

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS



Photo by Kent Ripley

Trout keying on Grasshoppers at the Sagehen Creek Field Station, operated by UC Berkeley, during a presentation by Bill Carnazzo and Ken Davis at the Sagehen Entomology study Sept. 18. The Station has an underwater observatory to watch the habits from. Soon you will be able to view this scene via the Internet and the Sagehen website.

October 2004



Visit our website: <http://www.gbflycasters.org>

October 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1.	2.
3.	4.	5.	6. Little Truckee River see page 7	7. Conservation Committee meeting	8.	9.
10.	11.	12.	13.	14. General meeting: 7 pm see page 10	15.	16.
17.	18.	19. Fly Tying Jam 6:30 pm	20.	21. Board meeting 7pm-9 Eagle Lake see page 7	22.	23.
24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30. An Evening with Ed Engle, Dunsmuir, CA. See www.gbflycasters.com
31.						

President's Message

G a r y F l a n a g a n

I just love the Fall Season. I like it even more than Spring Opener. Why do I like it so much? It's because the fish are normally bigger and more aggressive and the fish-outs we are scheduling will produce some of the biggest fish of the year.

At the Truckee River Fishout last week, several big Browns and Rainbows over eighteen inches were caught. I was lucky enough to hook and land a very large wild Rainbow on a crayfish pattern. I didn't realize it at the time but this fish would teach me a little something about human nature.

I was fishing with a small group of Club Members below the Hirshdale Exit down by the iron train trestle. The flows had just been increased on Donner Creek and the Truckee had received a much-needed shot of colder water. I was fishing downstream from Joe Aichroth but we had lost sight of each other due to a slight bend in the river. I was using a hinged indicator system and a size eight; light root beer colored Crayfish that looked more like a marine shrimp. I cast into a nice slot that ended against a Volkswagen sized rock. I allowed the indicator to linger in the water cushion in front of this rock for a few seconds when **bam**, the indicator shot downward. I tightened up on the line and this beautiful red striped torpedo shot out from under that rock and crashed into the main current. It wasn't until I turned the fish for the first time that I realized just how big it was. As I was fighting the fish I glanced around to see if anyone was watching. It was just

my luck that no one was to be found. I yelled for Joe but he didn't respond. I was using my five weight Sage XP and each time the fish managed

to get sideways in the current he took me down into another pocket of water. After we traveled about fifty yards downstream, I was able to hold the trout in slow water and slip my hand under his belly. I sat in the water cross-legged on a small sandy area, holding the fish head first into the current where it rushed between two rocks.

Once again, I looked around to see if anyone was close by. After yelling for attention, I came to the realization that no one was going to see my fish. I had left my camera in my vehicle so no one was going to see a picture of my fish. I didn't even have a tape measure so I held my rod downstream in the water and place it alongside the fish. The tip of the fishes nose was even with the butt of the rod and the tail was even with where the second segment connected with the butt section. I took me several minutes of holding that magnificent fish in the current before he started struggling to swim away. The water was still on the warm side but even though that fish had been stressed from the fight, I was confident he would be there to fight another day. After I got back with everyone for



see 'President's Message' page 15

Tying the Blue Wing Olive Nymph



The Blue Wing Olive Nymph

Fall and winter are nearly upon us. I guess I'll be fishing the Upper Sac this winter, since now the regulations allow year-round fishing (single barbless hook, no kill after November 15th). That being the case, the October Caddis hatch will be fishable a bit longer. However, winter means baetis time, and baetis means "blue wing olive" and tiny flies. "Blue wing olive" is a generic name for a broad range of different colors and sizes of the baetis bug. There is a good article in the latest Fly Tyer magazine by Scott Sanchez on Baetis, their life cycle and the variations you can expect to find. Olive is always a good bet for baetis imitations. The Blue Wing Olive Nymph is a generic pattern of uncertain origin; the important thing is that it works. It is not the only effective pattern for baetis—don't forget the PT, with or without a bead. You will need to determine, through research, what color and size baetis inhabit the stream that you plan on fishing. Next month we will feature the baetis emerger, and for December the adult will take center stage.

I n s t r u c t i o n s :

1. Smash the barb. If you use

a bead, put it on now. Cover the hook shank with thread. If you desire weight, add it now—my preference is to not weight this type of nymph, because my opinion is that it tends to kill the action of the fly.

2. Tie in the wood duck tail. It should be somewhat sparse, and the length of the hook shank. Use well-marked feathers for this—it makes a big difference.

3. Tie in the brown thread (ribbing material) at the same point, and push it to the rear and out of the way for now.

4. Dub a very sparse, tapered abdomen, stopping at about 1/3 of the shank length behind the eye of the hook.

See 'Blue Wing Olive Nymph'

MATERIALS

Hook: TMC 2302 or Mustad 3906B, #14 - 22 **Note: for the contest we will use size 14 to keep the playing field even.**

Thread: Olive 8/0 for smaller sizes; 6/0 for sizes 14 and 16

Body: Medium olive rabbit or muskrat dubbing

Legs: Brown partridge

Rib: Brown silk or flat nylon thread
Thorax Same as body
Wing case Mottled turkey tail

Bead: Gold, sized to match hook (Optional)

Tying the Blue Wing Olive Nymph

from page 4

5. Rib the abdomen with several turns of the brown thread. Hint—wrap the ribbing in the opposite direction that you wrapped the dubbing; it will tend not to sink into the body.

6. Turkey tail feathers are usually mottled brown, and have a shiny and a dull side. Cut a piece from the quill that is no more than 3/8" wide for the larger sizes, and smaller for the tiny hooks. Tie it in with the tip facing to the rear, and the dull side up. This way when it is folded forward, the shiny side will be up.

7. Dub a thorax that is a bit bulkier than the body. Remember to leave some room behind the eye (or bead).

8. Take a well-marked partridge feather; cut out the tip and set it aside. Stroke most of the feather

downward, leaving about 18" in a "v" shape. Strip away the part that you stroked down, leaving the "v" with a handle (the stem).

9. Place your "v" over the thorax, so that the remaining barbles stick out from the sides of the thorax, and tie the feather down in that position. If the legs are too long, pull on the "handle" and make the necessary adjustment. The legs should not extend past the point of the hook.

10. Bring the wing case over the top of the thorax. This will help to spread the legs into a natural position. Tie the wing case down. Whip finish and add a drop of Flexament to the top of the wing case, and...

See ya on the creek...

Don't be shy, submit a fly **Fly Tying Skills Program**

Sponsored by American Fly Fishing Company

Beginner: \$15 gift certificate

Non-beginner: \$25 gift certificate

Observe a fly tying master tie this fly at this month's general meeting and bring it to next month's meeting to be eligible for gift certificates donated by American Fly Fishing Company.

Get input and critiques from experienced tiers. This will help you improve your skills and help increase your chances of catching fish.

Rules:

- Judging takes place during the general meeting.
- Winning flies are those that best match the specific pattern recipe published. No other pattern is accepted.
- Non-beginner category certificate winner will be drawn at random from among entries in that category.
- Beginners will be moved to non-beginner category after winning their category twice.

Monthly Fly Tying Winners for June

Beginners:

No entry

Non-Beginners:

\$25 gift certificate from American Fly Fishing Company:

Michael Gervais

Best Tie: **Michael Gervais**

**Membership
drive starts now.**
Renew your
membership and
possibly win a prize
at Oct. meeting

November 4-7, 2004

Upper Sacramento River

The annual GBF Upper Sacramento outing will be November 4-7 this year. It's a bit later than last year, but the fishing will still be good. We already have 35 people signed up, but that's not a problem as there is room for everyone who wants to go.

This is always a premiere fun event, featuring good food, camaraderie, and fishing. You need to make your lodging arrangements now. Contact Cave Springs Resort in Dunsmuir, which is where most of the group will be staying. There is also the Acorn Inn which is just a block away. If all else fails, call Bob Grace at the Ted Fay

Fly Shop for other possibilities. Warm clothing and rain gear will be essential.

There will be an informational flyer, as well as the sign up list, at the October meeting.

If you wish you can contact me any time for details or to have your name added to the list. My contact information: Denny Welch (530) 889-8562; or send an email: dennywelch@jps.net.

Note: if you want to sign up for the Saturday, Nov. 6th clinic that is being provided by Bill Carnazzo and Ron Rabun, it is separate from the outing itself. There is an article on the clinic in this issue of the Leader.

Annual Dinner decisions near, volunteers needed for committee

Initial discussions on everything from food, drinks, and table decorations to raffle prizes, silent auction items, and selection of the evening's speaker and program are underway. If you have ideas or opinions on these matters – and want to see your club produce another highly successful annual dinner event...

DON'T WAIT... STEP UP TO THE PLATE!

Clubmember input and efforts are critical to making the annual dinner work – and annual

dinner proceeds are critical to making the club work. This cycle represents the ultimate opportunity for those who really want the club to succeed to pitch in and really help the club to succeed.

Your ideas count. Join the annual dinner committee and make a difference. Contact Joe Aichroth (916-772-4177 or jaich@surewest.net to learn when and where the next annual dinner committee meeting will be.

Fishouts for October

Here are the outings that we have scheduled for the month of October:

1. **Little Truckee River, October 6.** This will be a week-day (Wednesday) trout outing. It is tentative because of changing water conditions. If the water is too low, we will cancel it or maybe do a Truckee outing instead. Although Ron English will be the outing chair for this one, I will gather up the list of members who want to have their name on the list. Send me an email at billcarnazzo@aol.com

2. **Eagle Lake, October 21-24.** Frank Stolten is the outing chair for this one. He can be reached at (916) 725-6894. Frank's email address is

fstolten@comcast.net. Frank will have all of the information for you. As Frank said, accommodations in the area go quickly, so take care of that right away. Frank had a sign up list at the September meeting, but if you weren't there or forgot to sign up, contact Frank.

I NEED HELP IN SETTING UP OUTINGS. Winter fishing is rapidly approaching, and we need to schedule some good outings for the months of December, January, and February. Please contact me with your ideas. We want the outings to mirror what the members want, so your input is valued. Thanks.

Sign up early and often.

-Bill Carnazzo, Co-Fishmaster



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Rod building basics: 103

What About Blank Actions?

All blanks have an action associated with them. By knowing what kind of fishing you are going to do helps greatly in determining blank or rod requirements. For example, are you fishing lakes, large to small streams, the ocean or maybe an aquarium or your backyard pond? Also, what size of fish are you trying to capture, such as a nice size trout or a billed fish that runs over 100 pounds?

Let's first define blank actions. There are 4 basic blank actions: extra fast (top 25% bends), fast (top 33% bends), medium or moderate (top 50% bends), and slow (entire blank from cork handle bends).

Extra-fast and fast blanks or

rods are chosen to handle a slightly larger range of fly lines with flies. These actions are also selected for those requiring longer casts of over 50 feet for larger streams or lakes. Slow and medium actions of blanks or rods handle a shorter range of fly lines with flies. They are typically used for shorter, softer, and delicate casts of less than 50 feet in smaller streams, beaver ponds, or large aquariums. Blanks or rods should not be chosen for maximum casting distance if that is not the primary use. Selection should be made on how effective the rod will

THERE ARE 4 BASIC BLANK ACTIONS: EXTRA FAST (TOP 25% BENDS), FAST (TOP 33% BENDS), MEDIUM OR MODERATE (TOP 50% BENDS), AND SLOW (ENTIRE BLANK FROM CORK HANDLE BENDS)

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be for the majority of the fishing done with it (make it easier on yourself and enjoy). Remember one rod is not going to be effective in all types of fly fishing.

Rods get their actions from blank taper, blank wall thickness and density of material (graphite, fiber glass, composite, and binding materials) manufacturers use in constructing the blanks. Fast action rods are typically made with complex tapers and high-density materials, while slow rods are made from simple tapers and less-density material.

See "Rod building" page 9

Rod building basics: 103 'Blank Actions'

From page 8

Manufacturers often provide blank and rod specifications on websites or catalogs. This information is helpful in selection of the blank or rod you may want. Some manufacturers provide more information than others, but you can get a good gauge in examining the specifications and statistics of the blank or rod.

When you get a blank or rod in hand, you can judge the action by a simple test. When doing this test on a blank only, DO NOT put the blank in serious flex. You can get breakage at the joints of multiple piece rods by flexing the blank too much. When flexing a blank, you will need to determine the effective spine of each segment and align

properly. Without doing this, you will not get an accurate rod flex. A discussion of locating the effective spine will be coming soon. If you would like to know how to locate the effective spine earlier, please contact Bill Avery and Larry Lee to help you.

To conduct the test, hold the rod or blank parallel to the floor with eyes down or rod blank spine up and the butt end against your abdomen. You will then need to rotate the rod 90% in either direction. Then start a side-to-side tip motion, progressively increasing the tip motion until the whole rod flex is shown. When you observe the curvature of the rod and compare with the definitions above, you can

See 'Rod Building' page 19

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Secrets of the Yamsi Valley

Every year, as spring gives way to summer, one of the most spectacular Mayfly hatches in the United States commences. The result of these clouds of insects is a Redband trout feeding frenzy that you have to see to believe. For those who can't make it to Aspen Ridge Ranch for courtside seats we will bring the experience to you with our slide presentation, Secrets Of The Yamsi Valley.

The Upper Williamson River, in south-central Oregon, offers a matchless flyfishing experience featuring one of the few black (gray) drake hatches in the Western US. This 40-mile stretch of gently moving water meanders almost exclusively through privately owned cattle ranches. I purchased Aspen Ridge Ranch ten years ago. Cattle grazing was halted and an intensive fisheries and riparian system rehabilitation project was begun.

Now, with grassy cut-banks, the return of willows, and strategically placed woody materials in the river, we have a deeper, cooler flow of water. Consequently, the native Upper Williamson River Redbands are back; bigger and better than ever.

Secrets Of The Yamsi Valley is a 40-minute slide presentation that reviews the natural history of the Yamsi Valley, the uniqueness of its fishery, and our conservation efforts on the Upper Williamson River. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.

For more information and a



Dawn Stuart

preview of this slide show visit our website at www.yamsi.com or call us at (541) 783-2138.

Dawn G. Stuart grew up in Klamath County. Upon graduation from Chiloquin high school she went off to college at the University of Nevada – Reno. In her fifth year of college she ran off with a cowboy and somehow ended up living and working in Huntington Beach, California as a sales and marketing consultant. After years of searching for just the right weekend escape property, fatefully she ended up back in her hometown, buying several hundred acres in the Yamsi Valley. Quickly the smog and crowds of southern California were too much and the call of the wild brought her back to Oregon for good. Dawn now shares her log cabin home on the Upper Williamson River with Bob Rogers--a surfer, web designer and beginning fly fisher--two dogs, and a cat; all of whom believe they've found heaven on earth.

When: Oct. 14, 7 pm

Where: GBF Clubhouse

Wanted: Club members that have an interesting fishing trip that they can share with the club as a speaker. Can be combined with another club member. Please contact Ron English at (530) 677-7169

There's Gold in them there hills

Golden Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss aguabonita*). The area around Crowley Lake has a few lakes that contain Golden Trout. Two years ago, Susan and I did the Crowley Lake fishout, and I decided I wanted to catch a Golden Trout, soooo, I did some research and came up with 13 lakes that had Golden Trout in them. I looked in my Eastern Sierra trail book guide for what degree of difficulty the day hike would be, because, I can no longer do overnight back pack trips with my bad knees. I looked for something that I could do in one day with the easiest hike. I decided on Treasure Lakes, which is an easily 3-1/2 mile hike above South Lake out of Bishop - that's what the

books said. After many four letter words and crying on Susan's part we made it to Treasure Lakes to find 40 MPH wind blowing and only 45 minutes left to fish, before we had to start the hike back down the (easy hiking trail). We didn't catch any fish or see any fish - nothing but nice scenery.

This year at the Crowley fishout, we had to take a day off, because of high winds and went sightseeing. We stopped by the Mammoth visitor center for some information and I found this book called, "Angler's Guide To The Eastern Sierra". It showed some lakes that had Golden Trout in them, and only required a 3/4 mile hike (degree of difficulty EASY). I was hooked, now how to convince Susan that we could do this. Lucky for me, Susan is adventurous, as long as the degree of difficulty is low. The lake I picked is in the Twenty Lakes Basin - Saddlebag Lake area. The book said Odell Lake and Hidden Lake had Golden Trout in them. All that was required was to take a water taxi service across Saddlebag Lake and a 3/4 mile, easy hike to Odell Lake. After spending the night in Lee Vining, we headed up Highway 120 to Saddlebag Lake, bought our tickets for the water taxi (they charge extra for a float tube) and since it's an easy hike I decided to take my float tube. On the way across the lake I was talking to the boat captain about which lake he would recommend for Golden Trout and he said Twin Lakes would be our best chance, which is only a 1/4 mile up a ridge from Odell Lake

see 'Hunting for Golden's' page 13

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Salmon In The City

An endless stream of cars, trucks, cyclists, and pedestrians flows along Rocklin Road where it passes over Secret Ravine as a handful of leg-long Chinook salmon jockey for spawning position in the creek below. The travelers above are oblivious to the travelers below, and vice versus - their paths intersect but their missions couldn't be further apart.

The mutual anonymity lets these fish remain largely unaffected by urbanization as they work to add their offspring to threatened state-wide populations of Pacific salmon. Just like their ancestors for a thousand years before, small groups of salmon continue to find there way back to this obscure little stream to mate and die - renewing the species and replenishing the habitat.

Ten paces further up the creek, in another glide over appropriate gravel, another pair salmon is spawning in two feet of water that's hardly wider than it is deep. Over the next creek mile, through ankle-high riffles and chin-deep pools, between fresh beaver dams and old blow downs, among granite boulders and blackberry brambles, scores of salmon can be seen returning 'home' for the first and last time.

Observing these incredible animals in this remarkable setting is as inspiring as it is important. Finding and counting individual fish, fresh redds, and carcasses as part of the Dry Creek Conservancy's annual salmon count is a special privilege - and a really valuable part of the Conservancy's mission to monitor and track local salmon

spawning success.

As one of our club's most accessible conservation activities, taking part in this annual event is at once exhilarating, educational, humbling, and rewarding. Donning waders, staff, and polarized glasses, participants walk and wade a designated creek 'reach' to observe and record specific fish data. The process may take only 2-3 hours, generally, but the memories are forever.

Available dates for this year's count will be announced at club meetings where sign-up sheets will also be provided. For those who can't wait (or who won't be at the next club meeting), check the club's

see 'Salmon in the city' page 19



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2005 membership renewal drive

Do you want a chance to win a prize?

Get out your wallet; October marks the start of the 2005 Membership Renewal Drive.

At the October, November, and December general meetings there will be a Membership Renewal table. Please, stop by and renew your membership for 2005.

The 2005 club dues will remain at \$30.00 for individual and \$35.00 for a family membership.

You can also renew your membership by mailing a check,

made out to "Granite Bay Fly casters" to: Membership Renewal 4120 Douglas Blvd #306-356 Granite Bay, Ca. 95746-5936

Members that renew their membership by December 31, 2004 will have their names put into a raffle. This year we have not one, not three, but two prizes to be given out. The raffle will be held at the January general meeting.

-Mike Howes

Membership Chair, 863-6795.

Nov. 6

UPPER Sacramento River Nymphing Clinic

Nov. 6, with the GBF Upper Sacramento outing, Ron Rabun and Bill Carnazzo will be conducting a clinic on fishing the Upper Sacramento, emphasizing the "short line" technique. The purpose of the clinic is to teach nymph fishing skills, with a sprinkling of other skills such as rigging, reading the water, and wading safety. The clinic is held in the morning, followed by

self-provided lunch. The afternoon is spent fishing. Ron and I will work with each individual to help with problems and hone skills. The fee is \$20.00 per person. There will be a sign up list at the October meeting, but if you wish you can contact me any time for details or to have your name added to the list. My

see 'Nymphing Clinic' page 15

Hunting for Golden's

from page 11

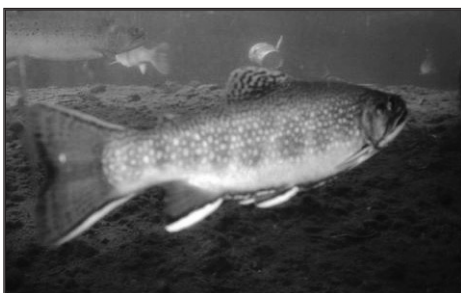
with no trail. The trail to Odell Lake was easy, and we only got lost twice. After an hour of fishing and catching nothing, and seeing nothing, I asked Susan if she wanted to go up and try to find Twin Lakes. She said yes, if she could walk at her own pace (what a good wife), so off we go with no trail and a so-so map that we had already gotten lost twice with. After 30 minutes of climbing around, we found Twin

Lakes. I blew my tube up and caught my first Golden Trout. I put Susan in the tube next and told her she had 30 minutes to catch a fish before we had to leave to catch the water taxi. The fish god's were not with her, and she didn't catch a Golden Trout. It looks like next year at the Crowley Lake fish out, we will try again (isn't life great).

(PS) This area does not qualify for the California Heritage Trout Challenge.

-Fishon Gene & Susan Goss

Bugs galore at Sagehen Creek



The Sagehen Entomology workshop was quite the success, over 25 people were in attendance to study the bugs of the Sagehen Creek. Biologist, Ken Davis, lead the group through finding bugs to identifying them, Bill Carnazzo helped attendees .

Photos by Kent Ripley

Oct. 9-10

Salmon Festival Help Still Needed

Several members signed up at the September Meeting to help at the Salmon Festival on October 9th and 10th but we still need more help. If you are new to the club this is your chance to be a part of something fun.

Once again, we will provide a fly tying booth where we teach

children and adults to tie wooly buggers and conduct fly casting demonstrations. We will also have a Granite Bay Flycasters booth where we show festival attendees what we do as a Club. All volunteers will be given free parking passes and entry is free into Nimbus Flat State Park on Lake Natoma which is located off Hazel Ave and the American River.

The sooner you sign up, the more choice you will have at the day and the hours you work.

Vic and Alex Giannini are the coordinators for this event. To sign up, you can contact them at (916) 784-7422.

President's message

from page 3

lunch, we measured the rod and it taped out to be a whopping **twenty-six and a half inches!**

Remember, I told you this fish taught me a lesson in human nature? This is why. Even though I have fished with a lot of Club Members, and they know me to be an honest man about fish and flyfishing, all it takes is for me to catch one twenty-six and a half inch Rainbow Trout in the Truckee when no one is around and without photographic evidence and all of a sudden, my buddies become a bunch of doubting Thomas's. Honest guys, it was really that big!

Nymphing clinic

from page 13

contact information: Bill Carnazzo (916) 663-2604 (home) or (916) 295-9353 (cell); or send an email: billcarnazzo@aol.com . Note: this clinic is separate from, and not part of the outing itself. I am making this opportunity available, as has always been the case, as a separate guided event. GBF will not receive any portion of the proceeds, which will go to me and Ron as normal guide fees.

Service Pin Recipients

From the Board of Granite Bay Flycasters, a special thank you to the following members whose efforts make the club a better organization. September: Ray Nunez, Jim Coleman.

Thank you to all the, board, volunteers and members that keep donating their time, labor and services to keep this club going month to month.

That Old Bamboo Fly Rod

With the growing interest in bamboo fly rods and being one who loves and fishes them, I can't begin to count the times I've been told by someone that they've got an old bamboo fly rod. The rod had been their grandfather's or they found it at a flea market or garage sale. The first thing they ask me is, "Is it worth anything?" Next they ask if they should fish it? They often say, someone has told them that bamboo rods break easy and they're really afraid to fish with it. "Actually," I tell them, "bamboo is much more durable than graphite.

Bamboo rods were made for one reason and one reason only. They were

I TELL THEM, "BAMBOO IS MUCH MORE DURABLE THAN GRAPHITE."

made to be fished! But, I add, they do take more care." More often than not, the rod I've been asked about is one of the hundreds of thousands of what were known as high production rods. Rods made by makers such as South Bend, Horrocks-Ibbotson, Montague and Shakespeare, or those made in Japan just after World War II.

These rods, really don't have a great deal of monetary value. Most of the value would be sentimental, if the rod was given by someone special. Every once in awhile, though, I've run into a gem. By that I mean, a rod built by one of the great rod makers of the past. E.C. Powell, Winston, Payne, Leonard or Young to name just a few. Rods made by makers such as these are highly sought after by collectors and can bring premium prices. I do want to say many of the high production rods, especially those of the

high-end models, were of excellent quality.

No matter what the make or grade of a rod, condition and length play an important part in its value. The better the condition, naturally, the more it's worth. Rods in original condition will always bring the highest prices. Also, rods in 8' and under are more valuable than longer rods because there were fewer made. During the "golden era" of bamboo rods, most fly fishermen felt that longer was better, so, the majority of rods were made in lengths from 8 1/2 to 9 and even 9 1/2 feet.

I do want to mention what many collectors refer to as "blue

collar" rods. These were production rods of excellent quality and for the most part sold at very affordable prices. Heddon, Granger and Phillipson were three of the leading makers in this category.

See 'Bamboo Rods' page 17

Federation of Fly Fishers *A Festival of Fly Fishing*

Conclave 2004

Redding Convention Center, Redding, CA

Friday & Saturday October 15 & 16, 2004

Featuring
Jack Dennis, Steve Rajeff,
Scott Sanchez

For registration & updates go to:
www.nccff.org

Bamboo Rods

from page 16

How does one tell a cheap grade rod from a better grade rod? Many of the lesser grade rods will have a decal just above the handle at the base of the rod. Often, these decals are worn off. Most of the better quality rods had the name written on the rod and or the name stamped on the metal part of the reel seat. Sometimes, though, for the inexperienced, it's impossible to tell the make of a rod. However, a knowledgeable person in the field of classic bamboo rods, can often get a pretty good idea. The expert can frequently tell the maker by the type and quality of ferrules on a rod. Cheap rods always had cheap ferrules. Cheap rods also had fewer guides than better rods. The color of the wraps can be another clue. Better grade rods came in metal tubes. Lesser grade rods came in cardboard tubes, or only the cloth

bag. It's a great discovery when one finds a rod in the original tube and bag. This, too, will add to its value.

Early this summer, I was fishing on my favorite stretch of the lower Yuba River. It was late afternoon and I was sitting at the edge of the water in my chair having my dinner, when I saw a fisherman wade out into the water just downstream from where I sat. The first thing I noticed was how beautifully he cast. The second thing was, when he got a little closer, it looked like he was fishing with a bamboo rod. When I asked, he said "yes," and waded to shore and showed it to me. The rod was a beautiful Heddon Model 17, which is known as a Black Beauty. Of course, we had something in common and began to talk bamboo rods. He, like myself, fished them almost

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That old Bamboo Rod

from age 17

exclusively. The rod was probably made in the late 1940's and when he got the rod about a year ago, it still had the plastic wrap on the handle. A friend asked him since the rod was in new condition was he still going to fish it? "Of course," he said, "that's why I bought it."

What if the rod you've been given or found is badly in need of repairs? If you want to spend the money, there are those who specialize in repairing bamboo rods. It may

not, depending on the make and extent of repairs needed, be worth the cost. Of course, that is a decision one would have to make for themselves. For example, several months

ago, my wife's sister gave me a bundle of old sections of bamboo rods. This "stuff" had belonged to their father. Many years ago, when he passed away, she ended up putting it in her garage and forgot about it. One thing in the bundle did catch my eye. It was a rod in an old moth eaten rod bag. When I was finally able to get all of the pieces out of the bag, I found I was in for a very pleasant surprise. On the metal slide band reel seat was stamped, Made by Goodwin Granger Company, Denver. The rod, an 8 1/2 footer, was in need of a fair amount of repair. The good thing was, the rod was straight and both tips were full length. I sent the rod to a friend who specializes in restoring classic rods. He came

to the conclusion the rod was the model known as the Denver Special and was probably made in the late 1920's, not too many years before my father-in-law moved from Colorado to California.

When I got the rod back from my friend I could not have been happier with the results. It's proved to be a wonderful rod and a joy to cast. I fish it using a No. 5 wt. Phoenix silk line spooled on a circa 1930's Hardy Uniqua fly reel. This has become one of my favorite rods when

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SAY A LITTLE THANK YOU TO THE
FATHER-IN-LAW I NEVER KNEW.

I fish the lower Yuba. Using this rod, I've been fortunate to land a few, not many, but a few of the feisty fish that call this part of the river home. Each time I release a fish, I say a little thank you

to the father-in-law I never knew.

If you have a rod and decide not to fish it, what should you do...put it away and forget all about it? How about displaying it by hanging it on a wall or putting it in a frame along with other old fly fishing memorabilia? Remember, these old rods are one way to keep in touch with our fly fishing past. Now, if you do decide to fish the rod, you must remember, cane is slower than graphite. You've got to give the rod a chance. Slow down. Adjust your casting to the action of the rod. Believe me, fishing a cane rod can give you a more relaxing day on the water. The actual casting itself, can add to your fishing enjoyment. Why not give it a try?

-Jack L. Parker

Rod building basics: 103 'Blank Actions'

From page 9

get good idea how the blank or rod reacts with increasing loads. When conducting this test on a built rod, the types of eyes (single foot, double

foot, eye stiffness, eye sizes..) and how they are tied on also changes the action somewhat.

There are many variables in trying to achieve a particular rod performance for the purpose you have in mind. By examining the blank or rod actions, the fly fisherman will have a better understanding of the rod characteristics, and why a rod responds in a particular way.

-Larry Lee

Granite Bay Flycasters Classifieds

For Sale: Early model Water Otter pontoon boat. aluminum frame, oars, 2 way hand pump, rigged for anchor.\$115 OBO. For details call: Walt Dombrowski (916) 652 5204.

For Sale: 2 New, mint Sage rods with blank warranty cards, original Sage tubes and sleeves. Never been cast, slight rub where rods sat in dealer's rack. Each is in beautiful condition. XP 490-4 \$450, XP 690-4 \$470. List price for each is nearly \$600! Buy one or both. Call Nick Burnett at 916-488-3725 or email at nickburnet@aol.com

The Stillwater classic pram. \$500.00 firm oars extra and 10 foot Don Hill Drift Boat and Trailer Custom seats, oars, \$1,500 Contact Bill Ossolinski Tel # 916-354-8474 E-Mail bossolinski@sbcglobel.net

Float Tubes for Sale: Two excellent float tubes for sale at \$60 apiece. Both are "U-shaped" with two bladders. Call Bill Carnazzo at (916) 663-2604 (home) or (916) 295-9353 (cell).

To place a classified you must be a member in good standing of the Granite Bay Flycasters. Submit your listing to: jburkholder@nmvinc.com with subject line: 'GBF: classified'. Or mail your info to: Jeff Burkholder, 11300 Coloma Rd. Suite B14, Gold River, CA 95670.

Salmon in the city

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website for information that will be added this month. Make time to do this and you'll be richer for the experience. (This is also a Golden Trout Program-approved conservation activity).

Help the club. Volunteer!

New Members

Jeremy Gray, Craig Martin, Barry Fritzpatrick, Jim Wright

Officers

President	Gary Flanagan	916-223-4240
VP Membership	Mike Howes	916-863-6792
VP Conservation	Bill Hagopian	916-771-5837
Secretary	Roger Bryan	916-645-6897
Treasurer	Art Hawkins	916-725-3026
Directors		
Through June, 2007	Bill Carnazzo	916-663-2604
Through June, 2007	Bill Aaberg	916-773-1897
Through June, 2005	Mike Brune	916-723-4524
Through June, 2005	Mike Kaul	530-677-8022
Through June, 2006	Paul Meyers	916-797-1955
Through June, 2006	Karl Wolff	916-941-8584
At Large, 2006	Jeff Burkholder	916-536-1902
Past President	Denny Welch	530-889-8562

Committees

Annual Dinner	Mike Howes	916-863-6795
Casting Instruction	John Hogg	916-663-2051

"	Steve Johnston	530-644-4061
Classroom Egg Prog.	Rick Radoff	916-624-2107
"	Frank Stollen	916-725-6894
Fishmaster	Bill Carnazzo	916-663-2604
	Karl Wolff	916-941-8584
Fly Tying	Bill Carnazzo	916-663-2604
Gatekeepers	Michael Gervais	916-783-5477
"	Jack Peuler	916-797-1547
Golden Trout Program	Mike Brune	916-723-4524
Historian	Warren Schoenmann	916-725-2542
Leader Editor	Jeff Burkholder	916-852-7716
Librarians	Mike Howes	916-863-6795
Merchandising	Mike Brune	916-723-4524
Monthly Programs	Ron English	530-677-7169
Monthly Raffle	Jeanne English	530-677-7169
New Members Coord.	Ray Nunez	916-276-9347
Refreshments	Karen Flanagan	916-791-3528
Youth Programs	Rey Nunez	530-677-7169

www.gbflycasters.org

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

Granite Bay Flycasters

4120 Douglas Blvd. #306-356

Granite Bay, CA 95746-5936

Granite Bay Flycasters

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

Meetings: General club meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Granite Bay Activities Center on the shores of Folsom Lake. For directions, check www.gbflycasters.org or call Gary Flanagan 916-223-4240.

Doors open between 6:30pm and 7pm for socializing and fly tying demonstrations. The business portion of the meeting begins at 7:30pm. The main program gets underway after a short refreshment break and usually involves a guest speaker and slide show or other presentation. Each meeting also has a raffle, and visitors are always welcome.

Membership: Applications are available online www.gbflycasters.org and at general meetings. Single membership: \$30; Family memberships: \$35; and youth (under 18): \$10. There is also an \$8 name badge charge for all new members. Membership is pro-rated throughout the year. For membership information, call Lester Snow 916-967-7563 or visit the website www.gbflycasters.org

The Leader: This publication design and layout is donated by NMV The Marketing Firm, Inc., a creative services and marketing firm. President/GBF member, Jeff Burkholder, 916-852-7716. To send articles, photos, ads, and other materials please email to: jburkholder@nmvinc.com Please put 'GBFC' in the subject line. Deadline for materials: 15th of the month, previous publication date. Printing done at cost by the Electric Page 916-737-3900

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