

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



Frank R. Stolten
8290 Country Lake Drive
Orangevale, CA 95662



FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS



CALIFORNIA TROUT



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 Rob Ferroggiaro at (916) 791-0887.

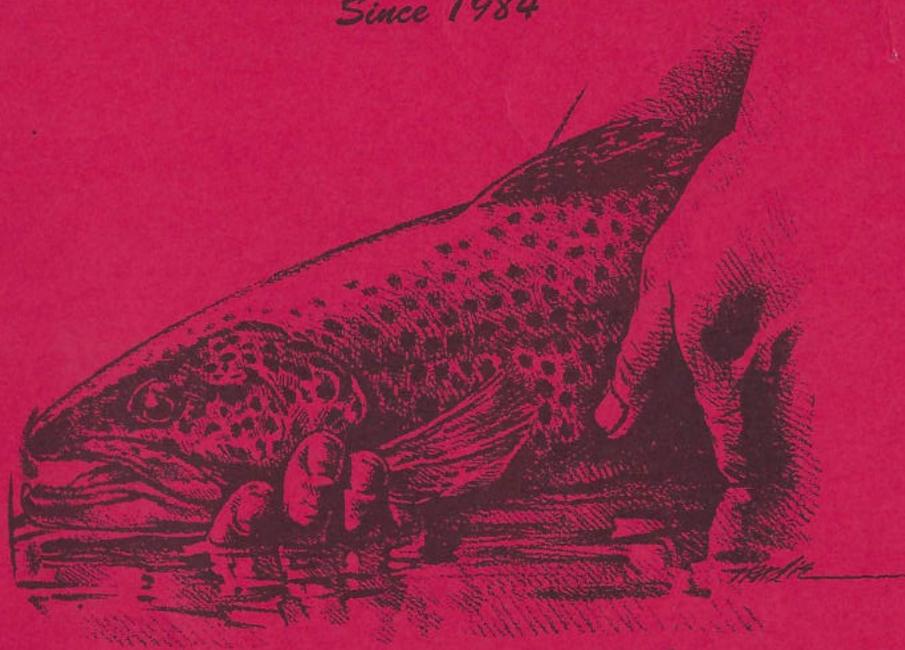
The doors open between 6:30 and 7:00 PM for socializing and fly tying demonstrations. The business portion of the meeting begins at 7:30 followed by a quick refreshment break after which the main program begins, which usually consists of a slide-show talk and/or demonstration. A dynamite raffle follows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

Membership: To become a member of Granite Bay Flycasters, a nominal fee is required: \$30 for a family; \$25 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 John Hogg, (916) 663-2051

The Leader

Voice of
GRANITE BAY
Flycasters

Since 1984



December 1999

Visit us at: www.gbflycasters.org

December at a Glance

1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Conservation Committee Meeting	3 Hanukkah	4 Chili Cook-off and Swap Meet
5	6	7	8	9 General Meeting <i>Bring an appetizer!</i>	10	11 Fishout: Calaveras R. with Jeff Medina
12	13	14 Flytying Jam Session	15	16 Board Meeting	17	18
19	20	21	22 Winter Solstice	23	24	25 Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve! Last Day of 20th Century	

Officers

President	Rob Ferroggiaro	916-791-0887
Vice President	John Hogg	916-663-2051
Secretary	Gray Allen	916-783-4334
Treasurer	John Bergman	916-966-7032

Directors

Through 1999	Ron English	530-677-7169
Through 1999	Jeanne English	530-677-7169
Through 2000	Jim Ferguson	916-781-2358
Through 2000	Cindy Leggett	916-791-4710
Through 2001	Drake Johnson	916-784-1670
Through 2001	Nathan Joyner	916-984-2025
At Large	Jeff Medina	916-353-1992
Past President	Bill Carnazzo	916-663-2604

Committees

Advertising	Chris Ronshausen	916-638-5615
Annual Dinner	Rich Brown	916-325-4564
Bear River Project	Jim Coleman	530-885-4128
Casting	John Hogg	916-663-2051
Casting Pond Project	Tom Klinefelter	916-363-6634
Conservation	Nathan Joyner	916-984-2025
Leader Editor	Chris Ronshausen	916-638-5615
Salmon & Steelhead	Rick Radoff &	916-624-2107
Education Program	Frank Stolten	916-725-6894
Co-Fishmasters	Issac English	530-677-7169
	Nick English	530-677-7169
	Morgan Thalken	916-482-3440
Fly Tying	Bill Carnazzo	916-663-2604
Gatekeeper	Michael Gervais	916-783-5477
Golden Trout	Jeff Medina	916-353-1992
Historian	Warren Schoenmann	916-725-2542
Librarian	Cindy Leggett	916-791-4710
Merchandising	Drake Johnson	916-784-1670
Programs	Bill Carnazzo	916-663-2604
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



Victor Babbitt
Owner-Guide

530-541-8208 (phone)
530-541-8270 (fax)
Post Office Box 1224
3433 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

e-mail: info@tahoeflyfishing.com
http://www.tahoeflyfishing.com

Wayne Eng

Licensed Fly Fishing Guide

Cabin for rent—sleeps six

Call for river conditions

(916) 235-4018

5356 River Avenue

Dunsmuir, CA 96025

Me and my wife, Michelle, went to see the Leonide comet shower the other night at the proposed Auburn Dam overlook. There were quite a few people there to see the show, people bundled together in pairs and in larger groups. It was a cold night, but these people were determined to catch a glimpse of a shower that is said to occur only once in 33 years.

Amongst the crowd was a man and his daughter perched next to a big telescope pointed at the sky. It turned out that he was a member of the Sacramento Valley Astronomical Society, there to represent his club. This guy has been a member, on and off, for over 25 years! He knew his stuff. And yet he claimed that he learned new things each time he looked up in the sky.

And I couldn't help comparing our sport to star gazing. There is so much to learn within the realm of flyfishing. Just when I think I am becoming accomplished, I am introduced to a new dimension of the game. I mean, heck, I haven't ever even touched bamboo, and I just recently caught my first bass on a fly! Since joining GBF, I have been able to assess my skills more realistically; I'm really just a beginner, and I believe this feeling is going to remain for a while.

These people in Auburn stood out in the freezing cold for hours awaiting a hatch of meteor dust in space that quite realistically may not have occurred that night—or at all. Sound familiar?

December Program

Are you prepared for Y2K?

Have you enough rations to take you into the first chaotic month of 2000? Do you have a well-store of fish stories to carry your imagination through the coming dark period following the Y2K conversion? Do you know which fisheries (and fish) will be Y2K compliant? These are basic concerns that every flyfisher should have.

Come to the December meeting to prepare for Y2K.

There, you can eat enough food to carry you *at least* through January! Terry Wasserman and other significants involved will prepare a wonderful spread—definitely Y2K compliant. (See page 4 for the list of rations.) FFF (Federation of Fly Fishers) will be there to explain its noble cause and show a slide show, captivating and to the point, encouraging membership to align with your conservation values for the new millennium. And, as there will be a full house, plenty of fish stories will be available, definitely enough to keep your imagination inflamed until your television turns back on (hopefully before the next meeting).

Y2K is a serious issue and you should be attending to your own. This means, get your own down to the clubhouse on December 9th and bring a convivial spirit—and an empty stomach. When you leave you'll feel ready to confidently step into the new millennium.

Table of Contents

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1...December Program:
<i>Christmas Social</i> | 10...Flytyer's Corner:
<i>Caddis Emerger</i> |
| 2...President's Message
<i>Rob Ferroggiaro</i> | 12...Talkin' Tapers with Nat
<i>John Hogg</i> |
| 4...Announcements | 15...Drifting the Owens
<i>Joe Bania</i> |
| 6...Up-coming Events | 18...Variation is the Key
<i>Jim Cramer</i> |
| 9...Flytying Skills Program:
<i>Stimulator</i> | 24...The Tail-out Section
<i>Chris Ronshausen</i> |

Announcements

Annual Elections

The annual ritual of nominating and electing officers and directors takes place at the December General Meeting. Below is a listing of the positions to be voted on and the members who have been nominated so far.

- President: **Drake Johnson**
- Vice President - Membership: **Jim Ferguson**
- Vice President - Conservation: open
- Secretary: **Chris Ronshausen**
- Treasurer: **Rod Leggett**
- Director (three year term), 2 positions available: **Jeff Medina, Jim Hunter, Denny Welch, John Bergman**
- Director-at-large (one year term): **Christine Johnston**

Frank Stolten (725-6894) and **John Bergman** (966-7032) are serving as the official nominating committee and will offer a slate of candidates at the December General Meeting from which the members present may choose. If you are interested in volunteering your time and assistance for any of these positions, please contact either Frank or John for more information. This is a great opportunity to be more involved in the club and help chart its future direction.

Dues Are Due, Doobie du du

As you know, it's time to renew your membership to GBF. Dues will increase by \$5 next year. However, as mentioned in last month's issue of The Leader, **anyone renewing before January 1 can renew at the old rate.** Don't hesitate! Save yourself some money by renewing now! Bring your check to the December meeting, or mail it to the club PO Box. Better yet, buy a membership for a friend or family member at this reduced rate; it will be the perfect gift.

What's New on the Market

The following are some Christmas ideas for the fly fishing people on your gift list. Check the local shops for prices and availability.

- * The new Sage XP series fly rods. This series is the latest from Sage and features an extremely fast tip section with a strong butt section to allow for better control of the fish once you have them hooked.
- * To give you better comfort while more efficiently fighting your fish, Simms has introduced the new mid-priced breathable wader. Available in January 2000 barring a Y2K incident these new breathable waders from Simms set a new standard for mid-priced waders.
- * For the packer and hiking fly fisherman the new Choda wading boot features a long wearing impregnated felt sole and the no-tie elastic lacing system may be just the ticket.
- * Check out the new Patagonia wading boot, a synthetic boot and therefore holds practically no water. These boots provide as good foot protection as any and weigh less per pair than anyone else's *single* boot.
- * The world's finest fly tying vises by Dyna-King. The world standard in full rotary vises, the Barracuda continues to set the fly tying world on fire! This year the new Barracuda Jr. outfit has raised the bar even higher for full rotary vises.
- * To see what you are tying more easily, McKenzie has introduced a new all metal halogen light system that mounts on your vise stem and is finished in silver or black to match or contrast with the finish of your vise.
- * Whiting Farms (Hoffman - Hebert hackle producers) have introduced the American Hackle that is a top quality extremely large hackle for the warm water and saltwater fly tier. In addition, the 100's, ¼, and ½ super saddle packages provide the fly tyer with exactly the amount of hackle he needs at reasonable prices for the best genetic hackle available ever.

Just In Time for Christmas by Drake Johnson

There's very little time left to get your favorite flyfisher what he/she wants. Don't wait until the last minute! The Club has a number of great items for sale. We have the following merchandise available:

- Foam-fill fly boxes in black and green
- Polo shirts in white, blue, gray and green
- Hats in various color combinations
- Blue visors
- Club patches and decals



There are a few summer shirts and a number of heavier-weight shirts in various sizes. I also have some new Chambray shirts in large and X-large. If you have a special shirt or jacket that you want to put the club logo on, bring your garment to the general meeting and for \$10.00 we can fix you up. Or if you have special size considerations, let me know as well.

If there are any "Santa's helpers" reading this article that want to do something special for his or her favorite fisher, give me a call at (916) 783-0343 or contact me by e-mail at johnsods@jps.net and we can work out the details to get "Santa's" work done.



All Awards

- Trophies • Plaques
- Custom Nametags
- Custom Lapel Pins
- Group Discounts
- YOUR LOGO PRINTED ON ALMOST ANYTHING!

- T-Shirts • Hats • Jackets
- Mugs
- Keychains
- Decals, etc.

ROBERT SMITH
Owner
(916) 729-0505

7335 Greenback Lane
Citrus Heights, CA 95621

Announcements *continued*

When you renew your membership (or purchase a new membership for another), please remember that reading and signing a waiver form is now required. This form is included as an insert in this issue and will be available at club meetings. In the past, we've tried to get these forms signed on the day of a fish out or other such event. This was a pain in the you-know-what and it takes time away from the event. Thanks!

Volunteer Board

Gatekeeper

Now that daylight savings time is over, Folsom Lake closes earlier. The club has been given the responsibility to lock the incoming gate on the nights of our general meeting at 7:30 p. m. We'll need one person to take up this responsibility for a few months, someone who regularly attends the meetings. Anyone interested in fulfilling this very important role can call Rob Ferroggiaro (or talk to him at the meeting).

Member Welcome Committee

We're looking for a volunteer to head up a New Member Welcome Committee. The purpose of this committee will be to help new members feel at home in GBF and to develop ways to provide information and support for members who are relatively new to fly fishing. If you'd like to help with this important effort, or have ideas on this subject, please call Rob.



Stan Rudman
VP-Marketing

Sportailor Inc.
6501 Northeast Second Court
Miami, Florida 33138

Phone: (305) 754-3255
Fax: (305) 754-6559
Email: HookTackle@aol.com
sporta@ix.netcom.com

Up-Coming Programs/Activities

~ In order of occurrence ~

December 4

Tackle Swap and Chili Cook-Off



Where else will you have a chance to get a real bargain on fishing tackle or related paraphernalia and a free lunch? Why not bring your chili from that famous family recipe? You might win the admiration of your fellow club members with the top chili, or maybe win the door prize!

This event is free to members. We ask only that those selling goods donate one item to the raffle. So bring that gear or fly tying stuff you never use, bring your chili (and a bib) and join us at the GBF clubhouse. See you there!

December 9

End-of-the-year Clubhouse Social

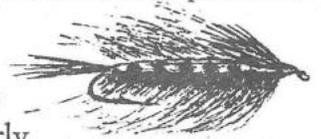
Bring your appetite with you to the December meeting; you'll need it! Its time for our annual holiday feast brought to you by GBF and our refreshment chairwoman Terry Wasserman. We'll have all kinds of goodies including meats and cheeses for sandwiches, salads, finger foods and of course those famous meatballs! Then after you've stuffed yourself, we'll haul out the desserts!

The Club will be providing the main course and we are asking that members chip in with a favorite dessert dish. Bake some cookies or a cake. Whip up a pie or some brownies. Whatever your specialty is will certainly be enjoyed. If there's some leftover desserts, we'll put them in the raffle! Speaking of the raffle, we plan on having a few real nice surprise items in addition to our regular fare.

So make sure you come hungry, and bring a few bucks for the raffle. It Should be a rip-roaring good time! By the way, thanks to those members who have contributed to our refreshments over the course of the year. Volunteering is one of the things that makes our club so great!

I prefer is to tie the hackle in by the tip so that as I wrap forward I will have the fibers slant to the rear and the longer fibers will be at the front of the hook giving a tapered effect to the fly. An important point here: don't start the hackle at the very rear of the body. If you do, it will be vulnerable to breakage by the fish's teeth. Always have one wrap of chenille behind the first wrap of hackle. You can gain further protection of the hackle stem if you bury the stem between the chenille wraps. One more point: when using large neck hackle on Woolly Buggers, the length of the hackle fibers will vary considerably from tip to butt. Select a feather that is the right size at the midpoint and you'll end up with a fly with a nice taper from front to rear. When you reach the front of the fly take a couple of extra wraps of hackle before you tie off.

Several different effects can be achieved when applying hackle at the head of the fly. Many wet flies and steelhead flies in particular benefit in appearance by folding the hackle. (Folding hackle is a process of stroking the hackle to make all the fibers stand out to one side of the stem). A properly folded hackle will slant the fibers towards the rear of the fly. You can accomplish somewhat the same effect by wrapping back over the hackle once it is tied in, but the folded hackle method is a little neater.



There are several methods used to fold hackles. Some fold the feather before tying it to the hook, some afterward. The easiest method for me is to fold it after tying it in just before wrapping. Do this by holding the feather taut and stroking all of the fibers with a wet thumb and forefinger to the rear side of the hackle stem. You may need to continue the stroking with wet fingers as you wrap the hackle.

There are a couple of other methods of applying hackle to wet flies but we are running out of room so I'll cover them next month.

The great advantage one will have in creating his own patterns is in being able to match more closely the size and form and hues and colors of the insects trout feed on in one's favorite water.

~Sylvester Nemes

Variation is the Key!

By Jim Cramer

One of the interesting aspects of fly tying is how much the character of a fly can be changed by changing the manner in which it is tied. Many older books would list hundreds of fly patterns, some in table form, giving the materials for the tail, body, wing, hackle, etc. Sometimes color plates would show the flies which all seemed to have the same shape and form. The modern tier is not bound by such limitations and it shows in much wider variety we have in our flies today.

This month I want to discuss some of the different effects that can be achieved by variations in hackling techniques. I'll cover wet flies this month and dry flies at a later time. But there are some similarities and some differences that I'll mention now.

In general the normal standard for hackle length whether wet or dry is one and a half times the hook gape. Naturally this doesn't apply to special cases like spiders, spey flies, etc. When tying in the hackle for a dry fly have the dull side of the feather facing you; for a wet fly the shiny side; for a parachute the shiny side up.

When tying Woolly Worms or Woolly Buggers, if you tie the hackle in by the butt of the feather and wrap forward, the hackle fibers will almost always slant to the front of the hook. If the feather is tied in by the tip the fibers will slant to the rear. * If you are using a neck hackle for this type of pattern, the fly will also have a pronounced tapered effect with the longer fibers either at the front or rear depending on which approach you take. If you are using some of the generic saddle hackles on the market you won't notice this taper as much since the fiber length is so uniform. The method

* Note: It is recognized that there are several ways to tie this pattern, one being to tie the hackle in at the front and wrap to the rear where it is tied down with the ribbing wire. In fly tying, as in most things, there are many ways to skin the cat and I won't argue if you have another method that works for you. I've used most of the methods from time to time and still switch every now and then.

January 12-16

International Sportsman's Exposition

This is where the *real* sportspeople convene. It's the harmonic convergence of anglers, hunters and general lover's of the outdoors. This is the place to talk to experienced guides, dealer reps, shop owners and clubmembers from other clubs throughout the country who share an equal interest in our sport. Cast rods, watch tying demonstrations, check out the latest gear and when you need a rest, check out the plush velour seats offered by one of the many massive recreation vehicles on display.

Fish Outs

December 11

Fishing the Calaveras with Jeff Medina!

Jeff Medina fished this body of water last year in January, albeit a little later and a little colder, and had great success. Frisky trout, 8-14 inches, is the quarry. Jeff says that standard nymphs are effective, size 14-18 (bead-headed) hare's ear, pheasant tails, prince nymphs. I'd venture to say that the Extended Body Caddis Emerger, presented by Bill Carnazzo in this issue, would be a good bet as well. (Check out page 10 for a recipe.) Oh, and if it warms up, Blue-wing Olives may be in order, says Jeff.

This fishery is below New Hogan Reservoir, a tail-water fishery. It is a canyon, so some hiking and scrambling over river rocks will be required. But the work will pay dividends, according to Jeff. "Last year I caught 6 fish in a couple of hours; no bonanza, but satisfying indeed!"

January 23 (tentative)

The Yuba: Steelhead on Superbowl Sunday!

It would be nice if *everyone else* was watching the "big game" while our club had the whole river to ourselves! Although the way the Niners are playing this year, we may just have some company. The only football talk allowed on this river will be in reference to the size of the fish we catch. Chances are good that Golden Stones will be chosen on the first round pick of flies to match the formidable steelhead teeming along the Yuba. We'll see. Ron English will likely lead the team to victory on the water this time 'round. Check with him at the December Meeting for more details. Or give him a call. (530) 677-7169

**SHOP
ON-LINE!**

It PAYS to SHOP at AMERICAN FLY FISHING CO.

www.americanfly.com

FREE SHIPPING

Free shipping on all catalog & e-commerce orders includes all standard delivery, handling and processing charges for shipments within the continental U.S. through Dec. 31, 1999



**Get quality fly fishing equipment & clothing—
& friendly service!**



**AMERICAN
FLY FISHING CO.**

We make fly fishing fun and easy!

Want a FREE catalog? Call (916) 483-1222 or (800) 410-1222
www.americanfly.com

3523 Fair Oaks Blvd. • Sacramento (corner Fair Oaks Blvd. & Watt Ave.)

Kiene's fly shop

Sacramento's Leading Fly Fishing Outfitter!

- Full Service Fly Shop
- Largest Selection in Northern California
- Friendly and Knowledgeable Staff
- Complete Instructional Program
- Hosted Worldwide Travel
- Private Water Program

The staff at Kiene's would like to thank our friends at the Granite Bay Fly Casters for their continued support and friendships. We are committed to the continued growth and prosperity of GBF!

**• Kiene's Fly Shop Will Meet or Beat Any
Price in the Sacramento Area!**

2654 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento CA 95821
916/486-9958 800/4000-FLY
e-mail: info@kiene.com

www.kiene.com

*certain restrictions may apply

Owens *continued*

the fast part of the river, mend a couple times and let it straighten out. Using the submerged tip of the rod, slowly drag the line over until the fly is at a seam between the slow and fast water. If you don't get a bump and fish-on, then begin to strip the streamer back like a badly wounded minnow. Many times you'll get several hits; use a strip set to catch these big ones. If you miss, let a little line out and start stripping back. Many of these fish hit minnows to stun them, then come back around and swallow their prey head first. (Dorsal fins are tough on the roof of their mouths, I'm sure!) It is important not to handle the fish at all because of their susceptibility to fungus. Many browns stay near the bottom of the stream and losing even a tiny bit of their slime cause many to die. It is better to throw a couple of roll casts and let hem shake the hook loose.

I want to thank Tom Loe of Sierra Drifters for a marvelous time in the unique fishery to which he has access in the Eastern Sierra. This fishery is open year-round so if you get a chance, contact him at (760) 935-4250 or www.sierradrifters.com.

Basix[®] Computers

"Uncompromised Quality, Incomparable Value"

John L. "Dusty" Deryck
Owner

3791 Luneman Road, Placerville CA 95667-8937
(916) 621-1222 • Fax 626-7850 • Internet dusty@basix.com

RONALD L. OTTO, D.D.S., M.S.
Diplomate American Board of Orthodontics

A Professional Corporation

Orthodontics for Children and Adults

125-B Ascot Drive
Roseville, CA 95661
Telephone (916) 786-2442



FLYTYING SKILLS PROGRAM

Sponsored by American Fly Fishing Company

*Pattern for December Program: Stimulator
(featured in the November 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

Advanced: \$25.00 Gift Certificate

This is an educational program for those who wish to advance their tying skills and/or just enjoy this aspect of the sport. The winner in each category will be announced at the meeting and in that month's Leader.

Winner(s) for November:

Beginner: n/a

Non-beginner: Steve Johnston

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

Extended Body Caddis Emerger

This pattern was invented by Jeff Yamagata, and can be found in the March/April 1999 issue of American Angler. Take a look at the article for a picture of how the fly looks. It represents, as its name implies, the emerging-insect stage in the life of the caddis. It can be used in moving water and in stillwater situations. It should be dead-drifted under an indicator, or by casting across current with a sink-tip line. There is a weighted and an unweighted version. The pattern discussed below is the unweighted version; for the weighted version, add a solid gold (or other bead of your choice) bead at the head; if heavier water is expected, also add wraps of lead as warranted. Color is also a matter of choice—Jeff Yamagata recommends olive, dark olive, brown, rust, cinnamon and black; I have tied it in an orangish color to represent the October Caddis.

Materials

Hook	2X long nymph hook of choice, #8-16
Thread	Black
Underbody	Marabou
Overbody	Vernille or ultra-chenille
Rib	Pearl Crystal Flash
Collar	Grouse or partridge aftershaft
Legs	Partridge or grouse fibers
Antennae	Pheasant tail fibers
Head	Peacock (or bead, if weighted version)

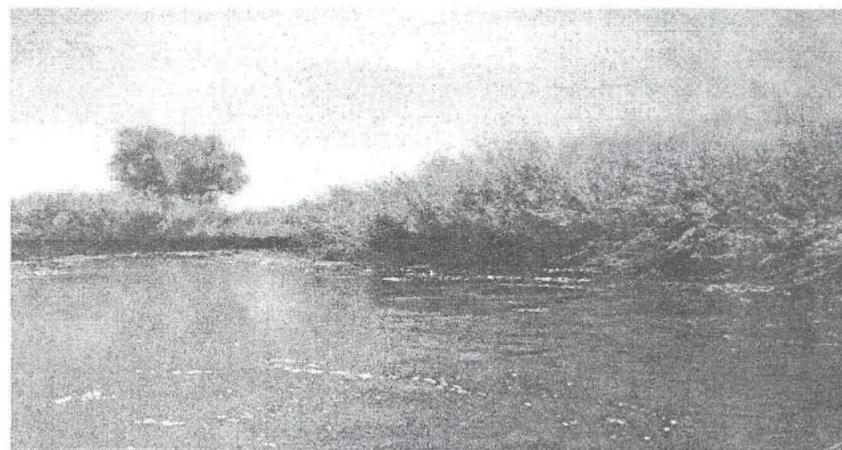
Tying Instructions

1. Tie on a piece of crystal flash just above back of barb. At the thesame point, tie in 6-15 marabou fibers, by their tip.

Drifting the Owens

By Joe Bania

Do you dream about fishing an area that is pristine with a great variety of birds and mammals flitting about? In addition to this abundance of wildlife, you'll see no humans except perhaps your guide, a drift boat and a river that is teeming with wild trout. Due to the inaccessible nature of the river's shoreline (the weeds grow quite tall and very thick making access impossible), significant parts of the Owens River east of Bishop haven't been fished for decades. This is truly a unique fishery. The water is relatively clear, the fish are spooky and roll casting is a must in many areas. It is not uncommon to have 40-60 fish days if you are strong, quick and agile enough to handle fish sometimes in excess of 7 lbs.!



Recently, I had an opportunity to fish there two days. Weather was cool in the morning—low 40's, warming up to the low 80's by 2:30 p.m. The water temperature averaged 58-60°F. We were on the water by 8:30 a.m. fishing streamers and bucktails, many spruce flies, some soft hackle and beadheaded nymphs. The largest browns were in the mid 20" range with many in the 11-14" range. A scattering of rainbows were also caught. Many fish were acrobatic with multiple jumps and several threw hooks by going through these gyrations.

The technique is to use a Teeny two hundred line, roll cast it into

continued next page



Fly Fishing Specialties
6412 Tupelo Drive Suite C
Citrus Heights, CA 95621
(916) 722-1055 Fax 722-1081

Rod Outfits

Outfits Include: Graphite Rod, Fly Reel, WF Floating Line, Backing, and Leader

- FFS Kit.....\$149.95
- Sage DS II Kit.....\$280.00
- Sage VPS Kit.....\$395.00
- Sage RPL+.....SALE.....30% OFF
- Sage XP Kit.....NEW.....\$560.00
- Sage SP Kit.....\$605.00

* Prices based on 5 wt rods. Prices may vary on 3-10wt outfits

WADER PACKAGES

Packages Include: Stocking Foot Chest Waders, Felt Sole Wading Boots, and Gravel Guards

- Fly Tech Neoprene Waders \$89
- Package \$125.95
- Redington Breathable Waders \$169
- Package \$209.95
- Simms Gore-Tex Waders \$359.95
- Package \$399.95

YEAR 2000 TRIPS

- Mexico for Sailfish.....Feb....\$1295
- Christmas Island.....Mar....\$2535
- Loreto, Baja.....Jul....\$650
- Broken Arrow, Montana.....Aug....\$495
- Bow River, Clagary.....Sept....\$995
- Deschutes River.....Oct....\$995

YUBA RIVER FLOAT TRIPS

* Private access to one of the last wild steelhead runs on the west coast

* Experienced guidance * Proven techniques for catching steelhead

Clinics are \$90 per person. Call for available dates.

2. Wrap marabou up hook shank to a point 1/3 hook length behind eye.
3. Prepare a piece of vernille or ultra chenille by cutting it to 1" in length, and applying some heat (not too much) to one end, so it will have a tapered look. Tie this onto the top of the hook, at the point where the marabou underbody terminates behind the eye. It should stick out about 1/3 shank length beyond bend of hook, to form the extended body shape.
4. Take the crystal flash and rib over the chenille, thereby tying it down; tie off crystal flash at front of body.
5. Tie in and wrap an aftershaft feather in front of the body.
6. Spread small bunch of grouse or partridge fibers around the hook for the legs, in front of the aftershaft.
7. Tie in 2 pheasant tail fibers for the antennae; they should extend back over the body
8. Wrap a piece of peacock herl for the head of the pupa, form a nice small head of thread and tie off.

See ya on the creek!!!

**SPRING CREEK FLYCRAFT
AND GUIDE SERVICE**

622 South First Street
Dunsmuir, CA 95625
(916) 235-0048

2074 Country Hill Road
Newcastle, CA 95651
(916) 663-2604

Bill Carrizzo, Licensed Guide

- Back Country Guide Service
- Upper Sacramento River
- Fly Tying Instruction
- Fly Casting Clinics

Talkin' Tapers with Nat

By John Hogg

It was with some reluctance that I made the call, but I needed to know. Nat Siddac is one of those guys who truly *does* know everything about flyfishing, but you can never get the abridged answer to anything. It's like looking up a word in the encyclopedia; you're going to get more than you ever wanted to know.

What I wanted to know about was flylines—specifically floating lines, and all the labels like Bass Tapers, Windcutters, Master Distance, Triangle Tapers and so on.

"Nat," said I, after we got past the "How're the kids" part, "I've been flyfishing for a few years, but to tell you the truth, I can't make sense of all these different floating lines. And they are *so* expensive! Its not like you can go out and buy a few for the sake of experimentation. Can you give me explanation? Just a short one will do, Nat, as I know you're busy."

"Not at all, not at all," replied Nat. "You see, most folks think of floating lines in terms of taper, and we all know that taper is necessary to make the line roll over. But there's more to it than that. Most flylines in fact have two tapers, a front and a back; and between them is the belly of the line. Combined, these three parts are called the 'head'. And in front of the head is the 'tip'. It's usually 6 to 12 inches and is not tapered. Basically, it's there to be used up tying new leaders to the line."

"And what about the 'running line part'?" I asked, subtly reminding Nat of my years of experience.

Nat's tone turned a little condescending. "With a weight forward line, the running line starts behind the head, has no taper and is much smaller in diameter. The running line usually makes up 50% to 60% of the line's total length and offers a lighter load for the line's head to pull during a cast. And there's less distance lost due to friction as the line runs through the rod guides. It's elementary: lighter load, longer casts!"

"Wait a minute, Sherlock! Double taper lines don't even have a running line portion, and I know a lot of people who think they cast better than weight forwards!"

"Casting further ain't necessarily casting better," replied the un-miffed Nat. "A line built for distance casting is going to lose some on short distance performance. For example, let's consider the tapers of a distance line. A distance line will have a total head length; that's double that of a conventional weight forward line, 50 feet or more. And between the line's coating and core, it will also be stiffer and slicker. All of this allows for more line to be extended on the false cast and greater shooting capability.

"But all of that sounds *better* to me," I ventured. "Where's the compromise?"

Nat let me twist in the wind a couple of moments and then continued the lecture. "Stiffer lines are going to have more memory than supple lines. Especially in cold weather, you are going to find a distance line retaining its coils which means line control problems. And, for a short cast, a stiff line coating makes it harder to form a loop. And that of course hurts accuracy as well presentation. The longer front taper of the distance line also means there's less weight beyond the rod tip which makes the rod more difficult to load on short casts."

"But going back to the double taper lines," I began, looking at my watch remembering happily that I have the Pacific Bell Saver plan, "double taper lines are simply two heads joined together belly to belly so to speak. There is no lighter running line portion, and that's why their distance capability is compromised. They are simply too heavy for long casts. However, they do have some advantages. First is their well recognized economy of reversibility. When one end is worn and cracked, simply reverse the line. Some cheapskates (present company excluded of-course), are known to cut double tapers in half and splice on a running line. They get two lines for the price of one!"

"And, they have other advantages," Nat continued. "With their extra long bellies, double tapers dissipate more energy and can offer a more delicate presentation in the 20 to 40 foot range. Also, many boat guides prefer them because they observe that their clients' roll casting capabilities are enhanced. Finally, with extremely light rods, such as two and three weights, the double taper line gives the caster a little more feel when casting, because of the heavier load they offer."

"Well," said I, "the one thing I never liked about them is they take up too much of my spool capacity, and I have to reduce my backing to just a few yards. When I stick a big fish, I want plenty of backing!"

"If you ever *do* stick a big fish," replied Nat mildly.