sculpins); the hardy worms can be transported in river mud, and on shoes or boats; transportation by predatory birds is suspected but not proven; and of course, the planting of infected hatchery-raised trout.

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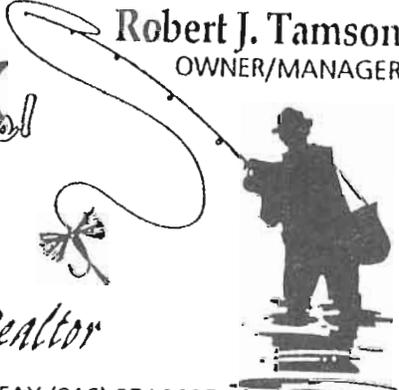
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Keep in mind that there are permutations of each of these categories, and that they are guidelines, and not hard and fast rules. The point is, however, that the angler's success curve will tend to be more vertical if he/she learns to watch for these telltale signs, observes them carefully, and *then* turns to the fly box.

In the meantime...practice observing fish, appreciate the place and the moment, and think sparse!!!



Robert J. Tamson
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Granite Bay Fishing Guide

Norm Rossignol

For those of you that have not yet got the word about our "GBF Fishing Guide," we have started to collect information on local waters that most of us frequent. The idea is not new, but something our club members would benefit from. We are looking for input from all the membership to provide information about some of their favorite fishing waters. Things that we are asking for are:

1. Name of the place
2. How to get there from Sacramento
3. Map of how to get there or help us draw one
4. Type of fish available
5. Type of equipment to use
6. Types of flies you found to be the most productive
7. Is there camping available? Fees?
8. And any special information that may be of use or interest.

There will be a form available at our club meetings throughout the remaining year, and hopefully, we will have a good start on our book. We don't know how much the book will sell for, probably under \$20, but contributors will get special consideration on the purchase price. If you would like more information on the book, please call me at home after 6 PM. at 363-6435, and I'll be happy to fill you in on all the details. Or send in your information to Norm Rossignol, 9153 Rosewood Dr., Sacramento, CA 95826.




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SOME OBSERVATIONS ON....OBSERVATION

by

A Thinly Hackled Emerger

Part III

In the April Leader we considered, in general, the principle of "centered observation"--meaning the **totality** of one's sense of awareness. It is understanding and believing that I am connected to, and one with, this place where I find myself at this moment in my angling experience. The whole point is learning to use this concept to improve your overall experience, and your angling success. In the May edition, we considered how that concept applies to observing fish in their own environment, and how the angler can use "total immersion" to improve fish-spotting skills.

In this edition, let's see how centered observation of some of the various riseforms can increase angler success--"some", because there is a bewildering array of possible explanations for a particular riseform, when in fact a fish may be exhibiting behavior particular to the stream, time of day, type of food available, type of current, and a host of other variables.

Centered observation of riseforms is broader than simply looking at a set of concentric circles and saying, "oh, yeah, that fish is nymphing", or "splashy rises indicate surface feeding", and then flinging a fly. Of course, it must begin with actually *seeing* that bulge, or "head & tail", or splash; and, equally clear, it will end with one or more casts of a fly in the direction of the disturbance (and, hopefully, a stuck fish). It's what the angler does (or doesn't do) in between these two moments in time that defines the angler's conscious awareness and ultimately (at least in the author's view) potential for success. If a mistake is made in this critical interval, the inevitable result is a spooked fish.

Let's begin with the "seeing" part. A lifetime friend and guide, barely concealing his momentary irritation with me while standing at my left shoulder as I drifted my "double renegade" through a drop-off at the end of a river island, ordered me to make my next cast to the exact same spot. Sensing his eyes boring into the back of my head, my intelligent reply was "huh?". He said something like "didn't you see that bulge near your fly at the beginning of the drift?". I replied that I hadn't, as I was concentrating on my tippet where it enters the water. He then asked "well, did you see the

second bulge in the same place, when you picked up for the next cast?". Once again I replied that I hadn't, but in this instance I had no excuse--and, I got the message loud and clear: why was I still watching my leader/fly when I picked up, and not observing the water? In other words, my lapse in awareness--presence--nearly caused me (but for my friend) to miss a clear **chance** at a husky fish. I will spare you the fish story.

So, riseforms are not always accompanied by splashy sounds or visible concentric rings; the angler should observe the water during every moment that she/he is not actually eyeballing that indicator or Comparadun, and learn to recognize bulges or upwellings indicating the presence of (usually) a large fish.

Assuming that the angler is observant enough to have spotted the riseform, and has resisted the urge to immediately fling the fly to the "ring of the rise", some general knowledge of riseforms is needed to "bracket" the situation and narrow the possibilities. [Of course, if fish are rising regularly, and the angler has previously observed and identified the activity, immediate casts to a riser are an absolute joy.] Here are a few time-tested, well worn guidelines:

(i) "Splashy" rises indicate feeding on adult insects; the faster-moving the insect, and the larger the insect, the splashier the rise will generally be. The reason for this is that fish recognize insects that can get away quicker, and react accordingly. Thus, rises to adult caddis are generally of the "slashing" sort.

(ii) Quiet, steady rises indicate feeding on smaller insects, spinners, and stillborns. This is a corollary to the first guideline--in this case, the quarry generally cannot escape quickly or at all, and so the fish conserves its energy by rising slowly and steadily. These rises are sometimes accompanied by a noticeable bubble, and/or a "sucking" effect. In the latter situation, the fish will generally be a large specimen--I learned this the hard way on Hat Creek.

(iii) "Head n' tail" rises can indicate feeding on a variety of things: emergers; rising nymphs; and "midging". But one thing's for certain--they are picking up food in the surface film.

(iv) Bulging rises--sometimes not readily discernable--are linked to fish taking nymphs which are on the rise, with the upwelling caused by the chase.