

February 2017

http://gbflycasters.org

#### Leader's Line

#### by John Hogg, GBF President



At the January meeting we made sure that everyone, member or not, was wearing a name badge, either their own, or a stick-on substitute, and guess what? Conversations increased, and folks reached out a little bit more to talk to their neighbor. Not a bad way to increase camaraderie! And speaking of that, we are having a New Member Meet and Greet on February 20<sup>th</sup> at Round Table Pizza for the same purpose—to make everyone feel more welcome at the Club. Check the announcement inside for further details!

The donation response for our Annual Dinner Auction and Raffle has been great! Members have donated rods, reels, hand-tied flies, artwork, and cash. Our local fly shops, *Fly Fishing Specialties, Kiene's American Fly Fishing*, and *Orvis* have also been very supportive. And many of the guides that our members have used have donated trips, including **Jim Andrus, Maury Hatch**, and **Bryce Tedford**. If you would like to help, or know someone who would,

please let me know. (<a href="mailto:president@gbflycasters.org">president@gbflycasters.org</a>)

And, don't forget the raffle grand prizes—a Sage One rod with Sage Reel, and an Orvis Helios II rod! A \$2.00 ticket gets you in the running. Go to the website, or come to the meeting to buy tickets. You do not have to be present to win!

#### Monthly Program



Mike Lembke

As the owner of Wollaston Lake Lodge in northern Saskatchewan, Canada for the past 18 years, Mike Lembke has enjoyed learning everything he can about fishing for Northern Pike on the fly.

The concepts he learned, and

subsequently developed, have been put to the test on arguably one of the finest pike fisheries in the world. His presentation will include information on pike biology, habitat, fishing techniques and also touch on pike fly design, concepts and patterns. This is a "don't miss" presentation on a type of fishing few of us have experienced.

#### IN THIS ISSUE

31st Annual Dinner Flyer	4
Calendar of Events	2
Classified Ads	11
Classes and Clinics	2
Conservation Corner	8 - 9
Fly Tyer's Corner	9 - 11
Fly Casting Clinics	3
Great Raffle Prizes	6 - 7
In Defense of Whitefish	7 - 8
Leader's Line	1
Meet & Greet	5
Membership	6
Monthly Program	1
Officers	12
Welcome to Our Newest Members	5
Youth Fly Fishing Clinic	5

$F\ E\ B\ R\ U\ A\ R\ Y\ ^{2\ 0\ 1\ 7}$							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
			1.	2.	3.	4.	
5.	6.	7. Board Meeting 7:00 PM	8.	9. Monthly Meeting	10.	11.	
12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	
19.	New Members Meet & Greet	Fly Tying Jam	22.	23.	24.	25.	
26.	27.	28.					

#### Classes and Clinics

#### by Gordon Tornberg, Director of Education

Below is a list of the classes and clinics that are offered to members. Some have scheduled dates, while others will be scheduled shortly. If you have suggestions for other classes or clinics, be sure to contact me to discuss your needs and ideas. Look for specific dates and times on the web site at upcoming meetings, and in future *Leader* articles.

#### Scheduled Classes and Clinics

#### **Dates**

Fly Tying Jam	Third Tuesday of each month
Rod Building Clinic	On-going as needed
Net Building Clinic	January – April 2017
Tenkara Fishing Clinic	March 11, 2017
Fly Casting Fundamentals	March 25th, April 1st, and April 8th
Introduction to Float Tubing	April 2017 (Date TBD)
Workshop on Novelty Flies	June 20, 2017
Fundamentals of Knots	October 17, 2017
All About Leaders	November 21, 2017

#### Fly Casting Clinics

#### by John Hogg, President

This is to announce GBF's annual Fly Casting Clinics. These clinics are appropriate for all skill levels of casters. If you are a novice, we will get you going, and if you are experienced, we will make you better. The clinics are conducted over three consecutive Saturdays—each day will offer new material.

#### Dates and times:

Saturday, March 25, 10 AM to 1:00 PM

Saturday, April 1, 10 AM to 1:00 PM

Saturday, April 8, 10 AM to 1:00 PM

The agenda will include a 30-minute break for lunch. We recommend you bring a sack lunch, as the lunch time period will be insufficient to drive to a restaurant.

All classes will be held at Gibson Ranch Regional Park. There is a car pass charge of \$5.00 to enter the park.

You must be a GBF member to take this clinic, but there is no fee for the clinic.

We will address the following casts, topics, and techniques:

The 6 essential elements of a fly cast.

Why most fly casters can never cast more than 50 feet.

Roll cast

Pickup & laydown forward cast

False casting

Shooting line to add distance

Introduction to the double haul

Maximizing your distance cast

Rigging and casting for chironomid fishing under an indicator

Rigging and casting heavy flies with sinking lines for bass fishing

Signups can be at the next general meeting, or email to me at <a href="mailto:president@gbflycasters.org">president@gbflycasters.org</a>.



## Everyone's invited to the

### **GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS**

31st Annual Dinner and HUGE

# Fly Fishing Raffle & Auction!

With special guest speaker, JD Richey

Saturday, March 18, 2017 • Doors open @ 4:30pm

JD Richey is a famous Nor-Cal/Sac-Delta fishing guide and accomplished author with decades of local experience – and a lifetime of angling stories and lessons to share! On this evening, he'll reveal his top secrets for finding fish on the beautiful waters of our beloved local Sacramento Delta!



Granite Bay Flycasters is one of the most active fly fishing clubs in the West. This event supports our scholarship and conservation programs and is a great way to meet other local flyfishers! Please join us for this special occasion – and you could win fishing trips, gear, and much more!

Catered Italian dinner @ 6pm. For tickets (just \$40/ea.) and all the event details, please visit our official website: www.gbflycasters.org.



DINNER LOCATION: Rocklin Event Center 2650 Sunset Blvd. Rocklin, Calif. 916-774-5950

10% of proceeds benefit



of Northern California

## Meet, Greet and Welcome Event for New GBF Members (Free Pizza!)

All new members who joined in 2016 and 2017 are invited to attend this welcoming event. Directors and key committee members will also be there to welcome our new members and explain our many activities, and help them get involved. As a new member, here's a chance for you to personally meet some of our most active members!

If you joined before 2016 and still feel like an outsider, you are most welcome to attend as well.

This is an RSVP event because space is limited in the meeting room, and we need to know how much pizza to buy—the food is on us, the drinks are on you.

6:00 PM, Monday, February 20, 2017 Round Table Pizza -Private room 8755 Sierra College Blvd. Roseville, CA 95661 (916) 791-7288

Please RSVP to president@gbflycasters.org John Hogg, President

#### Welcome to Our Newest Members!

by Don Whitecar, VP Membership

Please join me in welcoming new members who have joined us recently. Make sure you keep an eye out for them at our meetings and events so that we can make them feel that they are an important part of our club.

Jerry Furlong Jacob Steffes

#### Youth Fly Fishing Clinic

#### by Gordon Tornberg, Director of Education

This coming April, 2017, the Granite Bay Flycasters will have a special opportunity to get young people interested in fly fishing. <u>The Cameron Park Community Services District</u> has asked us to put on a fly fishing clinic for up to 10 students in ages from 12 to 18 years old.

The clinic is scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon. It will be a two-day clinic, and cover the six essential elements of a fly cast. Students will learn the role cast, the pickup and laydown forward cast, and false casting. In addition, students will learn basic fly fishing needs, including the various types of fly rods, reels, lines, and flies.

In order for the club to make this a successful clinic and encourage an interest in fly fishing, your help is needed. Since the clinic will be limited to 10 students, we should have at least 5 or more members as teachers/coaches.

So, please help out and sign up for this very worthwhile clinic at the February or March meeting.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

#### Membership Renewals are Due

by Don Whitecar, VP Membership

It's that time of year again! I know, Christmas is past, but it's not too late to give a gift to yourself that you'll enjoy all year.

Membership fees are \$30 for individual members, and \$35 for family memberships. An absolute bargain for all the club offers. There are several payment options: cash, check, or credit card at the general meetings, **OR**, you can pay by PayPal on the <u>club's website</u>.

Membership fees and our annual dinner are the major sources of the funds needed to operate our club. As the best fly-fishing club around, the timely payment by our members is an important element in balancing our expenses and income each year. As always, we have an excellent array of guest speakers, fishouts, clinics, annual picnic and other activities planned throughout the year.

Thank you in advance for supporting your club, and we look forward to your continued participation in 2017.

#### Great Raffle Prizes

At each year's Annual Dinner, club member contributions make a huge difference—whether it's donated merchandise or services, or just pitching in some extra funds to help the raffle committee buy more prizes (usually at 'wholesale' or other discounted prices).

Continued on Page 7



Great Raffle Prizes - Continued from Page 6

<u>Please consider donating something for the Annual Dinner in March</u>. Our success at collecting raffle and auction items is directly related to our success at raising the funds to pay for club activities in the year ahead. Contribute now and you'll benefit all year!

Here are some of the kinds of things that club members have donated in years past:

- New, unused merchandise fishing-related or otherwise.
- Flies you tied (favorite or specialty pattern?) in a flybox.
- Other handcrafted goods fishing-related or otherwise.
- Professional services in gift certificate or coupon form.
- Funds specifically designated for the purchase of prizes.

Getting any ideas? If you can help, please contact John Hogg at <a href="mailto:president@gbflycasters.org">president@gbflycasters.org</a>). Any contribution is appreciated, and all donators are duly acknowledged at the dinner.

#### In Defense of Whitefish

#### by Tony Jelinek

Any thoughts of exploring any of the smaller streams in the area have been doused by the deluge of rain. Some of the smaller streams can no longer be called "small." Have you seen the South Yuba lately? Check out this YouTube video of the South Yuba at the Highway 20 Bridge on January 9, 2017—"Yuba River Hwy 20 bridge Jan 9 2017 high water." What do you think—wadeable? (By the way, whoever wrote WORD's dictionary must not be an angler, because the spelling check wants me to change "wadeable" to something else).

As the streams for me seemed out of the question, I started thinking about the Whitefish. For many, Whitefish are the poor stepchild of trout. Nobody wants to catch them. How dare they take my fly, when I am after Rainbow, Brown, or Cutthroat trout. I had one of those days. I found the honey bucket of Whitefish. Every drift there was either a hit or a fish. Oh, please, I am just so tired of catching fish. No, those words never emanated from my mouth. Even when drifting on the river, I would catch a Whitefish, and my boat mate would catch a Rainbow or a Brown.

When we finished our day of fishing and got back to the lodge and started telling all of our very true tales of the day, one angler started complaining about only catching Whitefish. Now, probably because I had caught so many that day, I tried to set him straight that Whitefish are truly a sought after and fun fish to catch. I also think he was more of a "catcherman" than a "fisherman." I think he was primarily interested in only catching fish, a certain type of fish, and please, nothing under 14 inches, rather than enjoying the entire fishing experience of being on the river, reading the current, and relishing the wonderful nature surrounding him. Of course, he replied to me, "Nobody wants to catch Whitefish".



Continued on Page 8

In Defense of Whitefish - Continued from page 7

But, don't they? It was time to check Google and, wham!—Pictures of many happy anglers holding their prize Whitefish catches. They may not get as big as a Brown or a Rainbow; but, I bet a 5-pound Mountain Whitefish caught in the Columbia River would be a bit of fun, or even a 14-pound, 6-ounce Lake Whitefish caught in a Michigan lake.

Ralph Cutter offers some more positive tidbits about Whitefish in the September/October edition of *California Fly Fisher*. Firstly, they belong here. They are a native fish. Those Brown and Rainbow trout are only here "by the grace of man." Whitefish are the "kissing cousin" of grayling. I have always wanted to catch one of those. "Whitefish require fresh, cool, and very clean water to survive. Their existence is a testimony to high-quality water, and they are an indicator species for the presence of mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, and other trout food." In the Truckee River, they were a staple of the Washoe Indians. Without the harvesting and drying of Whitefish in the fall, the Washoe would never have survived winter. Mr. Cutter has also feasted on some East Walker River Whitefish, enjoying the "firm, sweet" meat on a cold midwinter's day. Pound for pound, he would "pit a Whitefish against any brook trout and most cutthroats" he's ever caught.

The next time you catch a Whitefish, appreciate the fine fish you have caught, a native of this land and true indicator that you are fishing some prime water.

#### Conservation Corner

#### by Mel Odemar, VP Conservation

One of the favorite fishing outings of Granite Bay Flycasters is fishing for half-pounder steelhead in the Klamath and Trinity Rivers. However, in recent years, half-pounders in the Klamath-Trinity system have increasingly become less numerous and harder to catch. I know from personal experience the disappointment of days of hard fishing with few fish to show for it. I can't blame all my poor success on my fishing skills, or lack thereof, for I have fished with some very capable fly fishermen that experience similar results.

Over 45% of steelhead fishing effort in California occurs in the Klamath River system, and the unique half-pounder fishery is an important component. Unfortunately, the steelhead fishery has seen a substantial decline, and it is especially true for half-pounders. Gone are the days when researchers working on the Klamath River in the 1970s referred to half-pounders as "river maggots" because of the abundance of these fish in their seining operations on the Lower Klamath. The population of half-pounders was estimated to be over 500,000 fish. The river banks were lined with fishermen using lures and single salmon eggs. The limit then was 10 fish, or 10 pounds and one fish. Many fishermen would set up canning operations, making limit enforcement very difficult. In the late 1960s, I fished with a group that had set up a portable smoke house where many pounds of fish were cured.

Half-pounders are limited to a few rivers in Northern California and Southern Oregon. They are immature steelhead that return to freshwater after spending 3-5 months at sea. They actively feed while in the river, acting like a resident rainbow trout, then return to the sea, and later return as mature fish.



The decline of half-pounders in these waters is well documented, but not well understood. A recent manuscript out of Humboldt State University by Peterson, Hankin, and Manishin states that historically, and at present, nearly all Klamath and Rogue River adult fall-run steelhead have previously returned as half-pounders. In marked contrast, their analyses indicate that the tendency for fall-run steelhead in the Trinity River to return as half-pounders has substantially declined. Whereas almost 80% of the adult

Continued on Page 9

Conservation Corner - Continued from page 8

steelhead returning in 1982 had returned earlier as half-pounders, the estimated rates for adults first returning as half-pounders in the years 1994-2013 averaged less than 10%. This suggests a fundamental change in the life history of Trinity River steelhead.

The findings of the HSU study show there is convincing evidence this change in the life history is occurring in both hatchery and wild Trinity River fall-run steelhead. The authors surmise that both hatchery practices and fresh water environmental factors are likely responsible for the life history change. Additional research is necessary to better understand these issues. Our continued support for the Bill Carnazzo Fisheries Fellowship at HSU is a step in that direction.

As a final thought, there is some reassurance in these finding—that being the lack of our success at catching half-pounders isn't solely due to our own failings as fly fishermen.

Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner (Taken from the Article Written in February 2013)

#### Fly Patterns - Skwala Stonefly Adult



Skwala Stonefly Adult

#### **Materials:**

Hook: Daiichi 1260, size 8-12
Thread: Olive 8/0 or similar thread
Tail: Moose body hair (dark)
Body: Pale yellow dubbing
Ribbing: Black V-rib, midge size

Egg Sac: Black dubbing
Underwing: Black crystal flash
Wing: Same as tail

**Post:** Calf body hair or white synthetic material

**Hackle:** Grizzly saddle dyed brown

**Legs:** Black stretch floss (aka flex-floss)

#### **Description**

Skwala stoneflies begin to emerge soon after the first of the year—sometimes as early as January, depending on weather conditions. Locally, they can be found on the Lower Yuba River, above and below the Highway 20 bridge, where trout and steelhead feast on them. The nymphs have an olive brown to dark brown coloration with a lighter pale yellow underside. As is the case for all stoneflies, they require clean, swift moving water, and won't generally be found in slow moving areas or in spring creeks. Water temperatures need to reach 45 to 47 degrees to commence emergence. The nymphs will travel along the bottom and ascend onto vegetation or rocks.

Because trout concentrate their attention on the shallow, faster-moving water, don't immediately step into the water before beginning to fish—in other words, fish the edges. Mating will proceed along the banks and the females will hover along the water surface to deposit eggs. The male adults are unable to fly, as they do not have fully formed wings.

Nymphs are generally tied in sizes #10-12, and the adults are tied in sizes #8-12. Yellow Stimulators will work if the wings are darkened with a black Sharpie pen, but I prefer this rather simple pattern that has been effective for me. It has its origin in a fly tied by one of our long-time members and angler extraordinaire, Jim Coleman. I have modified it somewhat, but the credit goes mostly to Jim on this one.

Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from page 9

#### **Tying Instructions**

For best viewing: (1) Maximize your Computer Screen Window. (2) Type "Ctrl + or -" to enlarge or contract the photograph display. (3) Use the Horizontal and Vertical Scroll Bars to scroll right and up/down to display larger photos on your screen.

- 1. Smash the hook barb unless you are using a barbless hook. Apply a thin layer of Flexament on the hook shank and cover the shank with thread.
- 2. Just above the back of the barb tie on a small clump cleaned (don't stack it) moose body hair. The tail should be short, as in the case of a stimulator.



Steps 1 & 2



Steps 3 thru 5

- 3. At the same point, dub a small but prominent ball of black dubbing to imitate the egg sac.
- 4. At the same point, tie in a piece of black midge-size V-rib and pull it back out of the way.
- 5. Dub a medium sized body of pale yellowish dubbing. I like to mix in a little olive dubbing with the yellow before starting to apply the dubbing. The body should extend to near the front of the hook, about 1/3 shank length behind the eye. When dubbing is complete, use an olive Sharpie to carefully color the top of the body, which on the natural insect is olive in color.
- 6. Stretch the V-rib so that it is ultra-thin, and rib the body in evenly spaced turns; tie off the rib in front of the body.
- 7. Tie in about 8 strands of black crystal flash at the front of the body for an underwing. Cut and clean a small bunch of moose body hair (don't stack it) and tie it in at the same point. The wing should extend rearward to the end of the tail.



Steps 6 & 7

Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 10



Steps 8 to 10

- 8. At the base of the wing, tie in a clump of cleaned calf body or a small bunch of synthetic white material. Cut the tied-in hair down to about 3/8"in height. This will be the post for the brown hackle. See tying tips below for hints on how to tie this in.
- 9. Cut a single strand of flex floss and double it over. Place it over the post and down onto the shank. Tie it down in front of the shank with 3 loose turns of thread, cut the loop, and pull one strand down on each side of the hook so that the legs form an "X" shape. Now wrap tightly and apply a tiny drop of superglue to the bottom of the post. This will hold everything together.
- 10. Tie in a dry fly quality saddle hackle at the base of the post and apply a bit of dubbing to cover up the tie-in area. Wind the hackle up and back down the post. Tie it off behind the eye of the hook, form a nice small thread head, and whip finish.

#### **Tying Tips**

- 1. In order to properly create the post and parachute hackle there must be adequate room left at the front of the shank. This means that the body must be ended at least 1/3 shank length behind the eye because the underwing, the wing itself, and the post must be tied in ahead of the body.
- 2. To tie in the post, point the tips of the material out over the eye and tie in the butts close against the base of the wing. Once the butts are secured, lift the material up and take a few winds around its base to "gather" the material. On the fourth wind, pull up and to the rear, catching the thread in the butts. This will hold the post vertical. Place a few insurance winds in front of the post.

Fish this bad boy close in to the bank, either upstream or down. You don't need to get into the water—just cast close in and let it drift. I will sometimes raise and shake the tip of the rod to make the fly skitter a bit—a technique use to imitate the "motorboat caddis." Go rip a few lips, and....





L<sup>3</sup> Rods Custom Fishing Rods Supplies and Classes

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# **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:editor@gbflycasters.org with subject line: "GBF: Classified." All ads must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the following month's Leader.



Granite Bay Flycasters 8757 Auburn Folsom Road, #2842 Granite Bay, CA 95746-9998

#### **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 <a href="http://gbflycasters.org">http://gbflycasters.org</a>.

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 **http://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, contact Don Whitecar at 916-804-5384, or visit the website at **http://gbflycasters.org**.

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

Please notify if address change

#### Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

President - John Hogg Annual Picnic 916-709-7340 Wendell Edwards president@gbflycasters.org 916-989-1442 VP Membership - Don Whitecar Casting Instruction 916-804-5384 membership@gbflycasters.org John Hogg 916-709-7340 VP Conservation - Mel Odemar Rick Radoff 916-870-9637 916-961-4435 Classroom Egg Prog. conservation@gbflycasters.org Frank Stolten Secretary - Ed Lloyd 916-725-6894 916-939-0540 secretary@gbflycasters.org Ted Way 916-761-7115 Treasurer - Mike Howes Education 916-863-6795 916-983-2953 treasurer@gbflycasters.org Gordon Tornberg **Fishmasters** Tony Jelinek - streams 916-791-8412 **Directors:** Doug Kytonen - stillwater 916-772-6654 Through June, 2019 - David Jones Ron Rabun - travel/exotic 916-716-2659 916-474-4986 Fly Tying Through June, 2019 - Ron Rabun Jim Holmes 916-967-6709 916-716-2659 Fly Tying Jam Through June, 2018 - Eric Palmer Jim Holmes 916-967-6709 916-987-1359 Golden Trout Program Through June, 2018 - Gordon Tornberg **David Jones** 916-474-4986 916-983-2953 Leader Editor Through June, 2017 - Wendell Edwards Frank Stolten 916-725-6894 916-989-1442 Leader Layout Through June, 2017 - Lester Grigsby Vivian Mevorah 916-408-0678 916-671-4984 Librarian Director at Large, 1 year term - David Bennett 916-988-3828 Kim Lloyd 916-645-8370 Merchandising Director at Large, 1 year term - Ron Fay Ron Ellis 916-728-2417 916-791-2752 Monthly Programs Ed Lloyd 916-939-0540 Webmaster Committees: 916-797-6940 Kent Ripley Annual Dinner Youth Program John Hogg 916-709-7340 Position Open

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