

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 p.m. 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*



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**May 2001**

Visit us at: [www.gbflycasters.org](http://www.gbflycasters.org)

## May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
						Pine Nature Day 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
						General Meeting 7-10:30 p.m.
						Board Meeting 7-9:30 p.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
						Counselors River Conservancy Trip 10 a.m.
27	28	29	30	31		
						Eagle Lake Fish-Out (thru June 3)

2001

## Officers

President	Drake Johnson	916-783-0343
V.P. Membership	Jim Ferguson	916-781-2358
V.P. Conservation	Dave Baker	916-315-0715
Secretary	Chris Ronhausen	916-638-5615
Treasurer	Rod Leggett	916-791-4710

## Directors

Through 2000	Jeremy Gray	916-797-3312
Through 2000	Gray Allen	916-783-4334
Through 2001	Denny Welch	530-268-3453
Through 2001	Nathan Joyner	916-984-2025
Through 2002	John Bergman	916-966-7032
Through 2002	Jeff Medina	916-353-1992
At Large	Christine Johnston	530-644-4061
Past President	Rob Ferroggiero	916-791-0887

## Committees

Advertising	Robert Tamson	916-967-0176
Annual Dinner	Chris Ronhausen	916-638-5615
Bear River Project	Jim Coleman	530-885-4128
Casting	John Hogg	916-663-2051
Casting Pond Project	Tom Klinefelter	916-363-6634
Leader Editor	Amy March	530-333-9530
Salmon & Steelhead	Rick Radoff	916-624-2107
Education Program	Frank Stolten	916-725-6894
Fishmaster	Arno Dietzler	916-483-8711
Fly Tying	Bill Carnazzo	916-663-2604
Gatekeepers	Mike Gervais	916-783-5477
Golden Trout	Jack Peuler	916-797-1547
Historian	Denny Welch	916-353-1992
Librarians	Warren Schoenmann	916-725-2542
Merchandising	Jim Hunter	916-652-5057
Programs	Mac Hunter	916-791-0359
Special Projects	Mike Brune	916-723-4524
Raffle	Bill Carnazzo	916-663-2604
Refreshments	Frank Stolten	916-725-6894
Webmaster	Jeanne English	530-677-7169
Youth Counselors	Terry Wasserman	530-677-7189
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## President's Message

by Drake Johnson

Trout season is now open, and it is time to get on the water hunting for those beautiful trout. We should get a great report from the Hot Creek crew at the meeting.

As you can see from our fish-out schedule we are sponsoring a number of opportunities. Mike Brune will be leading a fish-out to Eagle Lake. Mike goes to Eagle Lake regularly this time of year and can give good advice on how to fish this fine water.

It's May, and that means it's time to nominate officers for the club elections in June. Nearly every position is available. New leadership brings new ideas that can help the club grow and meet its members' needs. If you're interested in being an officer or board member please let one of the existing officers or board members know. If you have any questions about the commitment required or what is involved give me a call.

Sugar Pine Nature Day is May 12 in Foresthill from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will be there with our youth fly tying program, teaching kids to tie woolly buggers. Even if you don't know how to tie flies, come on out. You can learn in 5 minutes and then join the fun with the kids. Pete Peterson is coordinating this project, so let him know if you want to help.

We also have scheduled a trip to the Cosumnes River Nature Conservancy for May 26, starting at 9 a.m. Dave Baker is coordinating this event and is making arrangements for lunch. We would like to arrange for fishing in the afternoon and are looking for someone familiar with the area to lead us to fishy waters—maybe on the Mokelumne River. If that someone is you, don't be shy. Here is your chance to shine, and help other club members find some new waters.

Finally, thanks to Chris Ronhausen for coordinating this year's dinner. He took on the assignment late in the planning process and carried it out most effectively. Thanks also to his wife, Michelle, for her hard work and contributions—and for putting up with Chris's diverted attention! Thanks to the dinner committee and to all the people who helped out at the last minute. Each of you did a great job making this year's dinner successful.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting or on the water.

## Announcements

### Sugar Pine Nature Day

The club will participate again at the annual Sugar Pine Nature Day Saturday, May 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Foresthill. Volunteers are needed in the GBF youth fly tying booth. If you're interested in volunteering, please sign up at the May general meeting or talk to Pete Peterson.

### Consumnes River Conservancy Trip

The purpose of this outing is to gain a little conservation knowledge, take part in a facility tour, and enjoy an informal free lunch (hosted by Granite Bay Flycasters). We plan to meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 26 at the Conservancy, located near Lodi. After lunch, we will spend the afternoon fishing on the Mokelumne River, below Comanche Dam. We will have more details on the afternoon fish out at the GBF general meeting in May. The Nature Conservancy, a group sponsored in part by the club, is working hard to improve this river.

### British Columbia Adventure

A few GBF club members are planning a British Columbia adventure to the Kamloops area to lake fish for the world famous, high-jumping Kamloops trout. Some of us went on a similar trip two years ago and had a marvelous time.

Says Jim Holmes, "We are tentatively planning to leave the 14<sup>th</sup> of June and return the end of June. It takes two days to get to the fishing areas and we stay two-three days at each lake. We will be camping/RVing although Kamloops is a surprising large city with all of the usual amenities. Non-fishing wives are invited; Kamloops is a great place to shop! The Canadian dollar is still quite depressed; you will be surprised at the bargains!"

If you are interested in this trip, call Holmes at (916) 967-6709.

### **A Spring Day on the Rubicon, Part II *continued***

My friend Mark, with whom I fish regularly, is a case in point. An inveterate dry fly advocate, Mark would relentlessly pound each pocket with a Humpy or Royal this or that, often watching numerous perfect but sterile drifts. His perceptive reading of the water, in terms of fly placement, was faultless. At times when I made the switch to subsurface flies, Mark watched with interest as I hooked a fish or two, but soon shrugged and returned to delicately presenting the dry. Inevitably, the day arrived when he asked for my rod and a few pointers on drifting the nymph. I think the husky rainbow I took with the bead head Hare's Ear, from a short riffle he had just declared barren, must have done the trick. The lesson here is that although backcountry trout often eagerly take the dry, this will not always be the case. Being flexible and ready to change tactics, flies, and rigs are essential—and, in general, a nymph will find its way into the jaws of the stream's larger denizens (which in backcountry waters may only be 10 inches).

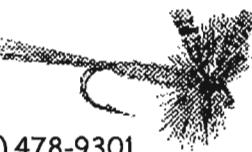
"So, Ty, off with the Simulator and on with the strike indicator and Bill's Stick Caddis." The rest, as they say, is history...for this day on the Rubicon, anyway.

Facing an hour's steep uphill hike at 4 p.m., I slipped the pack rod into its sock and stuffed it into its niche on the side of the daypack. After dipping my kerchief into the cold water one last time and placing it between my head and my hat, I followed Ty up the initial leg of the little path. Stopping at a rough switchback, we scrambled out onto a rock outcropping to gaze back on the shimmering ribbon framed by spring's bounty of verdant alder foliage. The sun was just dropping over the westerly edge of the canyon, and the last of its glow lit an orange fire on the water and the river's bleached boulders. Together with the sheer ecstasy of fishing for wild fish in these places, such moments are what drive me inexorably back to the backcountry.

Picking out the faint deer trail to where it crosses a small creek, we set off in earnest. The creek found, we made our way to the main road. From there we easily covered the distance back down to the trailhead and our cold "reward" locked safely in the 4 Runner.

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Announcements *continued*

## Fish-Out at Eagle Lake

The dates for the Eagle Lake fish-out have changed. The trip will now take place Wednesday, May 30 through Sunday, June 3. Mike Brune will act as fishmaster.

## Thanks to Volunteers at Kiene's Fly Fishing Festival

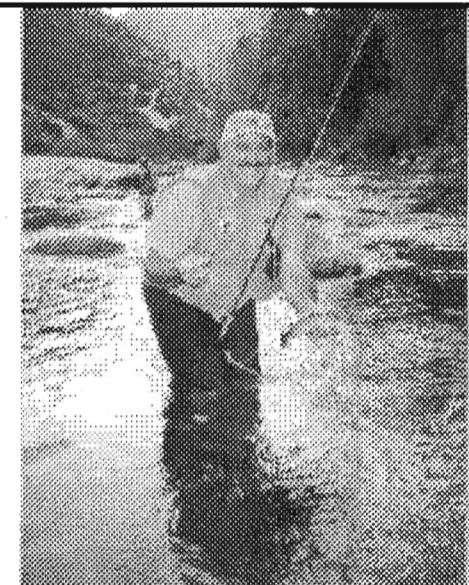
Thanks to Pete Peterson for coordinating the set up and take down of the GBF display at Kiene's Fly Fishing Festival Saturday, April 21. Also, thanks to Joe Bania, Jim Holmes, Jim Hunter, and John Bergman for manning the booth. Thanks to anyone else who happen to spend a little time and help out. I understand from Pete this was a great show and the weather was perfect. --Drake

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## Upcoming Activities

### Fly Fishing Basics

May 14 and 21

At this clinic you will learn how you can catch more fish and increase your enjoyment of the sport of fly fishing. "Fly Fishing Basics" will be a good foundation for our "on the river" clinic scheduled for Saturday, June 16.

The clinic will be held on two consecutive Monday evenings, May 14 and 21 from 6:30-9 p.m. at the clubhouse. All club members are invited to attend. The fee is \$15 and payable in advance. Signup at the May general meeting.

If you have questions about your tackle or other gear, bring your these items with you to the clinic.

#### Topics to be covered:

1. How much of that stuff in the catalogues do you really need?
2. Checklist of essential equipment
3. Choosing the right tackle
4. Learn from our mistakes; helpful hints
5. Rigging your tackle
6. Making sense out of all those fly patterns; choosing the best flies (no Latin required)
7. Fly fishing tactics to get you started catching fish
8. Recommended fishing locations and guides
9. Questions and answers

While the main focus of this clinic will be on trout fishing, the instructors will be happy to provide information on other types of fly fishing as time permits. We do not teach casting, so those interested in casting skills are encouraged to attend one of our Sunday casting clinics.

If you have questions about the clinic or have specific interests, please see Rob Ferrogiaro, Bill Carnazzo, or Sturmer White.

### A Spring Day on the Rubicon, Part II *continued*

My only chance was to try to slow and turn the fish with the Ross's drag as it took line. The tactic worked and the 4X held, but the stubborn brown shook its head as it held at the bottom of the slot. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, the warrior tired and came to the old fold-up net. Its photo taken, I rejuvenated my brilliantly marked prize by gently cradling it and allowing the current to oxygenate its gills. Still in a crouch, I watched it swim free. Thump, thump, thump... glad no one could see the idiotic grin on my face.

The knowledge that probably no one else will ever hook that reclusive backcountry brown hung deliciously on my mind as I scratched Ty's pointy ears. Queenslands like that.

Moving upstream, I glanced at my watch. It was nearly 2 p.m. now, and we still had a mile or so of marvelous pocket water before reaching the nearly imperceptible deer trail that would get us out of the canyon. With hope, winter's fury had not obliterated it. The terrain upstream of the cliff hole is gentle, but the afternoon's spring flow dictated hugging the bank and fishing each pocket quickly but thoroughly.

The cliff hole specimen having destroyed the remains of the Humpy, I dismantled the rig and bent on a #12 Royal Stimulator while scoping the currents in the placid hold before me. I crouched behind a large rock at the tailout and sidearmed the dark fly up the near bank. After it drifted back unmolested several times, I covered the remainder of the pool with short casts, carefully reach-casting the fly around to prevent lining any inhabitant. On the last cast, a tiny but precocious rainbow slashed the surface and missed.

After repeat performances at the next several fishy looking pockets, I found myself turning over rocks. Caddis cases! Streamside conifers and tiny pebbles provide building materials for caddis, those strange little masons, whose homes sometimes tear loose from their moorings in the spring flow. Understanding this phenomenon common in backcountry water can turn a frustrating day into a reasonably productive one.

*continued page 15*

## A SPRING DAY ON THE RUBICON, Part II

By

Bill Carnazzo

*Part I of Bill Carnazzo's "A Spring Day on the Rubicon" appeared in the April edition of The Leader.*

Gazing down one last time into the pool, I mentally marked the location and feeding rhythm of two nice browns hugging the opposite wall just beneath the scum line. "OK, Ty, let's go rip some more lips."

Reaching the river 50 yards upstream of the cliff pool, we backtracked downstream across logs, over and around boulders and berry vines to where streamside willows and alders forced me to wade a short but swift riffle down to the Volkswagen-sized boulder at the head of the pool. From that upstream vantage point, I could clearly see the trailing scum line forced vigorously against the far wall by the pool's incoming current. My only chance was to roll cast the line, leader and flies right into the wall, letting it fall well upstream of the two "finning" trout, with enough slack to allow a drag-free drift down to their position, fly first.

The roll cast hit the wall 10 feet above the spot I had marked the two browns. Just before the line dropped to the water, I lifted the rod tip to retrieve the slack, and then dropped it quickly as the leader and flies settled to the surface. The current swept the thrashed Humpy into the scum line, with the Prince swinging below. As the tan fraud approached ground zero on the slack tippet, the familiar chest thump kicked in. Ready to lift the rod quickly in anticipation of a take on the Prince, I was startled when a brutish brown slammed the Humpy in a slashing rise, then dove straight down in an effort to shed the steel now paining the corner of its jaw. Rising from my crouch, I sought a route downstream to give chase to the fleeing trout. Two steps were all I had; beyond that, the pool's depth and the steep walls forbade entry.

*continued next page*

## The Club Treasurer's Perspective

By Rod Leggett

The past 15 months have given me a privileged view of the generosity of the GBF members. Chris Ronhausen has done a great job complimenting and thanking you for your contributions to the annual dinner. I would like to expand on those comments and show what the dinner has meant to the club in terms of dollar signs.

Each of the past two annual dinners has added over \$10,000 to the club coffers. The big money makers at the dinner this year were the silent auction and the raffle. Each made over \$4,000 for the club while allowing club members to walk away with some really nice prizes.

The two dinners have doubled the net worth of the club from around \$15,000 when I took over in January 2000, to over \$30,000 now. This fundraising has allowed the board to make some important moves to make the club financially sound and further its objectives.

With some of the money raised we have set aside a contingency fund to carry us through an unforeseen catastrophic occurrence. Last year the club contributed nearly \$5,000 to conservation-related organizations such as the California Sport Fishing Alliance (CSFA), Save the American River Association (SARA), South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL), the Dry Creek Conservancy, etc. This year our budget for those organizations should more than double.

What a great event the dinner is for all: club members get a fine dinner and a great speaker. Many even take away some great prizes, and we all get a chance to socialize with our fellow fly fishers. And, the club uses the proceeds to further the conservation efforts to which we are all so dedicated.

The success of the annual dinner is only possible through the generosity of all of you who participate. I am proud to say that I am a member of such a fine organization! Finally, I would be remiss in not mentioning the major role that the area fly-fishing shops play in the dinner. They made substantial donations to the dinner and were strong in their attendance. The next time you're in one of the shops, be sure to thank them for their contributions.

# Bighorn Buddies

by Carol Blackman

We arrived in Big Sky country—eight of us, the Browns and the Blackmans—to a beautiful afternoon at the Angler's Edge guest house overlooking miles of alternating rows of green and brown fields, wheat and clover, flat prairie under a blue Montana sky.

We immediately rigged our fly rods and Peter, the organizer of the group, gave us some casting tips so we could practice before our first day on the river.

The next morning Peter paired us with four great guides. My daughter, Abbie, and I lucked out with a wild-spirited "homegrown" Fort Smith man with a great smile.

The drift boat in the water, I hit a big wild rainbow with flaring fins. Then a second one, this time a German brown. As we began floating, both Abbie and I hooked into one rainbow after another. "Skinny Nelsons" were working for us. We continued this pattern all the way down the river. A wild trout of a day!

From our guide we learned a lot about the river and the difference between a German brown and a Lochlaven brown. We saw beaver, deer, and muskrats, and hundreds of birds, including eagles and herons; we hunted morels at a "secret spot" on an island and.

The next day I went out with another quide and learned how to "rainbow" the line over to bring the line upriver to drift again, then leave slight slack line with the drift to continue stack-mending to get a longer drift.

The third day brought stormy weather. As my son and his friend, Matthew, drifted down the river, a funnel cloud swept over them. So strong was the wind that it tossed Matthew around and ripped the rod from his hand. The cloud missed my son, so he rounded up the rod and net that were tossed out.

On this same day, I fished again with my daughter. We were quite successful at "Carl's Hole."

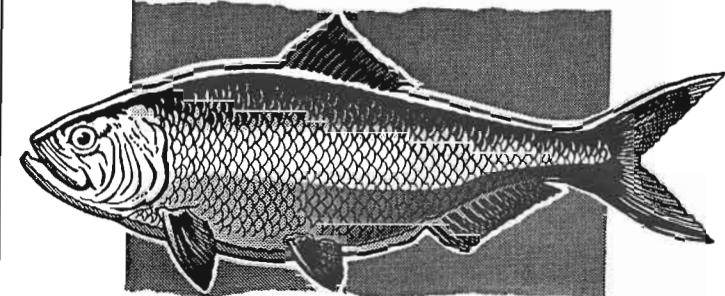
Each day we landed at least 30 fish a piece, using nymphs and dry flies. The Bighorn is a great river for beginner and advanced anglers.

We had a memorable trip with lots of laughs with good friends. We all decided to make this an annual event.

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**Flytiers Corner** *continued*

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Cover hook with thread and tie in ribbing wire at a point just above back of barb.
2. Dub a tapered abdomen, covering the rear 2/3 of the hook.
3. Rib the abdomen with the green wire.
4. Dub the thorax/head, covering the front 1/3 of the hook, leaving enough room for a head.
5. Legs are optional. Tie the legs in as a beard, short.
6. Form a nice head, whip finish, and admire the simplicity of the product.

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## FLY TYING SKILLS PROGRAM

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**Pattern for May Program: Callibaetis Emerger Pattern  
(featured in the April Leader)**

*Don't be shy, submit a fly! Ask for a critique from a more experienced tier; it will ultimately increase your chances at catching fish--and winning certificates to help support your habit!*

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

**Beginner: \$15 Gift Certificate**

**Non-beginner: \$25 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.*

### April Winners:

Non-beginner: **Ron English**

Beginner: **Curtis Frank**

### 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

## Flytier's Corner

*by Bill Carnazzo*

### ***Rhyacophila Caddis***

The genus Rhyacophila is prominent in the first few weeks of trout season in the early spring. It is bright green, varying from 8 to 15 millimeters in length. The larvae are free living, meaning that they are neither cased nor web-spinners. They are commonly known as "green rock worms." Common fishing techniques consist of standard single or double fly nymph rigs, or using a large dry as a dropper with the "rhyac" as the point fly, and a microshot on the tippet. There are many "green rock worm" patterns; this particular very simple version was originated by Randall Kaufmann.

### Materials

<b>Hook</b>	Tiemco 200R; Daiichi 1270; Mustad 9671; #12-20
<b>Thread</b>	Brown 6/0 or 8/0
<b>Abdomen</b>	Creamy green antron dubbing (rabbit is good sub).
<b>Rib</b>	Fine green wire
<b>Thorax/head</b>	Mixture of green antron and black haretron
<b>Legs (optional)</b>	Black hen hackle

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