

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



Granite Bay Flycasters

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

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

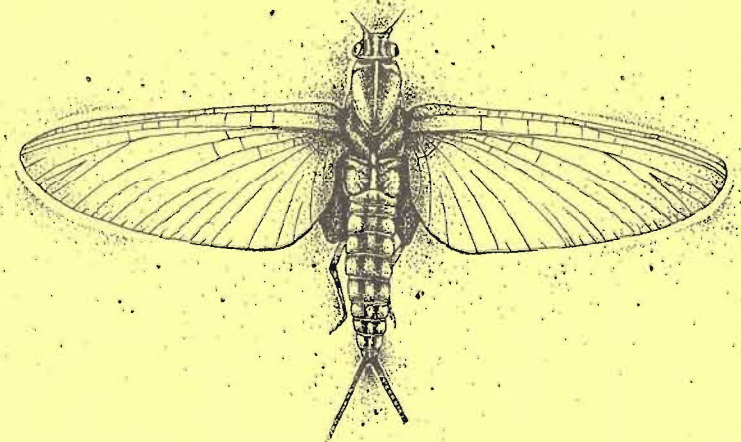
The doors open between 6:30 and 7:00 PM for socializing and fly tying demonstrations. The business portion of the meeting begins at 7:30 followed by a quick refreshment break after which the main program begins, which usually consists of a slide-show talk and/or demonstration. A dynamite raffle follows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

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

The Leader

Voice of

GRANITE BAY
Flycasters
Since 1986



May 2000

Visit us at: www.gbflycasters.org

May at a Glance

2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Bass Fly Tying Session II, 7-9pm	2	3	4 Fishout: Hot Creek	5 Fishout: Hot Creek	6 Fishout: Hot Creek
7 Fishout: Hot Creek	8	9	10	11 General Meeting, 7-10pm	12	13 Nature Day Youth Tying 10-3pm
14	15 Beginner's Clinic, 6:30-9pm	16 Fly Tying Jam Session, 6:30-9pm	17	18 Board Meeting, 7-9:30pm	19	20
21	22 Beginner's Clinic, 6:30-9pm	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Officers

President	Drake Johnson	916-783-0343
V.P. Membership	Jim Ferguson	916-781-2358
V.P. Conservation	Cindy Leggett	916-791-4710
Secretary	Chris Ronshausen	916-638-5615
Treasurer	Rod Leggett	916-791-4710

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Through 2000	Gray Allen	916-783-4334
Through 2001	Denny Welch	530-878-1931
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 Ferrogiaro	916-791-0887

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Education Program	Frank Stolten	916-725-6894
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	Mac Hunter	916-79-0359
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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

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530-541-8270 (fax)
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Well, I was hoping to find more time to fish in or around Nevada City on the opener; I went up for a family wedding and it turned out that they needed more than *just* my attendance. The next day, after breakfast and a typical *looong* good-bye to folks, I was able to skip down to Deer Creek for a couple of hours and work a quarter-mile stretch.

Deer Creek divides the town of Nevada City. This is the only section I am familiar with; where it starts and ends up, I can only assume. There are some nice pockets in this small stretch, and I was able to explore them without any other competition.

There was no wind but plenty of willows and alders to distract my fly from its target. These close, tight conditions required that I tighten up my cast and really pay attention. I watched my line unfurl on the backcast and kept my arm close to my body to avoid trees to the left and right. And I kept a tighter loop by not breaking my wrist on my backcast (something Al Kyte and a couple others at the Annual Dinner day program pointed out).

It's amazing what you can learn when you slow down and pay attention. My cast was working a lot better and I was hitting my target with greater consistency—and with results. I pulled out a frisky 10 incher where fast water was separated by a mid-stream boulder—a textbook lie.

I teased a couple of more trout up to my fly before we had to head back down. But it was the casting practice and the balance that I achieved which I enjoyed the most. By the way, I didn't lose one fly this time—certainly a first.

May Program

Want to refresh your memory on how to tie that knot (what's it called?) that you learned (or *thought* you learned) last year? Or perhaps you need to find out where the best access spots are on the Yuba River now that its upper stretches are open? And then there's that Golden Trout Program that you've been meaning to find out more about and perhaps join. **Veteran fly fishers will be stationed around the inside perimeter of the clubhouse at this month's General Meeting eager to answer such questions and provide guidance on a variety of topics to whomever.**

Member's Night could not occur at a better time! Streams are open now, lakes are warming up with eager bass and trout, and with daylight savings time, we've got more time in the day to fish! **Turn up your fly fishing skills and refresh your interest in the sport by coming by the clubhouse and immersing yourself in all aspects of your favorite pastime.** As usual, tasty refreshments will be laid out by Terry Wasserman and Co. to tickle your pallet, and you can expect plenty of opening day fishing stories to be dished up by fellow members. **Come to Member's Night this month at the clubhouse and bring a friend!** And you might want to bring a notebook and pen so you don't forget the name of that knot you learned...or thought you learned.

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President's Message

Drake Johnson

By the time you read this you will have made the trip to the post office to pay taxes, hopefully spent some time at Bill Kiene's Fly Fishing Expo and been part of the opening day madness. In all these things I hope you had a good time (taxes excepted of course). Some of you will have had the pleasure of being part of the club's fishout at Kelsey Lake or on the East Walker River and Hot Creek in early May. It is now the season for fishing, so let's get with it!

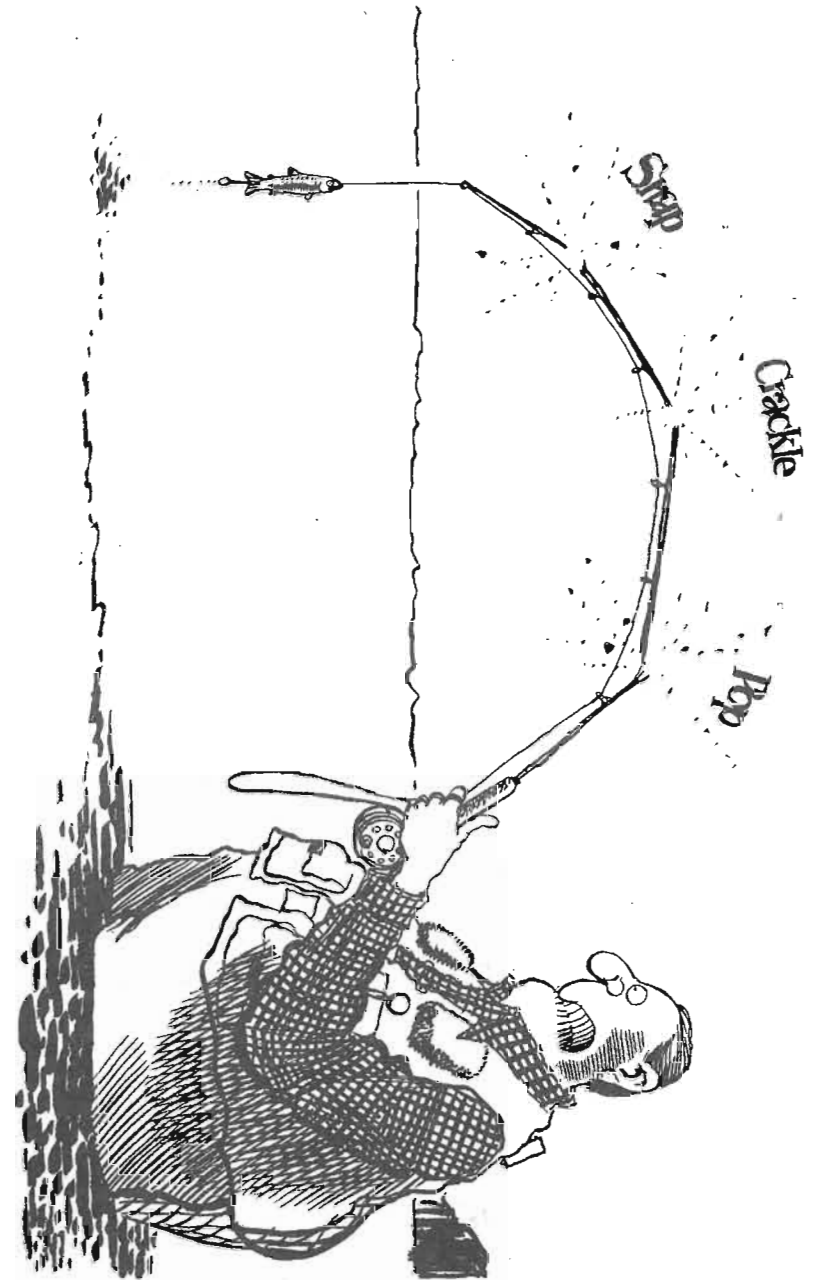
We put our booth up as usual at Kiene's Expo, but we also had the booth become the victim of the winds. At least it didn't rain on us. The booth was manned (and "womanned") until it decided to become air born! **Dave Whitlock** was there as promised and he demonstrated his expertise as a fly tyer, and as usual he made time for everyone, autographed books or T shirts, discussed special interests with people, or just shared an experience with another fly fisher. He truly is a gentleman in all ways.

In the tying room our club was well represented. I saw **Bill Carnazzo** and **Terry Eggleston**. Club member **Issac English** got a third place in the casting competition and **Christine Johnston** got a second--another good showing for our club.

Our meeting next month is Member's Night. This is a great opportunity for new fly fishers and people new to the area to get detailed information on elements of fly fishing.

As I mentioned last month we have been asked again to provide a youth tying booth at the 5th Annual Sugar Pine Nature Day. This event will be in Forest Hill this year. **Pete Peterson** will be taking the materials and the vises up to Forest Hill so the hard work is done. We still need to have some of you come on up and help these young people tie simple flies (Wooly Buggers). The event will run from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Please sign up at the meeting.

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



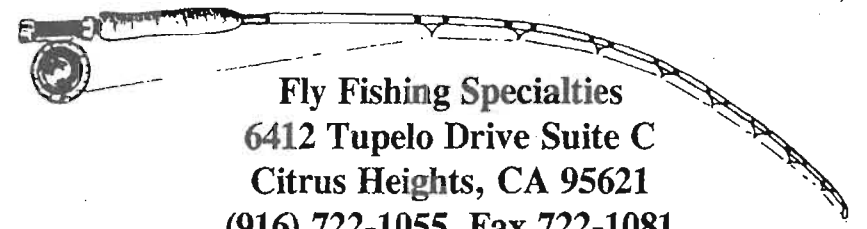
Volunteer Board

Fly Tiers

On May 13, children and parents will come together to celebrate the 5th Annual Sugar Pine Nature Day, an event full of fun and activities designed to encourage kids to learn about and support the environment. GBF participates by providing a tying booth to introduce kids to the fine art of tying flies. Last year our youth fly tying booth was described as "the big attraction". We need a few members to help out at the booth this year. The tying lasts from 10:00am to 3:00pm. You don't have to be an expert tier, and it's a very rewarding way to spend a couple of hours. The club provides all the tools and materials. If you'd like to help out, talk to Drake at the May General Meeting or give him a call (916) 783-0343

Fishmaster

Ron English, who has been the Fishmaster for the last few years, deserves a break. We could use someone new to take up this responsibility. The Fishmaster will work with The Board to establish fish-outs through the year, insuring that a leader is assigned and that everything is in place for that day. It should be made clear that the Fishmaster is not required to lead every fish-out, but that he/she may enjoy leading several. This position requires a general knowledge of California (Northern and Central mainly) fisheries and the time and passion necessary to effectively help prepare for these events. This position is ideal for someone interested in building a career as a guide since it requires a mind for planning a fishing itinerary and knowing where the fish are. For more information about this essential position, call Ron English at (530) 677-7169 or talk to him at the General Meeting.



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- Broken Arrow, Montana.....Aug....\$495
- Bow River, Clagary.....Sept....\$995
- Deschutes River.....Oct....\$995

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Announcements

Smiles Everyone, Smiles!

Doreen Muscott has offered to put together the GBF Fishing Photo Album for 2000. If you have any fishing photographs from fishouts or special GBF events from January 1, 2000 to present please bring them to the May meeting. Please have the photographs documented with names, dates, event etc. on the back or on a separate piece of paper. Also include your name and phone number in case further information is needed. For more information contact Doreen at 916-983-8654 or email her at doreen.muscott@intel.com.

* *Special Clinic for GBF Members*

UPPER SACRAMENTO AND MC CLOUD RIVERS

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

Included:

- * 2 guided days (Saturday and Sunday) on the rivers (Friday will be a "fish together" day)
- * detailed and comprehensive instruction on techniques, gear, wading, safety, flies etc.
- * three nights' lodging on the river in a private house in Dunsmuir
- * meals on Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday morning, including a sumptuous prime rib feast on Saturday night (alcoholic)

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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!

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“Where Do I Start” continued


wrap to tighten the previous wraps before applying super glue. Likewise, lead wire wraps are compressed with the thumb nails before receiving thread over-wraps and one or more coats of super glue. On regular bead heads I wrap a thread head at the eye to force the bead against, then if I want a little more weight, I may force a few wraps of lead wire into the cavity at the rear of the bead with, of course, more super glue. I heard of a fellow, now deceased, who soldered bead chain eyes to his shad fly hooks. If I could figure out a way to do this neatly I would give it a try.

There are more ways to tie a fly than there are to skin a cat and I urge each of you to really think about the process before you put the hook in the vise. Think about each step and how they go together to make the finished fly there may be a faster better way than you have been doing out of habit all these years.

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beverages, if desired, are to be furnished by the individual and are not included)

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

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

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Up-Coming Programs/Activities

~ In order of occurrence ~

May 15th and 22nd

Fly Fishing Basics for the Beginner

Sign up for our annual clinic and learn how you can catch more fish and increase your enjoyment of the sport of fly fishing. This clinic will be a good foundation for our "on the river" clinic tentatively scheduled for June 25th.

When: Two Monday nights, 6:30 - 9:00 PM

Where: At the clubhouse

What to bring: If you have questions about your tackle or other gear, bring it along.

Who: GBF members only.

Cost: Just \$15 materials fee, payable in advance

Topics to be covered:

1. How much of that stuff in the catalogues do you really need ?
Checklist of essential equipment
2. Choosing the right tackle
3. Rigging your tackle
4. Making sense out of all those fly patterns - choosing the best flies
(no Latin required!)
5. Learn from our mistakes - Helpful hints
6. Fly fishing tactics to get you started catching fish
7. Recommended fishing locations and guides
8. 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 specifically in casting skills are encouraged to attend one of our Sunday clinics.

Sign up at the May General Meeting. If you have questions, or to sign up by phone, call **Rob Ferroggiaro** (916) 791-0887

stem on a base of dubbing. It is not as secure and it compresses the dubbing which defeats the purpose. If I am not dubbing a thorax and the body will have a well defined stopping point, I may tie in the hackle after completing the body.

With parachute flies I always tie in the hackle immediately after posting the wing and I tie it in so that the hackle tip is extending forward with the butt to the rear and the stem is on the near side of the wing post. This allows the body and thorax material, generally dubbing, to cover the hackle tie in point. Important point here: stop thorax construction with the thread against the front of the wing post. The dubbing will extend forward of that point to form the head, but the thread should finish directly in front of the wing in preparation for tying off the parachute hackle. Next important point (and I'll have to thank Tim Grogan for pointing out the err of my ways on this): assuming that the hackle will be tied off in front of the wing, it should be wrapped around the wing post in a counter clockwise motion. This will assure that the thread will have a tightening effect on the hackle stem as it is tied off. The last wrap of the parachute hackle around the wing post should be at the very bottom to put it in proper position to tie off.

Now let me comment on some variations to the classic style dry fly and the changes to the tying sequence. With palmered hackled bodied flies I tie in the body material immediately after the tail (but don't wrap it yet) followed by the hackle. With the body material tied in first, it will facilitate making one or more wraps to the rear of the hackle before moving forward. This makes a much neater fly than if the hackle exits the body material right at the tail. Down winged dries (without palmered bodies) such as some caddis and grasshopper patterns, can have the wings tied in either before or after the hackle depending upon the effect you want. There are other sequence variation that can occur with special patterns such as the Loopwings, Sparkle Caddis Emergers, CDC patterns etc, but I'll not go into that now.

Wet flies and nymphs can also offer a multitude of sequence variations. One point, however, I feel very strongly about is the application of bead chain eyes, lead eyes, plain beads and lead wire weighting of flies. The more securely you fasten these items to the hook, the better your fly! With this thought in mind, I always mount them on the hook as a separate step. Before I start tying a bunch of shad flies, Crazy Charlies, bead heads or what have you, I'll prepare as many hooks in advance as I'll need. Bead chain and lead eyes are cross wrapped and then wrapped with a post type

“Where Do I Start?”

By Jim Cramer

This is a question all tiers should ask themselves when starting to tie a new fly. The answer is not always the same and not always obvious: it depends.

Let me start with a standard type dry trout fly. Many manuals would have you start with the wings then proceed to the tail, body and hackle. An equal number would start with the tail first then the body, wings and hackle. Both could be correct, or with pattern variations, both could be wrong.

First I'll tell you how *I* do it for a typical dry fly and my reasons, then I'll discuss some of the many exceptions.

I generally always start my thread a heads' length behind the eye of the hook and wrap to the rear. Why? Habit mostly. But the rational is that it gives me a good thread base and by not laying down extra thread at the head location, I'll end up with a smaller neater head. Many years ago a professional tier that supplied most of the shops of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado, asked me why I wasted all that time wrapping the shank. He recommended starting at the rear of the hook as the shank would automatically get covered as you worked forward. Nevertheless, I still generally start at the front.

On standard dry flies and almost all wets I'll tie the tail in as the next step. There are three reasons for this. The first is that the hook is bare of other items, notably the wings, so it can be tied in without the other parts getting in the way. Second, the length of the tail often establishes the proportion for other parts of the fly. And third, the tail is already on and out of the way when the wings are tied in. An exception that comes to mind here is when I am tying extended body dries with my pre-fabbed bodies and tails; I will tie in the wings first.

The next step I often vary. Sometimes I will tie in the body material and ribbing if it is called for but not wrap it forward until after I have tied in the wings. Other times I will immediately follow the tail with the wings and then move back to complete the body. I especially use this sequence if I am dubbing the body. There is an important exception to this sequence that I need to mention here as it applies to hackle and dubbed bodies and thoraxes. I will almost always tie in the hackle stem before applying a dubbed body and always if I am going to dub a thorax around the wing base. The reason for this is that I don't want to tie in a hackle

Fish Outs



June 9-11

*Kirman Lake
with Mike Kaul*

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

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

June 23-25

*Eagle Lake
with Gene Goss and Jim Holmes*

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

Big water, big wind, big fish and big anchor (5-10 lbs)! *Here is* another chance to bring all of your toys. You can use the following: a float tube to fish the tule channels, a small pram/pontoon boat for

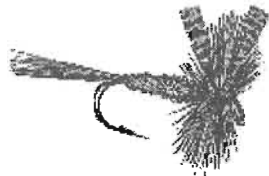
Fishouts *continued*

fishing outside the tules and covering a lot of water and a motor boat to cover even more water searching for the trout. There is a launch ramp at Stones Landing.

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

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

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



**July 5-10
Crane Prairie, Oregon
with Jim Holmes**

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

 **AMERICAN
FLY FISHING CO.**

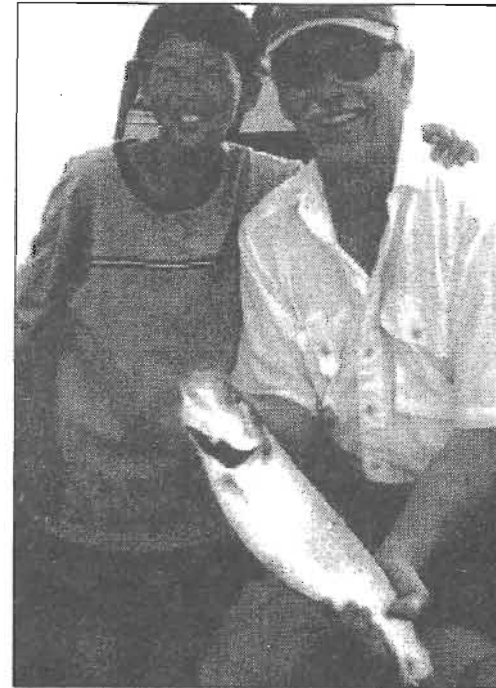
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FLYTYING SKILLS PROGRAM

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*Pattern for May Program: Bill's Calli-Dun
(featured in the April 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 April:

Beginner: **Ken Miller**

Non-beginner: **Ron English**

Program rules:

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

July 14-16

Wright's Lake

with Rod and Cindy Leggett

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

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



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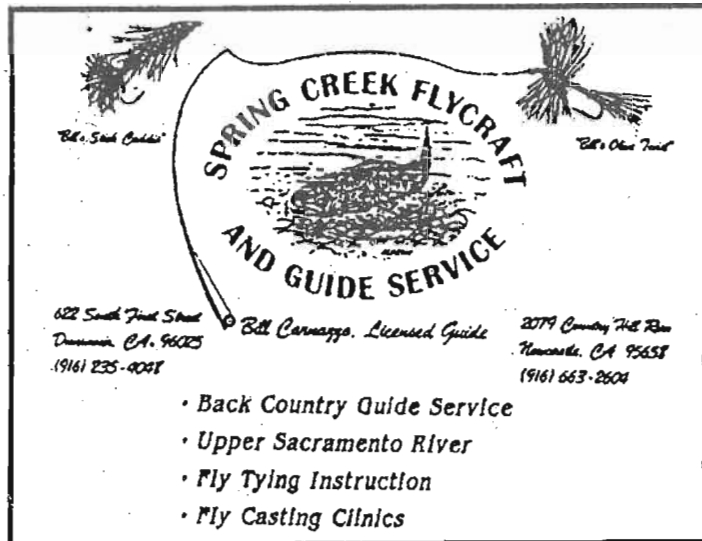
Kelsey Lake Follow-up

By Anonymous Anadromous

On April 6th, Ron Rabun and Bill Carnazzo took a group of 12 anglers, including some GBF members and some from the Davis Fly Fishers, down to Kelsey Lake, a small, shallow reservoir located on a ranch in the foothills just east of Modesto. The lake is interesting, as it is quite shallow in most places, with a few deeper spots. The fish are located along bottom structure, as well as near in-lake obstructions such as dead trees. The action was hot and fast, with large Florida bass (and one bluegill) being taken. Ron's Simple Crayfish took a bunch, as did Ron English's Sili-bugger (see "Flytyer's Corner" in this issue of The Leader for this recipe). Other flies were also successful. These are very aggressive, strong-fighting fish—and they are colorful. It's nice to finish up the day with a tired arm.

Ron took another group on April 13th, including some GBF members. Bill could not make it due to work reasons, much to his disgust. The weather, and the fact that on the previous day there was a bass tournament on the lake, took their toll on the fishing. However, fish were caught and it was, after all, a day spent on the water.

Ron and Bill will be doing this again next year so that GBF members who missed out on this experience will be able to participate next year. See them at the next General Meetings for more details.



Bill's South Caddis *Bill's Olive Trout*

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in a long-ish marabou "tail".

3. At the same point, the dubbing process begins. Because the dubbing is semi-coarse, it is best to use a dubbing loop technique for building up the body. Form a loop about 3" in length, and move the bobbin to the front of the hook. Fill the loop with dubbing, and twist the loop. Don't twist too tightly—just enough to create a nice thick "chenille". Grab the bottom of the twisted loop with hackle pliers, and wind the dubbing onto the rear 1/3 of the hook.

4. Cut a bunch of 2-1/2" pieces of silicone rubber legs. Take one of these pieces, and double it around the tying thread, and tie it on just ahead of the end of the dubbing, on the close side of the hook. Tie in another doubled over piece of rubber leg material on the other side of the hook, and a third piece on the bottom of the hook.

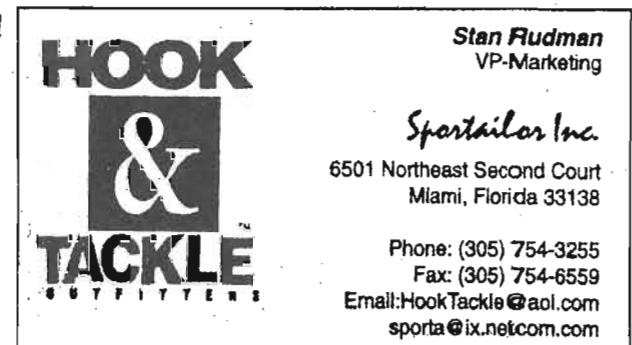
5. Dub the middle 1/3 of the hook. See step 3 above.

6. Tie in another three doubled-over rubber legs. See 4 above.

7. Dub the forward 1/3 of the hook. See step 3 above. Here tie in one doubled over piece of rubber leg material, on top of the hook just behind the eye.

8. Apply a bit of dubbing around the eyes (use figure 8 method), make a nice neat head, and whip finish.

See ya on the creek!!!!



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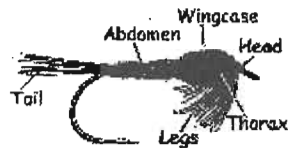
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Flytyer's Corner

By Bill Carnazzo



Ron's Sili-Bugger

It's "Bass-time"—those big-uns that lurked on the bottom all winter are now active and aggressive, it being spawning time. Accordingly, it is fitting to feature an easy, effective pattern that will take large bass (also crappie and 'gills). Ron English is the creator of this bug; Nick English ties a slightly different version, and I can attest that both are very effective. Ron believes that the bass like the feel of the silicone legs in their maw. Whatever it is, they sure slammed it at Kelsey Lake. I only had two of these bugs—one tied by Ron, and one tied by Nick. I finally lost both of them—well chewed, but still intact, by the time they broke off.

Materials

Hook	Mustad 9672; Tiemco 9395, #2—6
Thread	Olive or brown 6/0
Head	Dumbbell eyes, painted black with white dot
Tail	Brown Marabou
Body dubbing	Heavily dubbed synthetic semi-coarse olive
Hackle	Olive/black speckled silicone rubber leg material
Weight	Lead or substitute

Instructions

1. Cover front 1/4" of hook with thread. Fasten eyes securely to hook about 1/8" behind eye; add a drop of super glue. When dry, wind 6-10 wraps of lead behind eyes, and secure lead with thread wraps.

2. At a point just above the barb (which you now have smashed), tie

Early Season Fishing: Upper Sac and McCloud

By Bill Carnazzo

Trout season opens Saturday, April 29th. Freestone fly anglers on streams such as the Upper Sacramento River will likely be greeted by somewhat high and perhaps discolored water conditions. Here, then, are some things to keep in mind for the Upper Sac, McCloud and similar streams:

1. *Wading safety.* If you can't see the bottom, don't take that next step without poking around with your wading staff (don't leave home without it!!!), not your foot! Remember, even an inch more of water can cause a big increase in pressure against your body, and even knee-high flow can be strong enough to sweep your feet from beneath you.

2. *Fly selection.* Old adage: "dark water means dark flies; light water means light flies". So, if conditions are murky, select darker patterns, with beads, rubber legs and/or flash to attract hungry fish. In order to get down the flies will need to be weighted rather heavily. Hungry fish are generally less selective. Nymphs suggested: #8-12 Prince; #10-14 Sparkle Hare's Ear; #8-12 Bill's Stick Caddis; Dark Ted Fay Bomber patterns; #12-16 Bead head Bird Nest; #8-10 Kaufman's Golden Stone; #8 Poxyback Stone. Dries suggested: #12-18 Yellow Humpy and Little Yellow Stone; #14-20 Baetis imitations, preferably small paraduns; #12-20 Parachute Adams; Stimulator in "dirty yellow" shades for early Yellow Stonefly hatch; black or olive Rubber-Legs.

3. *Tactics.* If flows are high, search out resting water where fish can seek and find refuge from high flows. Such areas are found in places where there are obstacles which cause flow deflection, such as rocks, downed trees, and along the banks. Fish will often congregate in these refuge areas and not be as dispersed as they will be during later "normal" flows.

Above all, be careful out there....!

Conservation Corner

By Cindy Leggett

Right now is the time for us to take action and concentrate our efforts on protecting our PG&E owned watershed lands. As most of you know, PG&E has submitted an application to the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to auction off all of their hydroelectric facilities and watershed lands in large bundles to the highest bidder (Proceeding A9909053). As part of the review process, the Energy Division of the PUC must prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). PG&E has issued a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA); a requirement of their application, and the PUC wants our comments on it now. This PEA is voluminous; however it can be reviewed on the internet by accessing www.PGE.com/partnership.html, clicking on "Regulation and Rates," then "Proponent's Environmental Assessment." Go to the table of contents and scroll down to the watershed/s you are interested in. Our Bear River project is located in Drum-Spaulding, located in volume 5. Chapter 9 discusses the current setting, and Chapter 10 discusses PG&E's evaluation of the impact of the auction. Volumes 3-8 cover some of our favorite fisheries, including Hat Creek.

During the month of May, Energy Division staff will hold several public scoping meetings and agency consultations to obtain input from interested parties to help develop the EIR. The details of the dates for most of these meetings has not been released yet, however you may contact **Bruce Kaneshiro** or **Judith Ikle** at 1-877-7779-2782 to get this information as it becomes available. In addition, the Energy Division is accepting letters from interested parties regarding their input and comments on the environmental impact of the divestiture, as well as PG&E's Proponent's Evaluation Assessment. This is where our letters can have some impact. Please express your concerns in a letter addressed to **Bruce Kaneshiro**, Project Manager for Environmental Assessment of PG&E Sale, California Public Utilities Commission, Energy Division, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102. PG&E owns many of the lands surrounding our State's most productive wild fisheries, and our continued access and/or quality of fishing will be directly impacted by the outcome of this proceeding.

P.S. Local scoping meetings will be held next week as follows: May 8, 1:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Sacramento Inn, 1401 Arden Way; May 8, 7:00 p.m. at the Lake Natoma Inn, 702 Gold Lake Dr., Folsom; May 9 Elks Lodge, 109 South School Street, Grass Valley. For more information on this topic, check out this website: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/divisions/energy/environmental/info/aspen/pghydro/pg_ehydro.htm

NCCFFF Update: PG&E Divestiture

By Rob Ferroggiaro

As reported previously, PG&E continues its press ahead with plans to auction off its hydropower properties. It doesn't take much imagination to picture the potential implications for rivers, fish and anglers if this isn't handled properly.

The machinery of the state legislature grinds slowly on a potential bill, AB 1956, to authorize interim state control over PG&E hydropower systems. Meanwhile, however, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is preparing the way for an auction of these properties.

The auction process will include an opportunity for public comment at some point, but it is important that we are heard early and often. To this end, I'm asking that clubs and individuals write letters as soon as possible to the PUC. Here are some suggested talking points you can use to easily build your letter.

- * Reference Proceeding #9909053 filed by PG&E
- * Mention your interests as an angler and your experience fishing on PG&E systems
- * Express concern about the degradation of habitat and fisheries that have occurred over the years
- * Ask the commission to make sure that transfer of ownership results an improvement of the conditions essential to the good health of public trust resources
- * Tell them you want water flows that insure healthy fish and fish habitat
- * Tell them that historic public access to these properties must be maintained
- * Insist that the PUC not allow transfer of assets until the state has certified compliance with the Clean Water Act

Letters can be hand written and should be mailed to:

California State Public Utilities Commission
 Attn: Ms. Loretta Lynch, President
 505 Van Ness Ave
 San Francisco, CA 94102