

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

July 2012

www.gbflycasters.org

President's Message

by Dennis Baker, GBF President

So at the June 14th meeting it became official, Mike Howes is your new President of the Granite Bay Flycasters. Larry Goodell and Tom Petty, having served out their terms as Directors, are replaced by Scott Vaughn and David Jones. Ed Lloyd has stepped up to Director at Large for 2012/2013.

I would like to say "thank you" to the entire club's membership for their support and assistance over the last two years. We have done a lot together to help the club grow and remain active in our sport.

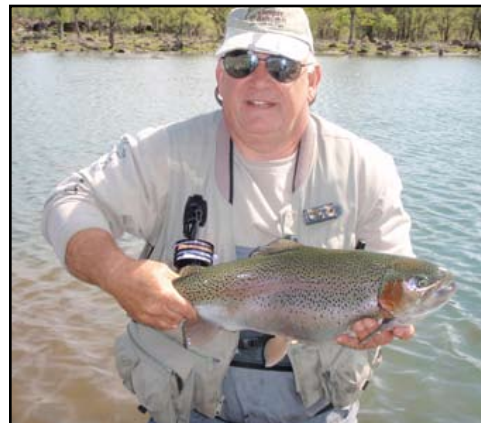
Mike Howes wants you to know that there will be additional improvements during his upcoming term as President.

Our Annual Picnic was a great time, with almost perfect weather. Those who stayed in the Bear Creek Campground had fish stories to tell, and food to share.

The One-Fly Tournament went off Saturday morning as scheduled. Drake Johnson caught the first fish. Doug Kytonen caught the largest fish, a 16" brown. Mark Pinski carried his team of Dick Davis, Mel Odemar and Wendell Edwards for the team win. Each may claim their prizes at the July meeting.

Finally, the date has been set for the 2013 Annual Fund Raising Dinner (March 16, 2013) at the Maidu Community Center. So, mark your calendars now so you do not schedule any other event on that date!!

See you on the water.



Clarifications

by Bill Carnazzo

I've been asked a lot of questions lately about my guiding plans, etc. There seems to be a lot of misinformation out there, so I thought I'd make things clear. Rumors seem to fly faster than the speed of light (which, I've read, may now be exceeded by certain sub-atomic particles—sorry about that, Mr. Einstein, and try not to roll over in your grave).

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Anyway, for those who care, here it is:

1. Beginning in 2013, I will no longer be doing classes and clinics for GBF—including the Fly Fishing 101 class, the "Beyond the Basics" fly tying class; the North Yuba Nymphing Clinic; or the Upper Sacramento Clinic.
2. I will continue to do the "Fly Tyer's Corner" article for the Leader, at least for 2013.
3. I will indeed continue to guide at the following venues:
 - a. Upper Sacramento River, albeit in a limited manner and on an advance reservation basis.
 - b. The Upper Middle and North Forks American River, but no more than 3 days per week.
 - c. The North Yuba River, on an as-requested basis.

Continued on Page 3

J U L Y 2012						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1. Conservation Committee Meeting	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
8.	9.	10.	11.	12. Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM	13.	14.
15.	16.	17. Fly Tying Jam	18.	19. Board Meeting 7:00 PM	20.	21.
22.	23.	24.	25.	26. East Carson River Fishout	27.	28. Round Lake Fishout
29.	30.	31.				

Monthly Program

Greg Vinci, noted regional fly fishing writer and photographer, will be the speaker for the July meeting, and present a program on fishing the eastern Sierra in the Hwy 395 corridor, also known as California's Trout Highway. It begins at the Carson River drainage, and covers most of the best waters south to Bishop, finishing at the Owens River Gorge. Most of the photos in the presentation were acquired for illustrating his many articles on Eastern Sierra fly fishing.

For twenty years, Greg operated Sierra Pacific products, a fly fishing distribution and manufacturing business.



Since selling the business in 2010, he has focused on writing and contributing photography to most of the fly fishing publications in the US. He also developed www.California-FlyFishing.com, which is a portal to the most popular fly fishing destinations in the state. Additionally, he works as a marketing and product development consultant to fly fishing manufacturers and importers.



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Clarifications - Continued from Page 1

Those are the facts—the reality. I will be devoting my time to other pursuits in the fly fishing world, including finishing my book on the Upper American River and fly pattern design, but mostly just being “out there” talking to trout, where it really does count for something, where cell phones are useless, where iPads don’t work, where Facebook, Twitter, Linked-in and all similar “social media” are (and for me always have been) laughable distractions to be avoided, and where “Ma Nature” teaches school 365 days a year.

Save the Dates and Fish the Truckee in August!!!

The August Truckee fishout dates have been set. Because of the massive and enthusiastic turnout we had last year, there will be two (2) fishouts this year—one on a Saturday and one on a weekday. Each event will be limited to 15 members (no guests please!).

Truckee-1: Saturday Aug 18th

Truckee-2: Wednesday Aug 29th

Sign up at the July or August meetings, or contact me if you can’t make the meetings. Please sign up for one or the other only. If you really want to do both, contact me directly and I’ll put you on a stand-by list, should turnout be light. Note the names used to differentiate between the two events. Please do not sign up unless you are 99.9% sure you can make it, as the slot you take may prevent a more earnest member from participating.

Members who sign up will receive ample information on flies, rigging, methods and access points. I will attempt to provide coaching for beginners if I can recruit a few experts. However, to adjust expectations for beginners; while many fish were landed last year, some by first-timers, the Truckee is not an easy stream and often humbles the best. But....it’s only 90 minutes away, it’s a quintessential and beautiful Sierra river, with wild rainbows and browns—some very large, and an excellent venue to develop your skills on short-line and indicator nymphing, swinging traditional soft hackles wet flies, stripping buggers and streamers, and throwing dries...and there are ample access points a short walk from your vehicle. This river has it all!

And...as an extra added bonus for Truckee area fans, ED LLOYD will be leading a Little Truckee (aka “LT”) fishout on **Sat. Sept 15th**. Stay tuned for further info from Ed. edlloyd@att.net

Eric Palmer – Fishmaster
ejpalmer@pacbell.net
916-987-1359

Caster's Corner

by John Hogg

The Upside Down Loop Cast

Late in May, we had an informal gathering of casting enthusiasts at John’s pond. I had a new cast to share which is called the “Upside Down Loop Cast (UDL Cast). It’s kind of like an underhanded flip cast (also called a pendulum cast) that is often employed when throwing bass plugs. But the UDL cast goes further, by actually uses a defined tight loop – upside down of-course - that can travel further and maintain a lower trajectory than a flip. It is a valuable cast for getting under wharf pilings, or tree branches where a straight ahead approach is required. THE UDL cast actually starts as a variation on the roll cast, with the starting position of the rod being behind and horizontal to the caster and with slack line laying on the ground that will provide a ‘d-loop’ formation which will load the rod.

Reading back on this, I can see it is getting convoluted, so you might want to see a demo at this web address: <http://www.sexyloops.com/movies/usdloop.m4v>. (Be forewarned, this demo can take about three minutes to load.)

Casting topics email distribution

Last March during the Casting Clinics, I accumulated a list of about 30 members who either participated in the clinics as either a student or instructor. Since then, I have made sporadic use of this list to announce informal casting practices, and other topics of interest related to flycasting. (rather than utilizing more general and usually more urgent EBLAST.) If you would like to be added to that list, please send me an email at johnhogg@sbcglobal.net.

Fishmaster's Corner

by Eric Palmer, Fishmaster

As Last month I promised a “Top-10” fly fishing reading list. Obviously the meager lists below barely scratches the surface of the probably thousands of books on fly fishing published over the past 100 years, but you have to start somewhere. We also know that if you ask 10 people for a Top-10 list, you will get 10 very different lists. My intent was to provide a plausible starting point for the beginner to intermediate fly fisher that covers most of the facets of this complex art. Some of the titles below are from my library and others were recommended by a handful of our more accomplished club members. Once I got started, I realized a “Top-10” list is impossible, so there’s a second list of venerable classics. I regret omitting names of many other famous and accomplished authors ... there are just too many and you probably already know who they are.

Why bother with the dusty old classics of yesteryear describing seemingly obsolete if not bizarre techniques and materials? There’s a good reason, aside from the fact that I’m fortunate to own several of the books from my Dad’s collection. From our monthly club speakers, clinics, classes, fishouts and of course new books being published almost monthly, we are constantly exposed to the relatively new and modern techniques and materials of fly fishing; indicator nymphing, short-line nymphing, Spey casting, Tenkara, ultra-light rods and reels (now titanium rods), a near infinite array of fly lines, fluorocarbon leaders, synthetic tying materials, new variations on old flies, etc., etc.

For me anyway, to really appreciate and understand the sport, it’s important to know how we got here. That is, how did our parents and grandparents fly fish? How did they manage with what to us seem like crude and implausible equipment and materials; leaders from animal gut, steel fly rods, non-breathing rubber waders up to your arm pits....really? They not only managed, they excelled and set the bar high for us, and if you read the older books, you will be amazed at how many of the old techniques are the foundation of, if not identical to what we do today but perhaps known by a different name.

The reading list in no particular order:

1. **Trout Bum** by John Gierach – A quick reading collection of enlightening and humorous essays on fly fishing. (My favorite - chapter 3 on “knowing when to set the hook”)
2. **Drag Free Drift** by Joseph A. Kissane – All the info on leader theory and design you could ever want.
3. **Fly Fishing Stillwater for Trophy Trout** by Denny Rickards – The Stillwater bible by an acclaimed Stillwater guru.
4. **Nymph Fishing** by Dave Hughes – 5 stars on Amazon.
5. **Wet Flies: Tying and Fishing Soft-Hackles, Winged and Wingless Wets, and Fuzzy Nymphs** by Dave Hughes - 5 stars on Amazon.
6. **Nymph Fishing for Larger Trout** by Charles E. Brooks, Illustrations by Dave Whitlock. A classic by an early pioneer in the art of nymphing and insect identification, pub. 1976.
7. **Fish Food** by Ralph Cutter – The definitive treatment of the bugs trout eat by a local guru.
8. **Tying Nymphs** by Randall Kaufmann – Just one of Kaufmann’s three excellent books on tying.
9. **The Fly Tier’s Benchside Reference** by Leeson and Schollmeyer.
10. **Fly Rod Building Made Easy** by Art Scheck – Gets excellent reviews for the 1st and 2nd time rod builder.

A few classics for extra credit:

1. **Fly Fishing the Sierra Nevada** by Bill Sunderland. A relatively newer classic with 5 stars on Amazon.
2. **Trout** by Ray Bergman – An old-school wet-fly/soft hackle classic pub. 1938.
3. **Steelhead** by Claude M. Kreider – Another old-school classic from the 1940’s.
4. **Steelhead to a Fly** by Clark Van Fleet – A 1951 steelhead classic, rare (\$\$\$). Read about

Continued on Page 5



Fishmaster's Corner - Continued from Page 4

the Klamath River Lodge below Orleans on Hwy. 96, then stay there and fish the private run behind the lodge where Van Fleet and pals fished in the 1940's.

5. **The Compleat Angler** – Izaak Walton, pub. 1652 (not a typo).
6. **Minor Tactics of the Chalk Stream** by G.E.M. Skues, pub. 1910 (the first book on nymphing)

So ... check the club library, check your local library, browse amazon.com or check with friends for a copy to borrow. Start at the top of the list or start in middle and work both ways, but whatever you do, get a book and read!

Having said that, while some book-learnin is necessary and important, we do not master fly fishing without getting wet, and frequently, so here are some opportunities in coming months to get wet, hone your skills and get some fish in your net.

July 26 – **E. Carson** tour/fishout with Bill Carnazzo and Greg Vinci – FULL, this is just a reminder.

July 28 – **Round Lake** hike-in with Scott Vaughn.

August (date TBD) – **Truckee River** fishout with Eric Palmer

Sept 3-9 – **Bridgeport** with Bill and Bev Hagopian

Sept 15 – **Little Truckee** fishout with Ed Lloyd.

Oct 11-14 – **Upper Sac** fishout with Eric Palmer and nymphing clinic with Bill Carnazzo.

Thanks for your time, good reading, and see you on the water,

Eric

The GBF Library — Check It Out

by Kim Lloyd

The Library recently acquired 3 fly fishing DVDs that are worth watching.

- 1) "Wet Fly Ways with Davy Wotton" is a 2-hour introduction to traditional wet fly fishing. It demonstrates, among other things, different presentation techniques, when to use a floating or intermediate fly line, how to configure the flies on your line and how to tie special knots. All this and they catch some nice fish, too!
- 2) "Chuck Echer's October Caddis (using a Paraloop "V" Hackle Technique)" is a non-commercial video created by a local fly fisherman from Pollock Pines. This video provides a brief history of tying caddis flies before demonstrating how to tie the fly and what materials work best.
- 3) Bass Blast – Vol. 1 is a fairly short 49 minute video that focuses on targeting largemouth bass in shallow water habitat, whether by stalking along the shore or using a pram. More fish are caught - per minute - on this video than the previous two videos combined.

Granite Bay Flycasters Classifieds

To place a classified ad, you must be a member in good standing of the Granite Bay Flycasters. Classified ads will run for only one issue of The Leader, unless the seller requests it to run longer. Submit your listing to: fstolten@comcast.net with subject line: 'GBF: Classified'. Or mail your info to: Frank Stolten, 8290 Country Lake Dr., Orangevale, CA 95662. All ads must arrive by the 15th of the month to be included in the following month's Leader.

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Conservation Corner

by Henry Sandigo, VP Conservation

This is a recap of a report I sent out a year or so ago. It is still relevant, because of the observations I continue to make along various rivers and waterways: American, Sacramento, Feather, Pit, Folsom, Shasta, Tuolumne, New Melones, Bear River and of course the beautiful (depends on ones perspective) Delta. At these places along the banks and at the bottom, debris lies, this stuff is staring right at us. Carry a bag with you and pickup what you can, carry it home and trash it. Preach the gospel of healthy water to your fishing friends (fly or bait), pass on to me a place that you feel needs work and I'll try to make it happen. Get Involved in your fishing community.

Here are links to places you can get information about on-going projects. These sites are dedicated to conservation, and getting things done.

TU Trout Unlimited, here, the stories cover places near and far, and the people that you may meet someday fishing at that special place you always wanted to fish at.

<http://www.tu.org/>

Endangered Species Coalition - Find out what is happening to the protected wildlife in areas that you frequent, lived in or have known of.

<http://www.stopextinction.org/>

NCCFFF - The Northern California Council serves the fish and fly fishers of the northern parts of California, Nevada, plus Hawaii and Guam These folks are the watch dogs of our local waters, communities, working hand in hand with many fly clubs to protect fish and fishing.

<http://www.nccfff.org/about-nccfff.html>

McLoud River Keepers - This is a stewardship group made up of clubs, organizations, fishing companies, guides, fishing folk. Their purpose is to protect the habitat of the McLoud, and protect the rights of fishers to a State licensed season.

<http://www.mccloudriverkeepers.org/index.html>

South Yuba Rivers Citizens League - Is a leading voice for protecting and restoring the Yuba River and the greater Yuba Watershed Foundation

<http://yubariver.org/>

California Coastkeeper Alliance - CCKA coordinates, supports, and enhances the work of the local California Waterkeeper programs to provide a statewide voice for safeguarding California's waters, and its world-renowned coast and ocean, for the benefit of all Californians and for California's future.

<http://www.cacoastkeeper.org/about>

SalmonAID, is a non profit dedicated to restoring rivers, wild salmon species, and the communities that depend on them for survival.

<http://www.salmonaid.org/>

The Green Awards - Environmental community and Green Giant recognizing individuals making a difference in communities across the country. A good place to find whats happening.

<https://www.thegreenawards.com/Default.aspx?v=45>

Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency - To reduce flood risks, minimize impact on human safety, health and welfare and to preserve and enhance the environment amongst other things. They have a good environmental plan.

<http://www.safca.org/>

Save the American River Association - A grass roots organization dedicated to protect, enhance wildlife habitat, fishery and resources of the American River



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Parkway. They have many events that keep the river area clean and beautiful for all to enjoy. Check this one out as soon as you can. GBF has a spot where we regularly weed for the Red Sesbania plant, a very invasive bush - if you have a moment go to this site to see a PDF of how your participation can help.

<http://www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/archive/pdf/May%20sesbania.pdf>

<http://www.sarariverwatch.org/>

American River Parkway Foundation

- The mission of this organization is to support the preservation, protection, enhancement, and appreciation of the American River Parkway. GBF partners with this organization also to control the Red Sesbania devil.

<http://www.arpf.org/weed.shtml>

Save Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead - SARSAS is trying to do with one stream, the Auburn Ravine, what must be done to all streams and rivers on the entire West coast. Make the stream navigable for anadromous fish.

<http://www.sarsas.org/>

Cal Trout - To protect and restore wild trout, steelhead, salmon and their waters throughout California.

<http://caltrout.org/>

Fish Bio - ISHBIO is a dedicated group of fisheries research and monitoring scientists, engineers, and technicians that specialize in counting, tracking, and analyzing fish and wildlife populations throughout the world.

<http://www.fishbio.com/>



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Fly Tyer's Corner

by Bill Carnazzo

Pheasant Tail Soft Hackle

If you were confused by last month's fly article, specifically the last paragraph before the "materials" list, I apologize. That paragraph is part of the template that Kent Ripley graciously created for this column. It was my fault that it got included in the final article.

This month I'm going to give away a little secret about nymph fishing for trout, and soft hackle flies. It's no secret, of course, that my method of nymph fishing is the "short line" or "tight line" technique. The rig sports two flies. The bottom fly (aka "point fly") is normally a large, heavy fly such as Bill's Stick Caddis or a Jimmy Legs; the upper fly, usually a small nymph such as a Dark Lord or PT is on a perpendicular dropper. OK, so what does that have to do with soft hackle flies? Well, here's the rub: I almost always add a third fly to the rig by tying a short (12-14") piece of 5x flourocarbon to the bend of the point fly, and lash a soft hackle fly to the other end. Of course, this complicates the situation because, if this rig is aerialized for any reason (which would be a bad mistake resulting from either striking upward instead of downstream, or from actually trying to back cast the rig), it will inevitably, horribly tangle mercilessly.

The soft hackle adds a new dimension to the short line drift. Normally, the short line drift ends when the line is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ downstream. With the addition of the soft hackle, the line should be allowed to continue to drift all the way to the immediate downstream position. The reason for this is that beyond the $\frac{3}{4}$ point in the drift, the leader begins to rise in the water column due to the upward pressure of the moving water on the tight leader. This upward movement is where the soft hackle shines, and does its work by resembling an insect (mayfly or caddis) in the process of emerging by swimming upward. The soft partridge hackle moves subtly in the current, imparting life to the fly. The secret, then, is that your drift serves two different purposes, doubling your chance of a hookup. I've been quietly testing out this theory for a long time, and I'm now convinced, based on actual results, that it really works. And there is a bonus: Sometimes a trout will take the soft hackle during the short line part of the drift.

I realize that this all sounds highly technical—and I suppose it is. But if you want to increase your catch rate (assuming you know how to properly use the short line technique), you should give it a try. I have chosen the Pheasant Tail Soft Hackle fly pattern because it is on my "ten deadliest flies" list. If you want to read up on soft hackle flies, there are two good, relatively recent books on the subject: one written by Dave Hughes, and the other by Allen McGee. They are available at most fly shops, or through Amazon.com.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Hook:	Tiemco 101, sizes 18-12
Thread:	70 denier flat nylon, olive
Beads:	None
Tail:	None
Abdomen:	Pheasant tail
Ribbing:	Copper wire
Legs:	None
Wing:	None
Thorax:	Fine, small peacock herl
Hackle:	Partridge
Weight:	None
Head:	Thread

Tying Instructions:

1. Crimp the hook barb. Cover the hook shank with a single, flat layer of thread; stop immediately above the hook point and leave the bobbin there.
2. Cut a short piece of fine copper wire and tie it in at that point, along with 3 natural pheasant tail fibers. Tie the pheasant tail in by its tips and trim the excess. Move the thread forward to a point about 2 eye widths behind the eye.



Step 3

3. Wrap the pheasant tail fibers forward along the shank and stop where you left the thread. Tie off the pheasant tail and leave the thread at the same spot.
4. Tie in two pieces of fine peacock herl at the same spot, by their tips. Trim the excess, and move the thread forward slightly. Take 2 or 3 wraps of the peacock herl—one backward over the pheasant tail, and one or two



Steps 1 & 2

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 8



Step 4

- directly in front of it—but don't crowd the eye. Tie off the herl, trim the excess, and leave the thread there.
5. Tie in a well-marked partridge feather by its tip and trim the excess. Move the thread to the hook eye, and leave it there. The feather should be sized so that when tied in and wound around the shank, the barbules reach to the rear of the hook bend.



Step 5

6. Sweep the barbules of the partridge feather rearward, and take two full

winds around the hook. Tie the feather off, and trim the excess. Whip finish, trim the thread, place a tiny drop of superglue on the end of your bodkin, and cement the thread.

Tying tips:

1. Keep the fly sparse, and avoid a thick body.
2. Use your bodkin to apply superglue rather than squeezing a drop from the bottle directly onto the fly. Your placement will be much better.

Now go crank one of these bugs, go fish it. I live by that simple philosophy.

Enjoy, and see ya on the creek...!!!

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Granite Bay Flycasters

Mission: The organization is dedicated to conservation of fish habitat, advancement of the art of Fly Fishing, and good sportsmanship.

Meetings: General club meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Granite Bay Activities Center on the shores of Folsom Lake. For directions, check www.gbflycasters.org, or call Dennis Baker at 916-580-7639.

Doors open between 6:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. for socializing and fly tying demonstrations. The business portion of the meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. The main program gets underway after a short refreshment break and usually involves a guest speaker and slide show, or other presentation. All meetings are open to the public and visitors are encouraged to attend.

Membership: Applications are available on-line at www.gbflycasters.org and at general meetings. Single membership: \$30; Family memberships: \$35; and youth (under 18): \$10. There is also an \$8 name badge charge for all new members. Membership is prorated throughout the year. For membership information, call John Hogg at 916-663-2051, or visit the website at www.gbflycasters.org.

The Leader: To send articles, photos, ads and other materials, please e-mail to: Frank Stolten at fstolten@comcast.net. Please put **GBF Leader** in the subject line. Deadline for materials is the 15th of each month.

Please notify if address change

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Webmaster
Kent Ripley 916-797-6940
Youth Program
Position Open