

Granite Bay Flycasters
P.O. Box 1107
Roseville, CA 95678-8107



Granite Bay Flycasters

Mission: The organization is dedicated to conservation of fish habitat and promoting fly fishing skills and good sportsmanship.

Meetings: Granite Bay Flycasters general meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Granite Bay clubhouse located in the Granite Bay Group Picnic Area at Folsom Lake. For directions call Drake Johnson at (916) 783-0343.

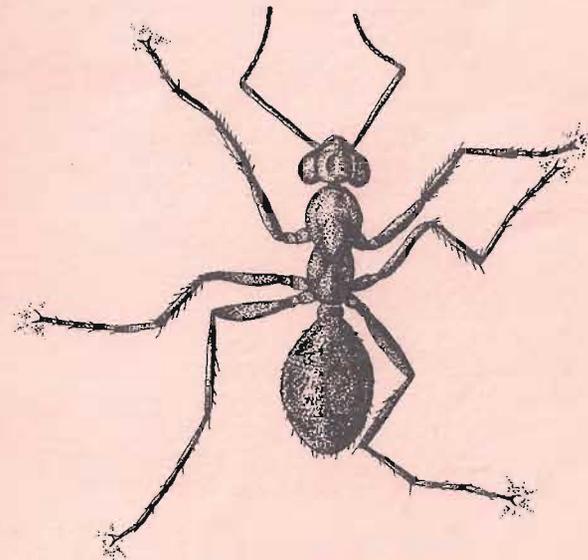
The doors open between 6:30 and 7:00 PM for socializing and fly tying demonstrations. The business portion of the meeting begins at 7:30 followed by a quick refreshment break after which the main program begins, which usually consists of a slide-show talk and/or demonstration. A dynamite raffle follows the show.

Membership: To become a member of Granite Bay Flycasters, a nominal fee is required: \$35 for a family; \$30 single; and youth (under 18), \$10. There is a \$7 initiation fee for new members. The cost of membership is pro-rated throughout the year. For membership information, call Jim Ferguson at (916) 781-2358.

The Leader

Voice of

GRANITE BAY
Flycasters
Since 1986



June 2000

Visit us at: www.gbflycasters.org

June at a Glance

2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 General Meeting 7-10pm	9 Fish Out: Kirman Lake	10 Fish Out Kirman Lake
11 Fish Out Kirman Lake	12	13	14	15 Board Meeting 7-9:30pm	16	17 Fish/Fun Out Fuller Lake
18 Father's Day	19	20 Fly Tying Jam Session 6:30-9pm	21 Summer Solstice	22	23 Fish Out: Eagle Lake	24 Fish Out: Eagle Lake
25 Fish Out: Eagle Lake	26	27	28	29	30	

Officers

President	Drake Johnson	916-783-0343
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Through 2002	Jeff Medina	916-353-1992
At Large	Christine Johnston	530-644-4061
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Golden Trout	Jeff Medina	916-353-1992
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	Mac Hunter	916-791-0359
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Special Projects	Frank Stolten	916-725-6894
Raffle	Mike Wasserman	530-677-7189
Refreshments	Terry Wasserman	530-677-7189
Webmaster	Bill Avery	916-632-1275
Youth Counselors	Jeanne & Ron English	530-677-7169



The Tail-Out Section

By Chris Ronshausen, Editor

I was talking to a fellow employee the other day. She was telling me how bored she gets when she is “dragged” out to go fishing with her husband. She posed, dead-pan, in the way that she remembered the event--rod in hand, waiting for a fish to bite...waiting. She described the event in hilarious fashion; the look on her face told nine-tenths of the story.

So I told her that one of the main reasons I took up fly fishing was because it was so exciting and challenging. She didn’t understand, having never seen anyone fly fish (except in commercials), that “fishing” could require any *particular* skills. And so I explained to her that fly fishing required of a person keen attention to detail, good hand-eye coordination, careful and quiet movement and patience, among other important attributes. I told her that the time of season makes a difference of where one fishes and how; that knowing insects, their habitat and their life stages, is crucial; and that a fish’s behavior is predictable (to a point), and by knowing it, your success rate climbs. “These are some of the things that you become more attune to when you take up the sport/art of fly fishing that are not *as* crucial to know when fishing with standard methods,” I told her.

Well, I may not have affected her enough to transform her into a fly fishing junkie, but I’m guessing that the next time she’s “dragged” out to go fishing, she’ll take a more inter-active approach and won’t be so bored.

Wayne Eng

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June Program@The Clubhouse:

Steve Beck--in the Sierra

Steve Beck has fly fished the Sierra for twenty years from his nearby home in Merced (the “Gateway to Yosemite”) CA, where he lives with his wife and two young children. As a freelance writer, he has written articles for national fishing magazines. Steve’s first book is *Yosemite Trout Fishing Guide*. While “researching” this book, Steve estimates that he hiked over 1000 miles exploring Yosemite’s scenic waters while catching and releasing thousands of colorful wild trout. Steve Beck’s most recent book is *Trout Fishing the John Muir Trail*, published in Feb. 2000.

After devoting many years to becoming intimately acquainted with Yosemite and its trout, Steve turned his attention to the spectacular high country of the southern Sierra. During the past few years, his summers have been pleurably spent hiking the John Muir Trail, with fly rod in hand, exploring its sparkling waters. Of his work on both books he says, “Fishing for the most beautiful fish I know, in the most beautiful place I know, has been a labor of love.”

Enjoy the “fruits” of Steve’s labor at the next General Meeting as he outlines some of the premier fishing areas--some not-so well known--in the Sierra Mountains while enjoying his insights on how best to catch these wily mountain trout.

Table of Contents

1...June Program <i>Steve Beck</i>	13..Flytyer’s Corner <i>Bird’s Stonefly</i>
3...President’s Message <i>Drake Johnson</i>	15..Folding Hackle <i>Jim Cramer</i>
4...Announcements	18..Volunteer Board
6...Up-Coming Programs	24..The Tail-out Section <i>Chris Ronshausen, Editor</i>
10.. Conservation Corner <i>Rob Ferroggiaro</i>	
12..Flytying Skills Program	

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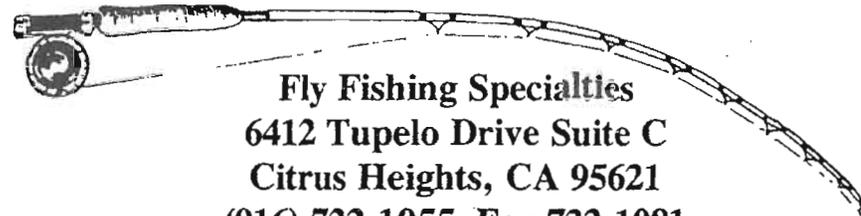
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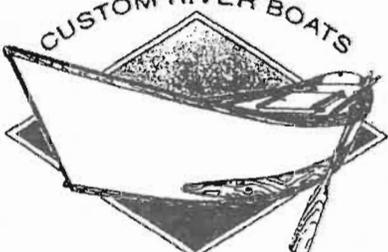
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President's Message

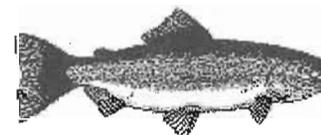
Drake Johnson

My wife and I visited Sedona, AZ at the end of May to learn to be better golfers and to enjoy the scenic beauty of the area. Sedona is truly a magnificent place. Everywhere you look there seems to be a more spectacular view of mountain and sky. If you haven't been there, get there.

I did manage to get some time away from golfing and shopping to wet my line on Oak Creek. Oak Creek is a relatively small stream that runs through Sedona and provides the lifeblood for this desert community--water. I didn't catch any fish but finally got to where I could spot them, and then they wouldn't take any of my offerings. I'm sure if I had more time I would have figured out the system. It is a very beautiful place to fish, although I didn't get to spend as much time fishing as I would have liked. After all, it was a golf vacation and a celebration of my wife's birthday. (Too much fishing--and at the wrong time--can get you in trouble sometimes.)

We have a number of club outings scheduled for the months of June and July. They will provide a great opportunity for us to meet up with old friends and for new members to get to know us better. Denny Welch is leading the Fuller Lake fish out on June 17th and wants to make it more than just fishing. He has suggested that you come on up and fish if you want to, or just bring you folding lawn chair and something to eat and spend the day with your friends. We'll do a little barbecue in the evening and enjoy the early summer in the Sierra's. Given how the weather has been lately, it should be nice up there. I hope you will plan on bringing yourself and your family and friends to this impromptu get-together.

Be sure to check out the many opportunities to get involved with the club that are listed in The Leader. Also, note the new rules for the fly tying skills contest on page 12. The objective is to encourage the tying of flies and the development of skills, not to determine which people have the most advanced skills in tying. Try tying June's fly pattern on page 13 with the intent to hone your skills while having the chance to win a prize. Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting, or on the water.



Announcements

Did You Remember Your Badge?

When you get up in the morning and prepare for work, you follow a routine, a well worn path of behaviors and movements that ensure that you don't "forget anything." You get to a point where this routine is so well cemented that when you're driving along to work, you don't have the least bit of anxiety that "something is missing."

Let's try to get in to the same routine when preparing for a General Meeting. There are things to bring to the meeting that are essential, and at the top of the list should be your name badge. While other things are essential, like *lots* of money for the raffle, a good fish story and a good attitude, the badge should be number one on your list of things to bring since it identifies you as a member and helps members identify you. Keep in mind, there's no risk of forgetting names when you've got the badge, and an anxiety sometimes greater than leaving home thinking that there's "something missing" is when you forget a person's name with whom you had a good conversation with the week before. Don't forget the badge.

For those who have lost their badge, talk to Jim Ferguson at the General Meeting about getting a new one or call him at (916) 781-2358.

The Bear River Must Flow!

Our club has finished the original project of restoring the 1200 ft of stream in the meadow area, except for ongoing repair and gardening. Our next job is to restore the river flow into and through the 800 ft. oxbow just upstream from the first project. We anticipate this can be accomplished in 2 weekends of work. Because we will have a backhoe working in the old stream bed, we must wait til late summer so the ground is as dry as possible.

Please reserve one of the two first weekends of Sept. for the club. We will need every possible pair of hands to pull this off. Mark your calendar now: Sept.2-3 & Sept.9-10. Sometime this summer drop by the Bear Valley and look with pride at what we have done as a club so far. And if you have time, take a rod and hunt for the browns that live in that beautiful place. Jim Coleman

Editor's note: To see how our stewardship of the Bear River extends beyond the arduous work we've done as a club to restore its banks, look closely at the document on page 10 in this issue's "Conservation Corner." The letter, written by our close affiliate NCCFFF, outlines the concerns we share for the watershed.

should be decommissioned and removed.

8. Potential loss of constructive, informal flow management practices:

Historically, PG&E has voluntarily exceeded its FERC mandated minimum flows in numerous projects to meet critical needs for downstream habitat. However, the operator's license only specifies a minimum flow, and the water right maximum, with the owner technically free to do anything within these limits. Actual flow history should be compared to FERC required minimums. Where the actual historical flows exceed the minimums, the potential transfer to a new owner represents a risk of a negative impact on the public interest. The EIR should quantify and evaluate all discretion in the current licenses and measure the impact should this discretion be fully exploited by a new owner. An assessment must be made whether or not assumption of this risk is in the public interest.

This analysis should include potential changes to ramping rates, particularly for descending flows.

9. Identification of lands actually covered by FERC licenses:

The EIR should provide more accurate categorization of PG&E lands. Currently, the lands identified as "FERC Lands" contain extensive acreage not actually covered under FERC License. While it is possible to ferret out the facts, the presentation of this information currently is misleading and effectively overstates the protection the public can count on as a result of FERC regulation.

10. Operation of facilities having different ownership, but in the same watershed:

The EIR must assess the potential risk of having multiple owners for hydro projects diverting the waters in a common drainage. In this situation, there will be lost opportunity to coordinate the operation of these projects to benefit the environment. The EIR must evaluate the potential impact of having a system where projects in the same watershed are no longer operated in conjunction to maximize environmental benefits.

In summary, we urge you to fully consider the interests of the public in protecting these critical lands. Potential buyers of these properties will spend a fortune on consultants and supposed experts, intended to influence these proceedings for the financial rewards of aspiring owners. The decisions you make will determine the fate of 140,000 acres of California lands and many of the state's most popular recreational rivers and streams. The result of this process will be your legacy to future generations.

have the expertise or resources to operate the projects efficiently, safely, or with adequate environmental protections. A realistic, effective enforcement process must be documented and in place prior to the transfer of any assets.

5. Preservation of important recreational properties:

As a condition of transfer, property associated with physical facilities should be protected by conservation easements. Properties without physical facilities should be made available for trade or purchase to agencies that manage adjacent public lands, particularly in sensitive wilderness areas, areas with significant recreational value, and along designated and proposed Wild & Scenic Rivers.

Where the recreating public of California sees prime recreational lands and lands of tremendous historic value, debt ridden owners will see potential golf courses, condos, and clear cuts. Some of these properties have been the subject of successful restoration efforts. It was never intended that our utilities owners become development companies. The public must be assured that these properties are protected for future generations of Californians.

6. Assurances of flows necessary for fish and for healthy aquatic habitat:

The EIR must examine the possible impacts of new owners having different objectives for operating these projects and different rights/abilities than PG&E. Currently PG&E has consumptive rights to a very small percentage of the water flowing through its powerhouses. A new owner with "area of origin" water rights could establish new, consumptive diversions that would be even more damaging than PG&E's operations. The potential effect of resulting change in operating and diversion practices must be fully accounted for and mitigated.

Some local counties and water districts desire to acquire these projects not for hydropower, but to control diversions for consumptive purposes, which may result in additional adverse changes in river flow regimes. This represents a serious threat to the public interest and to the public downstream of these facilities.

7. Compliance with the Clean Water Act - a requirement for transfer:

All projects should be certified as meeting Clean Water Act standards. Noncomplying projects should have their operations modified or they

continued next page

* *Special Clinic for GBF Members*

UPPER SACRAMENTO AND MCCLOUD RIVERS

For GBF members, we have set up a special weekend clinic on the Upper Sacramento and McCloud Rivers. The guides will be **Ron Rabun** and **Bill Carnazzo**, both licensed local Dunsmuir guides. The dates are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 14, 15 and 16, 2000. This is "prime time" on these rivers, and a tough time to find guide days. A flyer on this will be passed out at the May general meeting, and will be available again at the June and July meetings. However, the clinic will be limited to the first six to sign up and pay the cost. If more than six want to participate, we will set up a second clinic.

Included:

- * 2 guided days (Saturday and Sunday) on the rivers (Friday will be a "fish together" day)
- * detailed and comprehensive instruction on techniques, gear, wading, safety, flies etc.
- * three nights' lodging on the river in a private house in Dunsmuir
- * meals on Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday morning, including a sumptuous prime rib feast on Saturday night (alcoholic beverages, if desired, are to be furnished by the individual and are not included)

Cost: \$399 per person (maximum 6 persons) \$150 deposit required

*Look for the flyer at the June General Meeting for more information or call **Bill Carnazzo** at (916) 663-2604.*

Take Note Master Tiers!

An aspect of the Flytying Skills Program will change starting this month in the following way. For those entering flies in the "non-beginner" category, the member whose fly is best tied will have ultimate bragging rights, as it has been. However, now *all members* who participate in this category will enter a raffle, the winner of which will receive the gift certificate of \$25. Now, *everyone* entering this category will have a chance to win the big bucks! But remember, only *one* member can win bragging rights--which is priceless.

Up-Coming Programs/Activities

—In order of occurrence—

4th Annual Fly Fishing Clinic North Yuba River--June 25th

This clinic is intended for beginners, or those who don't yet consider themselves intermediate level anglers (whatever that means). We'll be fishing a scenic section of the North Yuba above Downieville, located approximately 2 hours from Roseville.

The clinic will be conducted by Bill Carnazzo, club member and fly fishing guide, who has decades of fly fishing experience and has extensive experience on this river. Experienced GBF "coaches" will be on hand to provide more individualized help. We'll start in the morning learning and using nymph fishing tactics, then after the lunch break, we'll switch and get pointers on dry fly fishing. The tactics you learn will be applicable to other freestone rivers. The clinic is flexible so you can get as much or as little help as you want. There will be plenty of time for actual fishing, and we'll point out access points to keep in mind for future trips to this beautiful river. You can end the day on your own schedule. Those who are interested usually meet in Downieville for pizza at the end of the day.

If you will have non-anglers joining you, there is a lot to see and do in the area. While this is arranged as a day trip, over night accommodations of all types are available if you plan ahead.

A flyer will be available at the June meeting with the details including meeting location to car pool, directions to the river, flies, other equipment you'll need, etc. You will need to bring a lunch.

Normally by this time the water isn't too high, but conditions are hard to predict. Fishing freestone streams requires a fair amount of walking, sometimes over irregularly shaped boulders. If this is a concern, please talk with us and we'll try to accommodate you.

We limit attendance so that everyone can receive personal attention, so sign up early. There will be a \$15 fee, payable in advance, to hold a spot. If the event is oversubscribed, preference will be given to those who haven't attended this clinic previously.

You must have signed our club liability waver to participate. There is a \$15 fee payable in advance. To insure the effectiveness of the clinic, attendance will be limited. Sign up at the June club meeting or call Bill Carnazzo at 916-663-2604.

this road (Humboldt/Humbug Rd.) for about 7 miles to Humbug Valley. Take the first left just as you enter the valley to the PG&E campground.

CalTrout Will Organize workers and provide fencing materials and provide cold drinks.

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Volunteer Board

Fishmaster

Ron English, who has been the Fishmaster for the last few years, deserves a break. **We could use someone new to take up this responsibility.** The Fishmaster will work with The Board to establish fish-outs through the year, insuring that a leader is assigned and that everything is in place for that day. It should be made clear that the Fishmaster is not required to lead every fish-out, but that he/she may enjoy leading several. This position requires a general knowledge of California (Northern and Central mainly) fisheries and the time and passion necessary to effectively help prepare for these events. This position is ideal for someone interested in building a career as a guide since it requires a mind for planning a fishing itinerary and knowing where the fish are. **For more information about this essential position, call Ron English**

Cal Trout Restoration Project Assistant

What: Repair cattle exclusion fencing along Yellow Creek. In the 1980's CalTrout spearheaded an effort to build a cedar split rail fence along the majority of this spring-fed, meandering meadow stream.

When: Saturday and Sunday, June 24 and 25.

Where: PG&E Campground--Yellow Creek, Humbug Valley (see map below).

What to Bring: Camping essentials. Work gloves, fence pliers or large pliers, and a hammer. Fishing rod.

Directions: Yellow Creek is located in Humbug Valley west of Lake Almanor near the town of Chester. Take Hwy 89 to Lake Almanor. About 5 miles south of where Hwy 89 and 36 intersect, look for a sign to Yellow Creek/Humbug Valley on the west side of Hwy 89. Follow

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Fish Outs



June 9-11

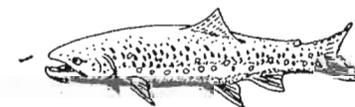
Kirman Lake
with Mike Kaul

Mike's been here a number of times and says it's one of his favorite places to go. Kirman Lake is located at the base of the Sonora Pass (hwy 108) on the eastern side. It is one of the least fished lakes in that region, partly because it requires some work to get there. "There's a short hike involved which keeps a lot of people out," says Mike. "I often take my mountain bike--mostly pushing it on the way up--and leave my camping gear at the Forest Service campground below." Incidentally, Bridgeport is a stone's throw away for those seeking more comfortable accommodations.

At the lake, you'll find brook trout early in the year (June, that is) and some cutthroats, although the larger cuts are more numerous later in the season. Mike marvels at the life that exists in this lake which is lined sparsely with vegetation. "You can walk along the bank and see leeches and scuds flitting through the water. It's amazing!" No wonder the brook trout get to be football size! For more information and directions, talk to Mike at the General Meeting or give him a call at home: (530) 677-8022

June 17

Fuller Lake
with Denny Welch



Fuller Lake is located just over an hour from the clubhouse toward Reno, at about 5000 ft. elevation. It's a great place to fish, and there's a nice place for the rest of the family to just hang out and watch the pine trees sway in the wind. Bring a picnic along and make a day of it! For those of us who'll do nothing but fish, fish, fish, Denny Welch will turn us on to the hot spots (and from what I hear, that lake is *on fire* right now!) And for those on the shore just soakin' up the sunshine, refreshments will be provided and the briquets will be a'glow, ready to accept your favorite picnic fare. Take this chance to reconnect with club members you haven't seen for a while, and meet those who are new. Talk to Denny at the General Meeting for details surrounding this event or give him a call at home in the evening at (530) 268-3453

June 23-25

Eagle Lake

with Gene Goss and Jim Holmes

This may be quality fishing, not quantity fishing. To land (not hook) 2 or so fish is an average. You will probably hook many more but due to the reeds and size of the fish, actually touching these fish is a challenge. A 19-20j is average size, 25-26" are the ones you land if you are prepared to do battle!

Big water, big wind, big fish and big anchor (5-10 lbs)! This is another chance to bring all of your toys. You can use the following: a float tube to fish the tule channels, a small pram/pontoon boat for fishing outside the tules and covering a lot of water and a motor boat to cover even more water searching for the trout. There is a launch ramp at Stones Landing.

Eagle Lake has miles of great fishing areas; we hopefully will be near some of the hottest. We are selecting this time of the year because traditionally the damsels and dragons are in full swing and you will be sight fishing to very large and aggressive fish. We will probably be fishing with floating lines and using our best damsel/dragon nymph patterns.

We will be either staying at the Stones Landing RV Park, for those of you that are bringing an RV, or at the BLM Campground at the North end of the Lake. This is a NO FRILLS camping spot for \$6.00/night (no reservations) but is very quiet. For more info on Eagle Lake check out the following web site: <http://www.angler.com/web/maps/eaglel.htm> JH

For more information on the Eagle lake fish out, call Jim Holmes (916) 967-6709 and/or Gene Goss (916)962-7375 or talk to them at the June General Meeting.

July 5-10

Crane Prairie, Oregon

with Jim Holmes



We will probably be leaving on or about July 4th for this lovely destination. If the bite isn't on, we may decide to fish more at some of the nearby lakes such as Davis. We will also be going to the only lake on the West Coast that has (small) Atlantic salmon and large brookies (ask John Hogg). This is another trip where you can bring *all* of your toys, RV's, etc. You will need at least *some* floating device such as a float tube. This can be great fishing, or a little slow but the scenery more than makes up for it! Sign up at the next meeting or give me a call! Jim Holmes (916) 967-6709

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Hackle Folding continued

pointing down. And second, as you wrap the hackle, you may have to twist the stem slightly to keep the fibers oriented to the rear. Oh, one more point: you can fold your hackle in advance so you won't have to stop and lay down your tools each time--one more thing to speed up your tying.

*The above method is the classic technique of folding hackle. For those who don't have the manual skills to accomplish the folding, there is an alternate method that some may find easier. I don't think the final results are quite as nice as the above method but it is better than not folding.

Spread the fibers and tie in the hackle by the butt. Grasp the hackle feather by the tip and pull it upright with your right hand. Now using the left hand, stroke and fold the fibers to the rear. Continue the folding as you wrap the hackle.



Bill's Salt Creek *Bill's Olive Trout*

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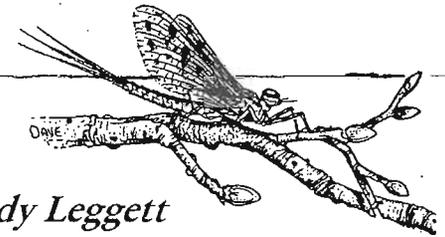
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July 14-16
Wright's Lake
with Rod and Cindy Leggett



Rod and Cindy Leggett are setting up camp at the Wright's Lake Campground on Friday for a weekend of diverse fishing, food and general fun. There are two lakes within a short walking distance, Wright's Lake and Dark Lake, as well as small stream fishing on Lyon's and Silver Creeks. Also, there is a trailhead at the campground to lakes that can be reached in a day hike within the Desolation Wilderness. This is a beautiful spot renowned for its variety of wildflowers, located off Highway 50 near Kyburz. The mosquito population is pretty dense too, so make sure you bring plenty of potent repellent.

Rod and Cindy have had excellent luck catching browns with dry midges on Dark Lake (i.e. Griffith's Gnat and Kaufmann's Hatching Midge), and it's rumored that you can't go wrong with the dependable Woolly Bugger. There's only one reserved campsite left; however if you want to camp, the sites are huge and you may be able to double up (call to check). This is an easy day trip, so it doesn't require an overnight stay, but a Saturday night potluck is in the planning stages. For more info, call Rod or Cindy Leggett at (916) 791-4710.

Alaska Anyone?

Yep, you heard it right--Alaska. Bus Gehring is headin' up there and is looking for some takers'. Bethel sits at about 60 degrees north latitude near the coast of the Bering Sea and is known as a great jumping-off point for fishing adventures. No guides, sparse accommodations...big fish. According to Bus, a Beaver bush plane sets the group down in a remote, prime spot along one of many productive waters and your left there to fish your arm off for the day. "When I was there, I caught four different species of fish on the same water--on the same day," says Bus. "It's just amazing!"

The cost for this trip varies and to discuss the options, Bus has arranged for a pre-planning meeting at Stan's shop. The meeting will be held on June 14 at 6:00 p.m.; anyone interested is encouraged to show up. For directions to Fly Fishing Specialties and/or to find out more about what will be covered at the preliminary meeting, give Bus G. a call at (916) 652-0981.

Conservation Corner

By Rob Ferroggiano

The following is an excerpt of a letter submitted by NCCFFF to Bruce Kaneshiro of the Public Utilities Commission regarding the pending divestiture of PG&E's hydropower facilities and associated properties. The EIR will be completed by September 1 after which there will be a 45 day public comment period. This is an incredibly fast timetable given what's at stake. Anglers will need to be actively involved come September. Rob

Subject: Proceeding #9909053 - Scoping Comments on PG&E Hydropower Divestiture

The Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers represents over 30 affiliated clubs and thousands of anglers. Our members are not only interested in fishing, but they are frequently involved in river and stream restoration projects. They spend thousands of hours annually involved in recreation on PG&E properties, and on rivers controlled by PG&E-owned hydropower facilities.

We are highly concerned about the potential impact of the proposed divestiture and can foresee many potential impacts that would not be in the public interest. The following points must be addressed in the EIR.

1. Need to insure continued public access:

As part of this EIR, PG&E should be required to submit maps outlining all areas that historically have been enforced as off limits to the public. The associated justification must be provided. The maps and justification should be made available for public review. Any transfer of assets which could result in loss of public access should be considered not in the public interest.

We are aware that PG&E was asked to identify any access agreements that might exist. This falls far short of what's required. Historically, the public has enjoyed access to much of these properties, with only minor exceptions for legitimate safety reasons. This access was granted tacitly by PG&E outside of any specific agreement. Specific action will be required to protect public interest and to insure that the public can continue to enjoy these unique recreational sites as we have for decades.

2. Specific Access Agreement - Drum Spaulding Project:

Hackle Folding: The Classic Method

By Jim Cramer

While back at one of our tying sessions I was asked to demonstrate how to fold hackle. The results turned out alright, but I realized the technique was not the best. I have been researching and practicing the techniques of folding (or doubling) of hackle for the past hour so I could report my finding to you. Now I've done my homework, so lets go over it again.

Folding hackle is a technique of stroking the hackle feather prior to wrapping it in so that all the fibers lie on one side of the stem. It is used only on wet flies to the best of my knowledge, and when done properly, the practice results in all the hackle fibers slanting slightly to the rear. The finished result is a fly that is both classic and classy in appearance. It looks especially good on steelhead patterns.

The classic technique, that works best after some practice, is as follows. First, stroke the fibers towards the butt to get them to stand out at right angles to the stem. Then, with the shiny side of the feather facing you, grasp the butt of the feather between the middle and ring finger of your left hand. Hold the tip of the hackle with your right thumb and forefinger. Keeping the feather taut, extend your left thumb up towards your right thumb and place the pad against the feather. Then use your left forefinger to stroke down and to the rear across the hackle fibers as close to the butt as your finger mobility will allow. Done correctly, this will fold all of the fibers to one side of the stem. Moistening your left thumb and forefinger will help, as will a little stroking action with your left thumb, if needed. Keep the feather taut and use as much force as needed with the left thumb and forefinger without stripping the fibers or breaking the stem. Don't ever let your materials give you a hard time; you are the boss. To complete the job, tie the hackle in at the tip where the folded portion starts with the tip extending out over the eye of the hook. Clip the excess tip and carefully wrap the hackle forward so each wrap lies directly ahead of the previous one. Stroke any wild fibers to the rear as you wrap; in fact, just stroke them all to the rear as you wrap; it helps. Two more little tips. First, when you tie in the hackle at the tip, tie it in with the folded fibers

continued next page

INSTRUCTIONS

1. After smashing barb and covering rear of hook with thread, place two strands of moose mane on top of hook and bind down just above rear of barb. Length is 2/3 shank length.
2. Separate the two strands with a figure-8 wrap or two, so that they stick out at a 45 degree angle to the rear.
3. Tie on floss at tail tie-in point and move the floss out of the way.
4. Tie on a furnace saddle hackle just in front of the floss. Move thread up to front of hook.
5. Grab floss with hackle pliers and form a nice smooth body, covering hook to a point approximately 1/4" behind eye. Tie off.
6. Take furnace hackle and rib it forward to same point, and tie off. Trim hackle so it sticks out from body about 1/8".
7. Stack a nice bunch of natural brown bucktail, and tie it in where body ends. Keep the hair directly on top of the hook. It should extend about 1/3 of shank length past bend of hook. Trim butts of hair at an angle to eliminate an abrupt edge. Wing should be full and bushy.
8. At this point, there should be enough room in front of the wing to allow for the hackle. Tie in hackle on top of where butts of bucktail were tied down. Wrap hackle, leaving sufficient room for a nice tapered head.
9. Take two strands of moose mane and tie in, tips out over the eye of the hook, one on each side. The length should be about 1/2 of shank length.
10. Form a nice, smooth tapered head, whip finish, apply head cement to head and wing base.

Fish this puppy high and dry, especially against the bank, drifting it through likely fish-holding spots, or casting it to risers.

See ya on the creek

PG&E has formally granted access to the meadow section of the Bear River south of Hwy. 20 for a project to restore a section of the Bear River. The Bear River Valley in this area is a strong candidate for acquisition by a public agency because of its natural and historic value. To this end, a Land Acquisition Evaluation is currently being processed by the Department of Fish and Game.

The EIR must include alternatives which would insure that the public's interest in this property, and other properties with historic and recreational value, is protected.

The restoration project, which will reverse damage done by grazing cattle, has been underway since 1995. The lead organization for this project is Granite Bay Flycasters, a non-profit conservation organization. The project is under the authority and direction of the California State Department of Fish and Game. Significant habitat improvement has been achieved as a result of restoration efforts already completed. Additional work has been authorized and is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2000.

3. Qualification of buyers:

The EIR must evaluate the potential risks of having these properties acquired by new owners. Stringent qualification criteria must be developed. New owners may not have the expertise or resources to operate the projects efficiently, safely, or with adequate environmental protections. New owners are likely to maximize power output and water diversions over environmental protection in order to pay off their loan debt.

It is possible that ownership of assets could be in the hands of debt ridden new owners, with no guarantee of return on their investment. These new, potentially inexperienced owners, will be under incredible pressure to place short term profits ahead of stewardship of the rivers and lands. The EIR must carefully evaluate the potential impact of this new ownership specifically as it applies to issues such as:

- * Flow management practices
- * Maintenance of aquatic habitat and aquatic species
- * Maintenance and operation of conservation-related equipment such as fish ladders and screens

4. Assurance of enforcement:

The EIR must evaluate how effective enforcement can be conducted if the current system is acquired by multiple new owners. With multiple owners, enforcement of state and federal environmental laws, regulations, and license conditions will be incredibly complex. New owners may not

continued on page 20

FLYTYING SKILLS PROGRAM

Sponsored by American Fly
Fishing Company

Pattern for June Program: Ron's Sili-Bugger
(featured in the May Leader)

Note: This is an educational program/contest. Don't be reluctant to submit a fly! And ask for a critique from a more experienced tier; it will ultimately increase your chances at catching fish--and winning certificates to afford it!

For the winner of each category, American Fly Fishing has generously donated the following prizes for each month's contest:

Beginner: \$15.00 Gift Certificate

Non-beginner: \$25.00 Gift Certificate

* *The winner of the gift certificate in the non-beginner category will be determined by a drawing between those who have entered that specific contest.*

Winner(s) for May:

Beginner: Ken Miller

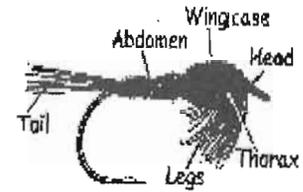
Non-beginner: Ron English

Program rules:

- * judging will be during the meeting
- * best tied fly announced just before program, and name of tier featured in the next month's Leader
- * fly must be tied in accordance with instructions from the Leader (right or wrong, and irrespective of whether you find another version of the pattern in a book somewhere), in order to keep the playing field level. The judges need to make a choice based on a single pattern.
- * two categories: beginner and advanced. Anyone who has won the beginner category twice will have to compete in the advanced category from then on.

Flytyer's Corner

BY
BILL CARNAZZO



Bird's Stonefly

Some years ago, we were fortunate enough to have Cal Bird visit with our club and provide a demonstration on his methods of tying. One of his better known patterns is the Bird's Stonefly. I have used this pattern on streams having a "Salmon Fly" hatch—those big, clumsy bugs which crawl over our faces and arms during a hatch, and which drive fish wild. If you've watched the way this bug flies, you will have noted that its wings flutter even after it hits the water. This trait is important in imitating the natural in a "suggestive" way. Cal Bird's pattern, with its hackle and wing construction, does just that. It is cleverly constructed so that light patterns provide the impression of movement. It is my belief that Randall Kaufmann's "Stimulator" patterns were clearly based on the Bird's Stonefly.

MATERIALS

Hook	Tiemco 5212; Mustad 94831, # 4-8
Thread	Orange prewaxed 6/0
Tail	Dark moose mane, two strands
Rib	Furnace saddle hackle, trimmed
Body	Orange floss
Wing	Natural brown bucktail
Hackle	Furnace saddle hackle, trimmed top and bottom
Antennae	Dark moose mane, two strands