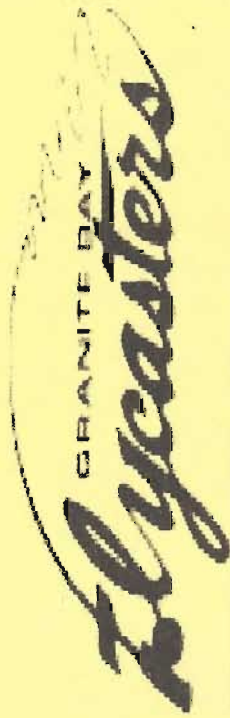


The Leader

Voice of



Since 1986



JANUARY

Visit us at: <http://www.gbflycaster.org>

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 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 Denny Welch at (530) 889-8562.**

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

Membership: To become a member of Granite Bay Flycasters, a nominal fee is required: \$35 for a family, \$30 single; and youth (under 18), \$10. There is a \$7 initiation fee for new members. The cost of membership is pro-rated throughout the year. **For membership information, call Lester Snow 916-967-7563**

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Conservation Committee Mtg. 7P.M.-9P.M.	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 General Mtg. 7-10:30 P.M.	10	11
12	13	14 Fly Tying Jam 6:30-9P.M.	15	16 Board Mtg. 7-9P.M.	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Fishout Yuba River f/m Gary Flanagan	27	28	29	30	31	

Officers		
President	Denny Welch	530-889-8562
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V.P Conservation	John Carroz	916-783-0802
Secretary	Roger Bryan	916-645-6897
Treasurer	Art Hawkins	916-725-3026
Directors		
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Through 2004	Mike Brune	916-723-4524
Through 2002	Jeff Medina	916-353-1992
Through 2002	Linda Shaw	530-885-3111
Through 2003	Jack Ramos	916-774-9972
Through 2003	Jim Hunter	916-652-5057
At Large	John Bergman	530-268-1626
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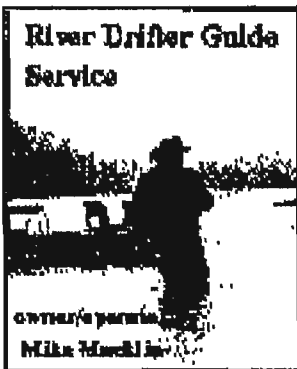
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President's Message

By Denny Welch

I am in a very somber mood right now. It's the Monday before Christmas as I write this, but it's the first week of January 2003 for you. I just returned from lunch and both Douglas and Sunrise are virtual parking lots. Highway 80 is stop and go and Christmas music is filling the airwaves. The UPS guy has a glazed look on his face and the mailman is mumbling to himself. I saw my grandkids earlier this morning and gave them some candy I had hanging around and we talked a little about Santa. That wide-eyed expression of innocence doesn't last long enough, I think.

I always try to keep these messages upbeat and fun, but I can't do that today. I found out that a fellow flyfisher drowned on the American River below Watt Avenue over the weekend. Although he lived in Granite Bay he was not a member of our club, but that doesn't matter. He was 25 years old, addicted to our sport and from all accounts was the nicest kid in the world. The news reports said something about him stepping in a hole, but nobody actually saw what happen. Ironically, I was scheduled to do some flytying with him over the next several weeks. Death is inevitable, but it shouldn't happen over the holidays, it shouldn't happen when you're 25 and it shouldn't happen when you're flyfishing.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

I feel like I've let you down. I wrote my first President's Message for the August 2001 Leader. In that message I said,

“ We've got some outstanding programs coming up. One that I'm really excited about is an evening devoted to safety. *What if you fall in the water...or bury a hook in your arm...or break a bone?* Bad things sometimes happen to good people. Would you know what to do? We also want to follow that meeting up with a Saturday program devoted to CPR training.”

It's now January 2003 and we still haven't had that safety class. We've hit the fringes with pontoon safety, but *what if you fall in the water?* I'm not qualified to teach this class, but I think I know someone who is. Perhaps we can coordinate such a class with the day program of the annual dinner. I'll look into it for you. I don't want to have to write a message like this again.

Until next time.

Denny

With ample help from other members in our club, we are preparing for the most successful annual dinner event in our club's history! The “big event” will take place March 29, 2003. I am excited to announce that our guest speaker will be guide and photographer, Dave Howard. Dave will be presenting a program called “Four Seasons on the American River.” The program will include video on stripers and slides on steelhead, shad, and salmon.

As most of you know, the Annual Dinner is the single largest fund raising event for Granite Bay Flycasters. We want to maintain that tradition, so that we can continue with our conservation, education, and other fisheries programs.

To achieve this heightened goal, we need strong support from our members. Last year, the dinner was successful because we had this support. So, I am appealing to whoever has the time and interest to build this spectacular event to contact me. Below, I have outlined where support is needed along with a short description of the tasks required.

Please consider participating in this event! By helping out, you will be contributing directly to the continued financial health of our club while gaining the intrinsic satisfaction of having built a major fundraising event.

The following support positions are available:

Ticket Sales: Art Hawkins will need some help with these activities.

Raffle Coordinator and team members: This person will lead the attempt to acquire raffle prizes. In so doing, he/she will be responsible for recruiting and then monitoring other members in their pursuit of merchandise, services, etc.

Visual Coordinator: This person will coordinate the layout of the hall (in which the dinner will take place) including placement of perimeter tables, entry setup and dinner table decorations etc.

Thanks for considering taking one of these essential positions. Please give me a call if you have interest and want more detail. I can be reached the following ways:

Karl Wolff

Phone:
(916) 719-0860

Email:
kwolff@qwestonline.com

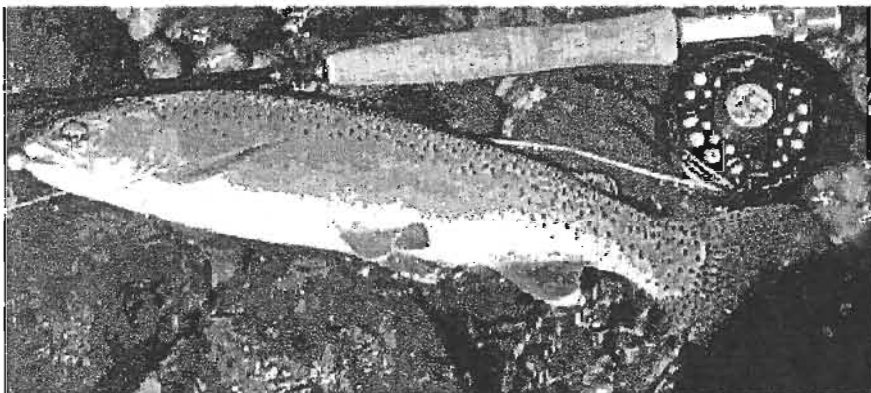
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2003 Cal Expo Booth

Dates: January 15-19, 2003

At the December meeting a schedule/signup sheet was passed around. Many of the spots were filled, but there are some left and we need help. If you want to sign up, **call Bill Carnazzo at (916) 663-2604**. This event is rewarding for the participants, who always seem to have a great time talking to the public about GBF and telling "fish stories." Participants get in free for the day that they work, but (as everyone else does) must pay for parking (\$6.00).

FLY TYING SEMINAR

Dates: March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2003 (Monday evenings, 6:30 pm)

This seminar is for beginners and for those who have tied some, but have not reached the "intermediate" stage. The class will be limited to the first ten who sign up and pay the \$20.00 fee. Emphasis will be placed on techniques that will enable the students, with practice, to tie most trout nymphs and dry flies. For more information, call Bill Carnazzo at (916) 663-2604. There will be a sign-up sheet at the January meeting. If you don't want to wait until then to sign up, mail a check to Bill at 2079 Country Hill Run, Newcastle CA 95658.

Editor Jack Ramos (916) 774-9972
jocowboy@msn.com

Copy due to Editor no later than the 25th of the month

BUYING A NU2U ROD

Some things to ponder prior to purchasing a new fly rod. Foremost, on what fish and water will the rod be used? Consider your strength and coordination. What is your fishing experience? Correct choice of line weight, rod length and action depend on this evaluation.

You want a good casting and fish fighting tool. You want good value for your money. So, what makes a quality rod? Generally speaking the more expensive the rod, the better the quality of material used in the guides, reel seat, and grip.

For guides, a rule of thumb is one guide, not including the tip-top, for each foot of rod length. Fewer guides permit the line to sag and slap on the rod, creating more friction when casting. There is a right size for guides, too.

Very small guides will create more friction and very large guides will permit more sag and slapping. The number of stripping guides varies. Lighter weight rods need only one stripping guide, while heavier weight rods should be equipped with two.

Should you have an up- or downlocking reel seat? Most fisher people prefer uplocking. If you wish to hold your rod near the reel, a downlocking seat subjects your hand to agitation at the juncture of the cork and the reel seat.

On heavier weight rods it is nice to have a double locking screw system.

Cork is preferred for the handle, as theoretically it feels warmer in cold weather and cooler in warm weather. Cork doesn't get overly slick when wet, and it has great cushioning properties. Check the cork for quality. Are there any soft or loose spots? The less filler, the better.

Shape and size of the handle are a matter of personal preference. Is the grip sized right and comfortably shaped for your hand for casting and fish fighting?

Next consider the workmanship and overall aesthetics of the rod. Most manufacturers polish their rods upon removal from the furnaces to eliminate any rough spots and the thread used to hold the graphite on the mandrels. (One company does not polish their rods. Know which company that is?)

Well-epoxyed, short, thread wraps extending just off the foot of the guides is the order of the day. The more thread and epoxy, the more weight, which dampens the rod's action.

Speaking of which, I recommend that one check the action of the rod. Most people pick up a rod and shake it several times, and that is that. Here's the way to really learn something about the rod. Hold the rod firmly, parallel to the floor, and whip the rod with some vigor. Watch where the rod flexes the most. If the rod bends in the upper one-third, you know that the rod is considered fast action; in the middle, it is medium action. If the rod bends down into the butt section, and you can even feel the handle bend in your hand, you know that the action of the rod is considered slow.

When you have a likely candidate, give it the real test. Take the rod, equipped with reel and line, to a pond for some casting, and check for these qualities. (Fishing is not a good way to make these evaluations.)

(Continued from page 14)

means your line is dragging behind it and a downstream mend is needed. And if the toothpick is pointing downstream then your fly line is dragging the fly, and an upstream mend is needed. At least one BB size split shot is needed unless you are fishing water that is relatively flat and calm. In faster riffles and slots you may need up to 3 BBs to get your fly down. If you aren't hanging on the bottom at least every once in a while, your flies aren't getting down to the fish.

When fishing the redds, stay back and cast above them to give your flies time to get down before drifting through. **DO NOT WALK THROUGH THE REDDS.** You can kill thousands of unborn salmon with just a couple of steps through a redd. When fishing glo-bugs with a dropper, let the rig swing when it gets to the end of the drift as the Yuba fish are known for taking nymphs on the swing and will also occasionally take a glo-bug on the hang. The end of fall and beginning of winter bring adult steel head in to take over the spawning grounds. They prefer finer gravel than the salmon but can also be found in the same areas. Higher flows don't mean the fishing shuts off; it only changes to bank fishing. When the flows are in the 2000-4000 cfs, fish the shallows with nymphs, stone flies, and caddis pupas. Stoneflies are a prime source of food this time of year. January is the month when we start to get the smaller squalla stoneflies. These are best imitated with a poxy-back rubber legged stonefly, a large bead-head gold-ribbed hare's ear, or for a dry, a little yellow stimulator dubbed with an olive tinged yellow and hackled with black.

Don't miss out on the tremendous fall fishing offered by the Lower Yuba. These fish are wild and put up a killer fight; it's not unusual for a sixteen inch Yuba trout to take you into your back-
ing! Remember, salmon are spawning during this time and caution should be taken when fishing amongst the redds. Before you go out, stop by my shop in Nevada City for more information and to gear up for a fine fishing day on the Lower Yuba.

CONTINUED ON Pg. 6

Yuba River Fish Outs

Gary Flanagan

I am pleased to announce that the February 23rd fishout on the Yuba River has booked out with twenty members. These members have paid a five-dollar commit fee that will be refunded on the day of the fishout.

There are still five openings available for the Super Bowl Sunday trip on the Yuba River at the UC Sierra Research Property. If you wish participate in this fish out, please contact me and make arrangements to pay the five-dollar fee. If this trip hasn't filled by the January general meeting, I will open it to those of you that have signed up for the February and wish to fish both dates on the Yuba.

I thought that Jeremy Gray's article on "How to Fish The Lower Yuba River" might be helpful, so it is being included in this months Leader. This article was featured in a past copy of the GBF Leader.

Jeremy no longer owns Nevada City Anglers however keeping with tradition; we will still meet at the shop prior to heading out to the river.

Tony, the new owner, promised to open early for us and will provide complimentary donuts and coffee.

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The Leader

Start with balance. Is the fully equipped rod tip heavy or butt heavy? Cast the rod for feel. Does the action suit your casting stroke? The rod should perform a number of tasks well.

Test it thoroughly. Roll cast. Pick up thirty-five feet of line from the water and lay it out in a different direction. See that it mends and controls line on the water easily and accurately.

Turn over a leader with a large fly, and present it with some delicacy at long distances.

Will the rod deliver a fly accurately seventy feet and beyond? Does it shoot line easily?

Will the rod load sufficiently with thirty to thirty-five feet of line off the rod tip for quick pick up and shoot?

Try to form tight loops to get line speed and distance Does the rod generate high speed for quick, powerful delivery into the wind?

Is there enough strength in the butt section to pressure a running fish? Could you cast repeatedly for long periods without fatigue?

If in your opinion the rod fulfills all the above criteria, then just possibly you have found the rod that is for you.

The Fly Fishing Priest

There was a priest who loved to fly fish and did so on almost a weekly basis. One year the weather patterns were such that during the week when the priest was off the weather was rainy. All year he was unable to go fishing. All week the weather would be bad until Sunday when he had to work. On Sundays the sun was always shining.

Finally the priest had reached his breaking point. He called one of the other priests on Saturday night and explained how sick he was and the he could not conduct mass the next day. The second priest agreed to cover for him.

Not wanting anyone to see him, the fly fishing priest drove 200 miles to a trout stream to fish.

An angel seeing the priest play hooky went to god and explained the situation. God agreed that something should be done to teach the priest a lesson.

The priest slowly entered the water. His first cast was flawless. His fly drifted past a log and a huge mouth came up and gulped his fly. For almost an hour the priest ran up and down the stream as he fought the monster fish. In the end he netted a world record rainbow.

Confused, the angel asked God "What are you doing?"

God Replied "Think about it. Who is he going to tell?"

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Fishing the Lower Yuba River

Jeremy Gray

The Lower Yuba has been a secret treasure of Northern California fly fishing for quite a while, but the secret is getting out. Today, the river is enjoying its greatest popularity in years, but it is still far from being over-fished and is still wide open except on big fishing weekends. The lower Yuba River between Englebright Dam and the Daguerre diversion dam offers over eight miles of wild trout, steelhead, and salmon waters, and it is just a little over an hour drive from Sacramento.

The fall is the most productive time for fishing the Yuba. Fall brings the salmon to the redds, and dead drifting glo-bugs and nymphs under an indicator can make for some 20+ fish days.

The Salmon redds are identified as white patches in the gravel on the bottom of the river. The salmon stir up the gravel with their tails as they build their nests, shaking off the algae coating on the gravel and turning it over. This action also stirs up mayfly nymphs, stone fly nymphs, caddis lava and pupae.

Combining this with the escape of hundreds of eggs makes for easy pickings for the trout and steelhead who get right into the redds with the salmon or wait down below them. You can see the salmon chasing the trout and steelies along with the jacks (immature salmon) as they work on the spawn.

The trick to this kind of fishing is getting a dead drift and getting the flies right down in the gravel. Lots of split shot and a good indicator are keys to success this time of year. Boles Float Right Indicators are the best for novices learning this type of fishing. They look like pumpkins and float better than anything. They are orange and have a little green and black "toothpick" sticking straight up out of the indicator. The reason these work so well for novices is that they will point in the direction of the drag. If the toothpick is pointing upstream, it

(Continued on page 17)

Guided Striper and Shad Floats

American River

Dave Howard, Guide



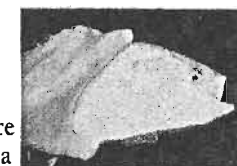
Spend a morning or evening on the river chasing stripers and shad with Dave Howard. Dave has been fishing and guiding the valley rivers for years. He knows where they live and he knows how to get them!



You'll hit the river either right at dawn, or in the early afternoon and spend 5 or so hours angling. That way you'll be on the water during the low-light times of the day. That's when it's best for stripers. You'll have the opportunity to cast your

flies in front of stripers (all year) and shad (May through July).

The stripers range in size from 1 pound to over 50 pounds! They are fierce battlers, and aggressively chase flies. They are no dummies, however, so catching the big ones isn't always a snap



Shad, in contrast, are frequently easy to catch. They don't grow as big as stripers—the biggest are 6 or so pounds—but they fight really hard and are far more numerous. In a morning or afternoon session an angler can catch more than 20 of the rascals!

\$95 per person, 2 person minimum, or \$190 for the boat, (if you want to catch all the fish yourself.)



Fly Fishing Specialties

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FLY TYING SKILLS PROGRAM

*Sponsored by American Fly
Fishing Company*

Pattern for January Program:
(featured in the December Leader)

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

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

Beginner: \$15 Gift Certificate

Non-beginner: \$25 Gift Certificate

* The winner of the gift certificate in the non-beginner category will be determined by a drawing between those who have entered that specific contest.

December Winners:

Experienced: **Ron English**

\$25 Gift Certificate

Bragging rights **Mike Gervais**

Beginner: \$ 15 Gift Certificate

No Entry

Program rules:

- * judging will be during the meeting
- * best tied fly announced 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.

3. Tie in the ribbing material at the same point, and let it hang to the rear out of the way.
4. Tie in a dubbing loop at the same point, and move the thread to the front of the hook.
5. Using a dubbing loop tool, create a shaggy "rope" of dubbing by filling the loop with the dubbing material and twisting the tool.
6. Wrap the "rope" forward to the rear of the lead and tie it off.
7. Wind the ribbing material forward to the same point. Use only 3 to 5 wraps, depending on hook size. Tie it off securely and add a drop of super glue to the wraps.
8. Using a piece of velcro (hook side), tease the dubbing out from beneath the ribbing, creating a shaggy look. Trim the bottom and top of the abdomen, and then the sides. The finished product should have a taper to the tail area.
9. Cut a few strands of crystal flash and tie them in on top of the lead, with the ends pointing to the rear. Tie in a piece of dark turkey approximately 1/4" wide on top of the lead; wrap it down well, making sure that there is no gap between the abdomen and the rearmost spot where the turkey is wrapped.
10. Dub the thorax, using a bit more dubbing than was used for the abdomen...the thorax should be more robust than the abdomen.
11. Tie in another loop of rubber leg material just behind the eye, with the loop facing out over the eye. Don't cut the loop yet.
12. Tie in a pair of mono eyes behind the eye at the same spot.
13. Strip the fuzz from a hen feather. Then cut the stem about midway down its axis, leaving a "v" shaped remnant. Place this remnant on top of the thorax, with the concave side down. This will represent the legs. Tie it down just behind the eye of the hook.
14. Bring the turkey over the top of the thorax and tie it down behind the eye. Bring the crystal flash over the top and tie it down at the same spot. Place a bit of dubbing over the tie-in spot and whip finish. Place a small drop of super glue over the thread winds.
15. Cut the rubber leg material loop at the rear in half to form the tails and shorten them to about 1/2 shank length. Cut the loop at the front, leaving the antennae long. That's it. Sounds more complicated than it is.

See ya on the creek!!!!

Flytier's Corner

BY
BILL CARNAZZO
 January, 2003
Bill's Simple Stonefly
 (Yuba version)

If you were born a "squalla" stonefly in the Lower Yuba River, spring would be a time of immense danger for you. Beginning in January (sometimes a little earlier) these little stoneflies become the insect *de jour* for Lower Yuba River fish—steelhead and trout. Other insects remain important to the fish (caddis, and maybe even mayfly species), but stoneflies predominate their menu. As the larvae crawl amidst submerged rocks and debris, their piscatorial predator feasts on them. Imitation of this larval behavior pattern through proper drift and depth control is crucial. Your fly must, in other words, drift naturally at or close to the bottom.

Larvae are dark in color, shaded with an olive-yellow hue. This month's stonefly pattern is "generic" in that it can be used for any color or size of stonefly. It serves as an excellent imitation for the golden stone, as well as black species. The fly can be tied with or without a bead. For simplicity, the bead is omitted here.

The adults begin hatching in mid- to late February. Next month we'll feature a stimulator pattern that seems to work well on the Yuba.

MATERIALS

Hook Daiichi 1260 or similar, size 8-12
 Thread Black or olive 6/0 or 8/0
 Tail Black or olive fine rubber leg material
 Body Olive-yellow dubbing, shaggy
 Rib Fine olive v-rib or other vinyl ribbing material
 Wingcase Dark turkey, with a few strands of crystal flash
 Legs Black hen
 Eyes Monofilament or tiny "dumb bells"
 Head Black thread
 Weight .015 lead wraps

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Apply between 5 and 10 wraps of lead where the thorax will later be tied. Cover it with Flexament and wrap it tightly with thread, securing it front and rear.
2. Cut about 1 inch of fine rubber leg material from a strand.

The following nine behaviors comprise the Federation of Fly Fishers' Code of Angling Ethics:

— Angling ethics begin with understanding and obeying laws and regulations associated with the fishery. Fly anglers understand that their conduct relative to laws and regulations reflects on all anglers. Angling ethics begin with and transcend laws and regulations governing angling and the resources that sustain the sport.

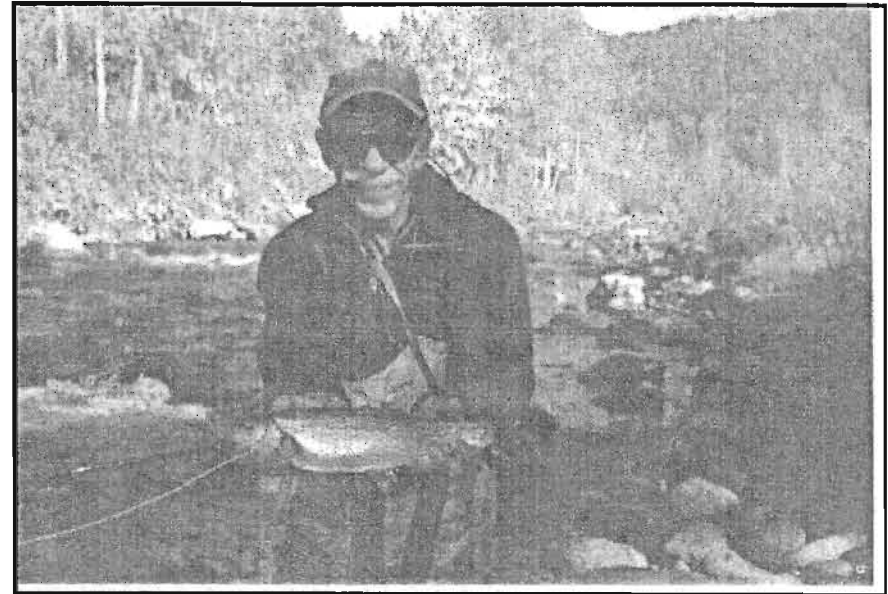
- * The opportunity to participate in the sport of fly fishing is a privilege and a responsibility. Fly anglers respect private property and always ask permission before entering or fishing private property. They seek to understand and follow the local customs and practices associated with the fishery. They share the waters equally with others whether they are fishing or engaging in other outdoor activities.
- * Fly anglers minimize their impact on the environment and fishery by adopting practices that do not degrade the quality of the banks, waters, and the overall watersheds upon which fisheries depend. These practices include avoiding the introduction of species not native to an ecosystem, and cleaning and drying fishing gear to prevent the inadvertent transport of invasive exotics that may threaten the integrity of an aquatic ecosystem. In simplest terms, fly anglers always leave the fishery better than when they found it.
- * Fly anglers endeavor to conserve fisheries by understanding the importance of limiting their catch. "Catch and release" is an important component of sustaining premium fisheries that are being over-harvested. Fly anglers release fish properly and with minimal harm. They promote the use of barbless hooks and angling practices that are more challenging but which help to sustain healthy fish populations.
- * Fly anglers do not judge the methods of fellow anglers. Fly anglers share their knowledge of skills and techniques. They help others to understand that fly-fishing contributes to sound fisheries conservation practices.
- * Fly anglers treat fellow anglers as they would expect to be treated. They do not impose themselves on or otherwise interfere with other anglers. They wait a polite time, and then, if necessary, request permission to fish through. They may invite other anglers to fish through their positions. Fly anglers when entering an occupied run or area always move in behind other anglers, not in front of them whether in a boat or wading.
- * Fly anglers when sharing the water allow fellow anglers ample room so as not to disturb anyone's fishing experience. They always fish in a manner that causes as little disturbance as practical to the water and fish. They take precautions to keep their shadow from falling across the water (walking a high bank).
- * When fishing from watercraft fly anglers do not crowd other anglers or craft. They do not block entrances to bays or otherwise impede others. Fly anglers do not unnecessarily disturb the water by improperly lowering anchors or slapping the water with paddles or oars.
- * Fly anglers always compliment other anglers and promote this Code of Angling Ethics to them whether they fish with a fly or not.

BASS FLY TYING CLASS

The TENTATIVE dates for the bass fly tie class will be March 3,10,17,24,31.

These dates are only tentative and will have to be confirmed later. The fee for the five nights will be \$30 payable IN ADVANCE. This year the sign-ups will be a little different from the first come used in the past. This year I will again take the first nine sign-ups but they need to be members that have never taken the class before. If the class is not full, there will be a waiting list where past students may sign up. You do not have to be an accomplished tier for this class but you do need to know the basics of tying. All materials will be supplied as part of the fee. I also have extra tools if you notify me of your needs before the class starts. The class runs from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Pete Peterson



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