

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

May 2009

www.gbflycasters.org

Monthly Program



Anyone interested in California's Native Trout and the Heritage Trout Challenge will enjoy a presentation by local fly fisherman, Scott Lyons, at our Thursday, May 14th Granite Bay Flycasters meeting. Our meetings start promptly at 7:00 PM, but please come early to avoid getting locked out of the main gate.

Scott completed his Heritage Trout Challenge last summer by catching at least six different native trout species. He has also helped family and friends with their Heritage Trout quests as well. This is an opportunity to learn about the diversity, history, and restoration efforts of California's Native Trout species. To date, Scott has caught 10 of the 12 native species, and is continuing his pursuit of the remaining two. A slide show featuring pictures and maps of his adventures will be part of the presentation. If you like fly fishing in California, you will enjoy this presentation. See you there.

Scott Lyons lives in Pollock Pines, and teaches junior high school in El

Continued on Page 2

President's Message

by Mike Howes

Time flies when you are having fun. It is May, and I have two months left as the 2008-2009 president. I am on the downhill slope, in fact, almost at the bottom of the hill. It has been fun and educational. Thanks for the support so far.

The Annual Dinner was attended by 175 members and guests. We realized \$11,000 in profit from the dinner. Thanks to all who participated and donated to the dinner. Special "Thanks" to the Annual Dinner Committee, who started

working on the dinner in August of 2008. We have had a critique meeting for the dinner, and have identified areas for improvement,

and also areas of success. Next year Dennis Baker will be heading up the dinner, and he has already begun working on it. If you would like to be involved in our club's one and only fund raiser – The Annual Dinner – please contact Dennis at Gerrie9819@aol.com.

Participation in our clinics has been great. We had 18 participate in the balsawood popper clinics, and 19 members participated in the "Swinging a fly" clinic put on by Ryan Miller. The clinics, along with the fish outs and conservation efforts, are a great way to meet other members, and learn how and where to fly fish. Being



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M A Y 2009						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1.	2.
					Hot Creek Fishout	
3.	4.	5. Conservation Committee Meeting	6.	7.	8.	9.
Hot Creek Fishout						
10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
				7:00 PM Monthly Meeting	Bridgeport Fishout	
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.
Bridgeport Fishout		Fly Tying Jam Shad Fishing Clinic		7:00 PM Board Meeting		
24.	31.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.
						30.

Monthly Program - Continued from front page

Dorado County. His father taught him to fly fish in the 1970's on the streams of Plumas County near Buck's Lake. He became fascinated with the beautifully colored, hard fighting trout of the small streams flowing throughout California. He remembered the declared extirpation of the bull trout in the 1970's, and longingly desired to experience those species, so rare, as to live in only one or two small streams. Over the years, he has developed a passion for fishing the streams on the west slope of the Sierras. He has caught Salmon in Alaska and Northern Pike in Minnesota, but would still place chasing trout in small, hidden streams at the top of his list.

President's Message- Continued from front page

involved in these efforts, you will realize the value of being a member of the Granite Bay Flycasters.

Don't forget our annual picnic. It is an event designed to thank you for being a member. The event is free, other than bringing a side dish for the barbeque. The picnic is scheduled for June 4-7th. Saturday, the 6th, is the day of the "one fly" contest, and fun, family/fly fishing-related games. We will have a barbeque on Saturday also. So, if you are a camper, come early to fish Fuller Lake Thursday and Friday. If you are not a camper, come up to the camp grounds at Fuller Lake on Saturday and join in the games and barbeque. Fuller lake is only 1 ½ hours from Sacramento. The "One Fly" contest doesn't start until 9:00 AM. Mark your calendar(s) for June 4-7th annual picnic.

Our election for the Board of Officers and Directors of the club will be held next month at the June general meeting. There are four positions that will be vacated, and every position is open for nomination. The positions vacating this year are: Two Directors, Secretary, and Director at large. Being on the Board is a great way to see how the club is operated, and also have a say in it. The Board meets the third Thursday of each month at the club house. If you are interested in joining the Board, contact Frank Stolten at Fstolten@comcast.net.

Life is reel.
Mike Howes

Annual Elections Announcement

The annual election of officers and directors takes place at the June general meeting. Below is a list of positions to be voted on during the election.

- President
- Vice President- Membership
- Vice President- Conservation
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Director, 1-Year Term (Two Positions)
- Director-at-Large (1 Year Term)

Nominations will be accepted and made final at the May meeting, except for any position that does not have at least one candidate, in which case a member may be nominated at the June general meeting, and shall run as a write-in candidate. Like other club activities, being on the Board is actually fun while being very educational. Just ask anyone who has ever served on it. It takes very little time (usually about 2 hours a month) and is a great opportunity to become involved in the club, and help chart its future direction. For GBF to remain a great organization, we totally depend upon the support of members willing to donate their time and talents. Please consider how you can help and become more involved.

If you are interested in volunteering your time and assistance for any of these positions, or would like more information, please contact Frank Stolten 725-6894 or Mike Brune 723-4524 prior to the May meeting.

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Sun 8am-6pm Sun 9am-5pm

Fly Tying Contest Winners for April

Beginners:

No entries

Advanced:

Jim Holmes

Advanced: \$25

Certificate to

American Fly

Fishing: Ray Ito

Granite Bay Flycasters Classifieds

For Sale:

I have a C-clamp setup for a Dyna-King vise. It is the "large" size. It retails for \$79. I will sell it for \$40.

Bill Carnazzo, Spring Creek Guide Service
5209 Crestline Drive, Foresthill CA 95631
(530) 367-5209 (home office)
(916) 295-9353 (mobile)
bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net (email)

To place a classified ad, you must be a member in good standing of the Granite Bay Flycasters. Classified ads will run for only one issue of *The Leader*, unless the seller requests it to run longer. Submit your listing to: fstolten@comcast.net with subject line: 'GBF: Classified'. Or mail your info to: Frank Stolten, 8290 Country Lake Dr., Orangevale, CA 95662. All ads must arrive by the 15th of the month to be included in the following month's *Leader*.

Fly Fishing Specialties

Customer Appreciation Barbeque

May 9, 2009

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Come spend a few hours at Fly Fishing Specialties on Saturday, May 9, 2009. See local fly tiers demonstrate their skills on their favorite flies. Also, help us celebrate Winston's 80th anniversary, and check out the 2009 line of Winston Rods. Enter a drawing for a \$4,000 trip to the Five Rivers Lodge in Montana. And, of course, enjoy some hot dogs and bratwursts!



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4140 Churn Creek Road Redding, CA 96002
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Fishmaster's Report

It seems that as the weather gets nicer the number of fishouts increase. Spring has several fishouts scheduled for the Eastern Sierras which provides great fishing opportunities for lakes and streams. The Eastern Sierras will give you an opportunity to hone your new and old skills with great high lake fishing.

Late summer several fishouts are planned for the Northern part of the state at Burney Falls, and the Upper Sac.

If you would like to lead a fishout, please contact me at billh07@comcast.net.

See you on the water.

. . . Bill Hagopian
Fishmaster

Date	Location	Fishout Leader	# people
May 1-3, 2009	Hot Creek	Ron English	Unlimited
May 15 - 17	Bridgeport (Twin Lakes)	Bill Hagopian	Unlimited
June 6	One Fly Contest Fuller Lake	Michael Powers	Unlimited
June 26 - 30	Virginia Lakes	Mike Kaul	Unlimited
3rd week of August	Green Creek	Tony Hamamoto	Unlimited
August 27	Burney Falls	Jack Ramos	Unlimited
Oct 8 - 11	Upper Sac	Eric Palmer	Unlimited
November 7 - 11	Deschutes River	Robert Miller	?

Denny Welch Attorney at Law

114 N. Sunrise Avenue,
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GBF Annual Picnic and One-Fly Tournament

June 4th - 7th - Fuller Lake

This year our annual picnic will be better than ever. Every year we learn and improve. If you have ideas for fly fishing picnic games share them with us by contacting Dave Thompson, digitii@yahoo.com, 916-363-4452, or Dan Lovesee, Dan.lovesee@honeywell.com, 916-663-1127.

Thursday, June 4th - Arrive any time after 2 pm, set-up camp, open a soda, and kick back. Or go fish!

Friday, June 5th - Go Fish!

Saturday, June 6th -

9:00 AM - Start the One-Fly Tournament on Fuller Lake.

12:00 noon the tournament ends.

This is a chance to put your skills in a friendly competition for bragging rights and some great prizes. In categories of most fish, largest fish, smallest fish, first to loose their fly, etc.

After the tournament ends, the barbeques will be fired up. While chef Tony Hamamoto and the assistant chefs are busy cooking we'll hold the 5th annual "Frank Massey Memorial Not-So-Special Olympics." This is open to all. It's like picnic games combined with fly fishing skills. Thank you Dave and Dan for your willingness to plan fun games for everyone!

Dinner will begin at 6:00 PM. After dinner the Awards ceremony for the One-Fly tournament and the Massey games will be held. At dark we will start the bon-fire and roast marshmallows.

Sunday June 7th: pack up and Go Fish!

WHERE: Bear Valley PG&E Group Campground

DIRECTIONS: From Roseville take I-80 east to the Highway 20 "Grass Valley exit". Go about 5 miles north to Bowman lake Road. This is the road to Fuller Lake. Go approximately 1/3rd of a mile on Bowman Lake Road to the campground. The Campground is on the left before you cross Bear River.

THE DETAILS:

1. Bring your family
2. Have a great time
3. GBF will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and sodas thanks to Grillmeister Tony and all the volunteers on Saturday eve. **In the spirit of a potluck event we are requesting members to bring a dish to share per the chart below:**

A-H	Salad
I-R	Appetizer
S-Z	Dessert

Campsites are first-come/first-served. We have limited space at the main campground for RVs, but plenty of space within walking distance just outside the campground. We will have signup sheets at the April and May meetings or you can email me with your name & headcount. All are welcome; but we need to know how much food to buy and who is participating in the 1-Fly Tournament.

Michael Powers
powers@cwnet.com
 916 606 5558



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Conservation Corner

Once again, it is May and this is California's Water Awareness Month. Have you reduced your urban water usage by 20%, per the Governor's recent request in his emergency drought proclamation? Here are a few simple things you can do:

- Landscaping with plants and flowers that need a little water can use 50 percent less water
- Only watering the lawn when it needs it saves about 1500 gallons a month
- Covering the pool saves about 1000 gallons a month
- Cleaning the driveway and sidewalk with a broom instead of a hose saves about 150 gallons each time
- Running full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher saves about 800 gallons a month
- Taking five minute showers while using a low-flow showerhead can save about 600 gallons of water a month
- Fixing leaky faucets and pipes saves about 140 gallons a month

For more water-saving tips, see the California Water Awareness Campaign website at www.wateraware.org.

Our April conservation committee meeting had 4 members in attendance, during which we discussed the proposed distribution of our remaining conservation funds.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

As of this writing, there are 7 of us signed up to participate in Creek Week 2009.

At the Kiene's Expo, I had the opportunity to speak with Kevin Mather of Sac-Sierra TU about a joint effort on some special projects. Looks like they've found several things that they could definitely use extra bodies for. Kevin will be at our June conservation meeting, and has invited me to attend one of their board meetings to make the arrangements. More to come as things develop...

CLASSROOM AQUARIUM EDUCATION PROGRAM (CAEP)

Please contact Frank Stolten or Rick Radoff if you have questions about this program.

EMERGENCY FISH RESCUE / VOLUNTEER SURVEY TEAM

We are up to **25 members** on this list! If you aren't on it, I will have a sign-up sheet at each general meeting. This is a list for all levels of volunteer work. Could be as simple as handing out bottled water to those doing manual labor, or counting fish, or doing the manual labor itself. Thank you for participating!

I had the opportunity to use the list for a recent DFG electroshock survey, but unfortunately, there wasn't anyone able to participate this time around. Keep checking your e-mails for these notices... this will be the preferred method of communication.

STATUS REPORT on current legislation

AB1253 was introduced 2/27/09 by Assembly Member Fuller, to be heard in committee April 28, 2009:
Existing law regulating fishing imposes various restrictions on the take, transport, and sale of specified fish, including striped bass. Existing law, until January 1, 2010, requires the funds generated by the imposition of a Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp or validation to be deposited in a separate account in the Fish and Game Preservation Fund, to be used solely for the long term, sustainable benefit of the primary Bay-Delta sport fisheries, as specified, including the striped bass fishery.

- This bill would **prohibit a person from possessing**, importing, shipping, or transporting in the state, or placing, planting, or causing to be placed or planted in any water within the state, striped bass.
- The bill would **subject any person who violates that prohibition**, or who resists, delays, obstructs, or interferes with its implementation, to a civil penalty of not less than \$500 and not more than \$10,000.
- The bill would **require the Department of Fish and Game to adopt regulations to carry out those provisions**.
- The bill would **delete striped bass from various existing provisions** restricting the take, transport, and sale of specified fish.
- The bill would **delete the striped bass fishery from the fisheries** for which Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp revenues are to be used.

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CSPA (California Sportfishing Protection Alliance) has taken a position against this bill. You can see their press release at: <http://www.calsport.org/cspa3-6-09.htm>. I have written the appropriate letters on behalf of GBF against this bill as well.

There is also a petition that can be signed at www.saveourstripers.org. It started out as just businesses, but now individuals and groups can sign on as well. I have already signed GBF on, as well as myself.

As of this writing, this bill is scheduled to be heard in the Water, Parks & Wildlife committee on April 28th. Stay tuned to our web page for up-to-date info.

The next conservation committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5th at 7:00 PM at the Round Table Pizza in Granite Bay (Douglas Blvd at Auburn Folsom Rd). **Final Discussions on distributions remaining for our 2008-09 budget will continue.** As always, all are welcome to attend.

. . .Robin, (916) 396-0030
Tggr514@yahoo.com

Classes and Clinics

by Bill Carnazzo
Chair, Member Education

Clinics and classes held in March and April

In March, we held the following classes and clinics, each of which was excellent based on feedback from members:

March 7th—Fishing with floating indicators. This was the second of two very successful clinics taught by Ryan Miller. The morning session was held at the club house and the afternoon session was held on the American River at Sunrise foot bridge.

March 24th—Demystifying fly lines. Bill Kiene did an outstanding job in eliminating the confusion that exists due to the proliferation of fly lines. The class was held at Kiene's Fly Shop.

March 28th—Stillwater fly fishing. Jim Holmes and Gene Goss provided excellent education on this subject at Rancho Seco Lake.

April 6th—Tying tube flies. Jason Hartwick instructed a large class on how to tie and rig tube flies. This interesting presentation by a highly talented tyer was held at the Event Center, Raley's Granite Bay store.

April 11th and 14th—Making balsa poppers. Mike Howes generously hosted these two classes at his Fair Oaks home. Each participant was able to make several poppers from start to finish, using Leo Gutterres' approach. This timely subject is just in time for spring bassing.

April 17th—Techniques for swinging flies. Ryan Miller taught eager members how to properly present flies on the swing. The morning classroom portion of this clinic was held at the Raley's Event Center in Granite Bay, and the hands-on afternoon portion was held on the American River.

April 18th and 25th—Map reading and GPS. Art Livingston and Tom Ross teamed up to do these two helpful and informative classes at and near the club house.

April 21st—Spring steelhead on the American River. Jason Hartwick provided excellent instruction on how to catch the spring steelies that run up the American River, along with tips on where to fish.

April 21st—Rod building. Larry Lee commenced his always-excellent rod building class.

Upcoming classes and clinics

May 19th—Al Smatsky will hold a clinic on shad fishing. Al has presented these clinics for GBF in the past, with highly complimentary feed back from the members. There will be a \$25 fee payable to Al, and there will be a limit of 8 members—with a lottery if necessary.

June 13-14th—Entomology clinic at Sagehen research station. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about aquatic insects and other species that are important to trout fly fishers. Robin Egan is heading this clinic up.

June 20th—North Yuba nymphing clinic. This annual event is held on the North Yuba River above Downieville. With a limit of 20 members, it will be necessary to hold a lottery because the class is very popular. Bill Carnazzo will teach participants how to catch trout using the technique known as "short line nymphing."

Members should always feel free to suggest classes and clinics that would be of benefit to the membership.

Fly Tyers Corner

by Bill Carnazzo

Zebra Midge

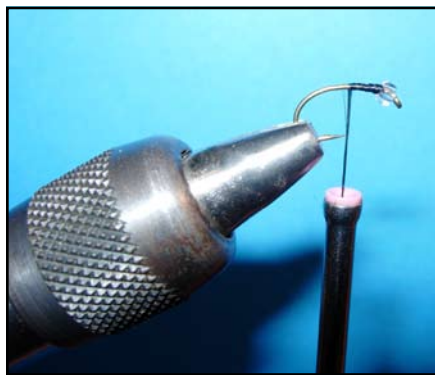
The Zebra Midge is my go-to midge pattern. It is typically tied in black, but variations can include red, silver, white, burnt orange, and other colors and hues. It is the ultimate in simplicity, being composed of just a few materials. With a bit of practice, it's a 5 minute fly.

In the summer of 2007, Jim Holmes, Mike Howes, John Peterson and I traveled up to eastern Oregon to fish several streams there. Our plan was to stay for 3 weeks or so—which we did. One of the rivers we fished was the Owyhee, a beautiful tailwater stream. We camped beside the upper stretch of the river and fished four days on the river. We caught a lot of very large brown trout—strangely, no rainbows. What the fish wanted was a #18 or 18 Zebra Midge. One afternoon we parked several miles downstream from our camp area, to fish a section that we had not tried. I wandered away, looking for some good water upstream of the others. In an area where the stream braided out, I tossed my short line rig into a small pool in a tiny side channel, beneath an overhanging tree. The line stopped abruptly and I set the hook. Thinking I was snagged I began to try to loosen the flies from the bottom, only to have the line and leader burst from the pool. Stunned, I watched as the rig swiftly ran downstream. Regaining my senses, I put a little pressure on the fish, which I had not yet seen. I was thinking “foul hooked” but was secretly hoping it was a big toad fair hooked. My minute or two fight with the fish ended abruptly when it (uncharacteristically, for a brown trout) cleared the water in the tiny channel and managed to beach itself on the sand and cobble where it flopped about. I couldn't believe my eyes—was this the biggest brown I'd ever “caught?” Well, as it turns out, it was the second biggest—but I cannot claim that I landed it because in effect it landed itself. I yelled for John, who was closest to me but the downstream cataract was too noisy and he didn't hear me. I slipped the hook from the fish's hooked old jaw and slid it back into the stream, where it lazily swam off as if nothing had happened. I, on the other hand, was nearly a basket case, scratching my head wondering why such a large specimen was hanging out in that small pool in the tiny side channel—and how truly lucky I was to have had this odd experience. The fly, incidentally, was a #18 Zebra Midge.

The standard pattern calls for a brass or copper bead at the head. I prefer, however, a silver colored glass bead—the kind that are clear but have a silver lining in the hole. Let's tie the little imp using that bead.

MATERIAL LIST

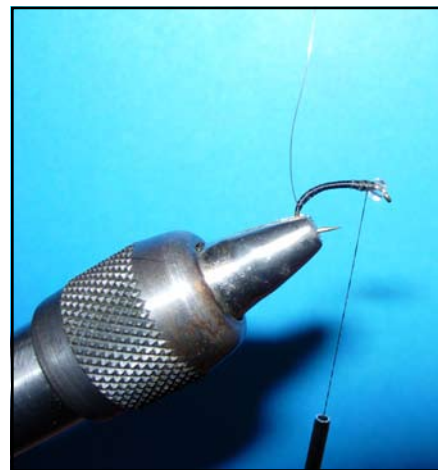
Hook:	Tiemco 2457 (scud hook) #14-22
Bead:	Silver lined clear glass bead, sized to match hook
Thread:	Black 8/0
Rib:	Fine or medium silver wire, depending on hook size
Body:	Tying thread
Collar:	Black dubbing



Step 1

Tying Instructions

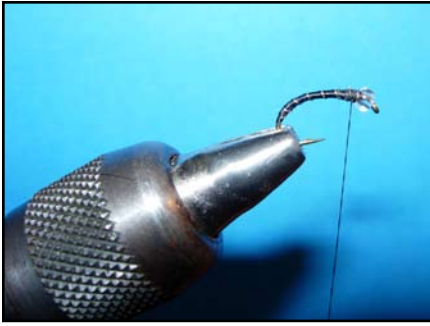
1. Crimp the hook barb and place the bead on the hook.
2. Cover the hook shank with a layer of thread, working from the back of the bead to the hook bend. The thread should extend at least halfway down the bend.
3. Tie in a piece of silver wire at the point where the thread ends.



Steps 2 & 3

Continued on next page

Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from previous page



Steps 4 & 5

4. Wrap the thread back up the shank to the back of the bead and leave the bobbin there. Your wraps should be smooth and even, covering all gaps with no hook surface showing.
5. Wrap the ribbing material in even turns up the shank and tie it off behind the bead.
6. Place a tiny bit of dubbing on the thread and dub a sparse collar just behind the bead.
7. Whip finish.



Steps 6 & 7

Tips:

1. The two principal ways to fish this fly on a stream are to put it under an indicator rig, or use it as a trailer or "stinger" with about 16-20" of tippet material tied off to the bend of the main fly's hook.
2. When making the thread body, create a nice smooth finish, with no lumps or gaps.

Now go tie one and then go fish it, and...

See ya on the creek.

Recognition at the Annual Dinner for a Job Well Done and Club Support

by Mike Howes
GBF President

At our annual dinner, I recognized several members for their support during the year, and the unselfish time they dedicated to helping the club being the success it is. Below is a list of those worthy recipients.

President's Award – Frank Stolten for his involvement in almost every aspect of the club. Frank is on the Annual Dinner Committee responsible for the Silent Auction. He co-chairs the "Classroom Egg Program," co-chairs the Nomination Committee, and he is also editor for the monthly *The Leader* newsletter.

Jim Coleman Conservation Award – Robin Egan for her "taking the bull by the horns" attitude leading our Conservation efforts. She has transpired our efforts into truly effective and informative conservation dealings. She is also on the Board of Officers and Directors as the Vice President of Conservation.

Leadership Certificate – Bill Carnazzo for his efforts in transforming the area of clinics into a total fly fishing educational package. Bill is also on the Board of Officers and Directors as the Vice President of Membership.

Communication Certificate – Kent Ripley for his on-going efforts in maintaining a top notch web site.

Education Certificate – Jim Holmes for his unselfish attitude leading the monthly "Fly Tying Jam." He has a knack of educating and making it fun. He has also put on a general meeting program.

Participation Certificate – Bev Hagopian for her organizational skills on the Annual Dinner Committee. Bev has been on the committee for three years tracking and selling tickets. We have balanced every year due to her efforts.

Also this year we named our annual scholarship grant after Bob Morton for his longevity and love of fly fishing. Bob will be 97 in June. The scholarship is named as follows: **Robert B. Morton PhD Fellowship Grant**. We will be presenting Bob with a plaque at the June general meeting.

Please recognize these members with me. When you see them at a meeting, "Thank" them for their efforts. Our club is unique because of individuals like these. They, and other members that volunteer, enable our club to be successful and fun.

Life is reel.

Bridgeport Fishout

May 15 - 17

It is that time of the year for our annual Bridgeport Area Fishout. This year we were thrown a curve. As we have always done, we made our reservations last year and then received a note of cancellation in March.

We did not get very many signups at the last meeting and we are planning to go up to the area on May 13 and will miss the May GBF meeting. If you are interested in coming up to Bridgeport let us know so we will have an idea how many campsites to try and save. In addition, we need to know how many are coming so we can have enough food for the Saturday night Barbeque.

All the campsites in the Twin Lakes area will be under water system construction until July 1. The sites will be on a first come basis only.

Bridgeport is situated in the Eastern High Sierras. Historic Bridgeport Valley has changed little since cattlemen and miners discovered its grassy pastures in the 1850's. Surrounded by vast National Forest lands, the region is an unspoiled recreational playground with pristine lakes, rivers and streams. There is good fishing in both Robinson Creek and Twin Lakes, which provides excellent fishing for large rainbow and brown trout. Near Bridgeport are the West Walker River, the East Walker River (a premier fly-fishing stream) and Buckeye Creek. Bev and I will be camping in one of the campgrounds on the way up to the Twin Lakes area. The camping area is located approximately 10 miles southeast of Bridgeport, off of Twin Lakes Rd. Camping can be very cold at night since the campground is at 7000 feet. For those who would like to fish and not camp, there are many creek side cabins, bed and breakfast inns and motels in the area. I will put up links on the club's message board. A word to the wise: Bridgeport is famous for its HIGH gas prices. It is best to fill up in Minden or Walker, Nevada.

Directions: See [Website](#)

Equipment: See [Website](#)

For more information about lodging or RV sites, contact
Twin Lakes Resort at (760) 932-7751.

Upper Twin Lakes (760) 932-7071.

Bridgeport Ranger District (760) 932-7070.

Mono Village (760) 932-7071.

Doc and Al's Resort (760) 932-7051.

Also see GBF's website with links.

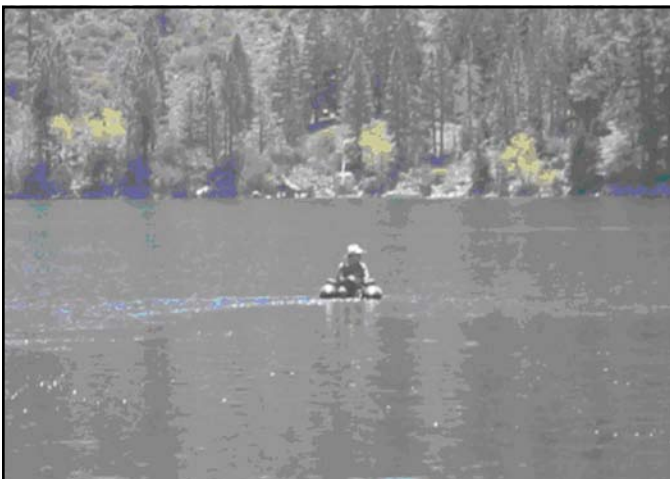
Ken's Sporting Goods has a good selection of fishing tackle, flies and is generous with fishing tips. Guide services are also available (760) 932-7707.

Hope to see you in Bridgeport.

Bev and Bill Hagopian

billh07@comcast.net

916-771-5837



Membership

by Bill Carnazzo, Membership V.P.

As of this writing, Granite Bay Flycasters has approximately 245 memberships (individual and family, which means we actually have a lot more people in our club than 245). Anyone wanting a copy of the membership list can obtain it by sending me an email message at bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net, and I'll send it in a reply. It is in Excel format. **The board's policy is that the list is not to be used for any commercial purpose, and is not to be distributed to persons outside the membership—so please observe those restrictions.**

Special note to new members: Be sure to participate in our popular club events and features. Here are just a few:

1. **Fishing outings.** Historically we have held several fishouts each month. In addition to these scheduled events, there will be "impromptu" fishouts that occur from time to time. You can find out about these on the club's message board (more on that later).

2. **Member education.** We have a very active member education program. You can learn to tie flies in classes taught by masters of this aspect of our sport. There are also instructional classes and clinics on virtually every facet of fly fishing, including casting, entomology (bugs fish eat), fishing knots, rod and net building, techniques to increase your catch rate—and much more.

3. **Web site.** You will find us at www.gbflycasters.org. This site is a huge repository of information about the club, its activities (past, present, future), and its history. The site also features a message board for members to communicate with others on issues such as fishing locations, tackle-problem solving, and other items. Our monthly newsletter, *The Leader*, is also published on the site. It contains a huge amount of information, including a featured fly of the month with tying instructions and detailed pictures.

4. **Library.** Granite Bay Flycasters has a large library of fishing books, magazines, and videos available for member check-out. At each club meeting the librarians have these publications available at the rear of the room.

5. **Annual dinner.** This is the club's premiere event, featuring a good dinner, a prominent speaker, and a huge raffle and silent auction. It is the vehicle by which we raise most of the money needed to further our conservation and community education programs. Members attending enjoy camaraderie along with the food, drink, and other pleasures of an entertaining evening.

6. **Conservation.** Our Conservation Committee is very active in supporting, proposing, and conducting conservation activities. It is a very hands-on program for which we have won many awards. You can read all about it on the web site and in the Leader. New members often gravitate to this interesting and rewarding part of our activity agenda.

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Handle, Blank Preparation for Epoxy

by Larry Lee

Previously, we discussed and provided pictures for the preparation of gluing the cork handle onto the blank. This is accomplished by using a round file or cork reamer and enlarging the hole in the middle of the pre-made cork handle. This article will explain how to adapt the hole that was made too large in the pre-made cork handle, so that you are able to epoxy the pre-made cork handle to the blank.

Suppose that when you first place the pre-made cork handle onto the blank, you notice that the hole in the center is too large. This means that the pre-made cork handle is approximately 1/64th inch in diameter larger than the diameter of the rod blank. When the hole is too large, it is impossible to get the epoxy to fill in the gap between the blank and the pre-made cork handle (see Figure 1).

If this situation occurs, you must build the blank up by using masking tape to fill in the gap between blank and the hole in the handle. Step one is to position the handle to the exact location on the blank where it will rest once the epoxy is set.

In Figure 1, I marked the upper limit of the masking tape rings with a white fabric pencil (found in fabric stores). In Figure 1, you can also see that the reel seat sits at the butt-end of the blank with the pre-made cork handle above. It is important to get this location as exact as possible because when building the blank up with the masking tape, if the tape is not located properly, it will interfere with either the reel seat or winding check.

After marking the exact location for the masking tape on the rod blank, begin building up the masking tape in concentric rings. These concentric rings of masking tape will be built up to just allow the cork handle to slip over the masking tape with very slight resistance (See Figure 2, showing the cork handle over the masking tape).



Figure 2

The masking tape can be 1/2", 3/4", or 1" in width. Normally, I begin by applying the masking tape rings at the upper end of where the cork handle will sit, and then apply the next masking tape ring at where the bottom end of the cork handle is located on the blank, leaving approximately 1/4" between rings. I typically alternate placing the concentric tape rings from the upper end of the cork handle location on the blank, to the lower end of the cork handle location on the blank.

Figure 3 shows tape rings on blank with handle beginning to slide over the tape rings. Another important check to make is not

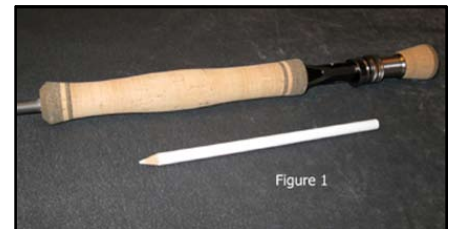


Figure 1

over reaming the cork on each end of the cork handle. If you have, you will need to correct this by placing additional tape on the blank at each end to ensure the cork grip is snug for gluing. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Larry Lee at 916-962-0616, or e-mail to: LLLee@L3rods.com



Figure 3



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(916) 601-7853 C

Tech Talk: Leaders for Fly Fishing

by Bill Carnazzo

This focus of this month's "tech talk" column is the subject of leaders. We've covered "demystifying" fly lines (and even had a line clinic taught by Bill Kiene), but the subject of leaders can be just as mystifying. Books, or at least chapters in books, have been written on leaders for fly rigs, but I believe that the subject can be reduced to a few rather simple concepts. Here's what we will cover: line-to-leader connections; leader material types; and different leader configurations for different situations.

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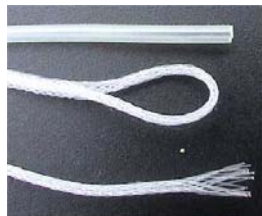
Line-to-leader connections

Most modern fly lines feature a welded loop at their front end (some also come with a rear loop for easy connection to the backing material). As well, most packaged tapered leaders come with a loop at the top end. This makes it simple to make the line-to-leader connection. Remember this mantra when connecting the fly line to the leader: “Long through short; then short back through long.” Translation: put the loop of the fly line (the “long”) through the loop of the leader (the “short”); then bring the tip of the leader back through the line loop. This will result in a figure-8 type connection; if it’s done incorrectly the result is what some call a “cow loop” which is extremely weak. For a good illustration of this procedure, click on this link: <http://www.killroys.com/knots/looploop.htm>.

If your line lacks a welded loop, how do you connect line to leader? There are several ways:

1. Remove the loop from the end of the tapered leader and connect line to leader with a nail knot. Click on the following link for a visual on this connection: <http://www.killroys.com/knots/nail.htm>. While this connection will turn the leader/fly over well, it has disadvantages: it tends to hang up in the guides; it attracts debris such as moss; and each time you change a leader you have to cut back on the fly line. I do not recommend this connection.

2. Use a braided loop such as this one below: While they are easy to use once installed, there are some disadvantages: fraying at the attachment end; they hold water, so that there will be a lot of spray during the cast; hinging at the connection due to the softness of the braid material; at times fish are attracted to them for some reason. Also, I have experienced loop failure at the critical point in a fish fight.



3. Add a short “butt section” to your line with a nail knot (see above) and make a perfection loop at the end of the butt section. The butt section is made from 30# monofilament material such as Maxima. Here is a link for the perfection loop: <http://www.killroys.com/knots/perfecti.htm>. The benefit of this connection is that it will turn the leader and fly over well, and is functionally the same as a welded loop.

Types of leader material

There are two basic types of leader material: monofilament and fluorocarbon. There are advantages and disadvantages to each. Disclaimer: the mono/flouro debate is rife with strong opinions and is therefore a minefield. What follows is a set of conclusions based on my personal experience and research on the subject. Feel free to disagree.

1. Monofilament.

- Potentially, mono has better knot strength. However, this depends on the skill of the angler tying the knot. With good knot tying skills, this factor is minimized.
- It is less expensive than flouro—a lot less.
- It can float—but this can be a disadvantage too, where the object is to get the fly down quickly.
- It is susceptible to deterioration if exposed to UV light. I normally advise replacing any mono leader or tipper material that is more than one year old. Why risk losing that fish of a lifetime—it’s just not worth the risk.
- It tends to absorb water, thus weakening the leader. Experienced anglers recognize this easily—especially when tying flies to the tip of the leader. Its diameter increases and the fly knot won’t set properly, resulting in breakage.

2. Fluorocarbon. The technical name for flouro is PVDF, or polyvinylidene fluoride.

- It is virtually invisible because it has a refractive index that is very close to that of water, which means it reflects light at about the same angle as does water. This allows the material to virtually disappear when being fished, one of its greatest advantages.
- Its abrasion resistance is also better than that of mono.
- Flouro is denser than mono and therefore sinks more quickly. The flip side of this, however, is that it may not be the best material for dry fly fishing. In my view, the jury is still out on this one because if I want my tippet to float with a dry fly, I can always apply a bit of floatant to the flouro.
- It appears to be unaffected by UV light and therefore it is not necessary to periodically replace leaders and tippet spools. This will tend to mitigate the higher cost of flouro.

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- e. It has “memory” which may be impossible to remove. For example, when drawing a knot together the material rubs against itself, generating heat. At times, a little “curly cue” will result around a knot when using flouro. This can be addressed, however, by properly lubricating the knot before pulling it together, and by pulling the knot together very slowly.
- f. Some claim that for any specific diameter, flouro is stronger than mono. I am not sure about this claim; perhaps it is a generalized perception based on the factors mentioned above. I’ll leave this debate to persons smarter than me.

Leader diameter

Leader diameters are normally referred to in X size ranges. For the most part, the diameters can be determined by the flies you cast. The chart lists the X size range, the associated diameters, and the size of flies recommended for use with each. When choosing leaders for trout fishing, the diameter of the leader (rated in X sizes) is more important than the pound test rating.

RECOMMENDED LEADER DIAMETERS FOR DIFFERENT FLY SIZES		
Tippet Size	Diameter	Balance with Fly Sizes
0X	.011	2, 1/0
1X	.010	4, 6, 8
2X	.009	6, 8, 10
3X	.008	10, 12, 14
4X	.007	12, 14, 16
5X	.006	14, 16, 18
6X	.005	16, 18, 20, 22
7X	.004	18, 20, 22, 24
8X	.003	22, 24, 26, 28

Tippet Material

Tippet material is used either to replace or to add to the tippet section of the leader. In the process of replacing flies over a period of time, your leader will be shortened and the diameter will start to increase once you have used up the tippet section and start cutting into the taper. Simply tie on a piece of tippet material using a surgeon’s knot (see <http://www.killroys.com/knots/surgeon.htm>) and you’re back in business. It beats replacing your leader each time you get to this point. A spool of flouro tippet material can turn any mono leader into a flouro leader just by adding a few feet to it. For example, you can, by adding 5 feet of flouro to a 9 foot tapered leader, you can change the leader into “stealth” leaders for fishing stillwater. That makes the additional investment required for flouro worthwhile.

Leader Configurations

- Leaders for streamer fishing—aka “swinging” flies.** In this situation full sinking, sink tip, or shooting head lines are generally used. The point is to keep the fly down at the same level in the water column as the line. As a general rule, the leader will be a short (4-6’) section of level mono or flouro, normally 8-12#. There are situations where floating lines are appropriate for streamer fishing—as where, for example, the water level is low and clear. Here a longer leader can be used—usually a 7.5-9’ tapered leader.
- Leaders for indicator fishing.** This subject was an integral part of the two recent excellent clinics conducted by Ryan Miller. You can view his rigging technique at <http://tinyurl.com/c2hmku>. There are other ways to configure a leader for indicator fishing. For example, see <http://tinyurl.com/djjm5p> for a discussion of various adjustable indicator rigs.
- Leaders for short-line nymphing.** I use a system that relies on a 25# monofilament “in-line” indicator that is placed between the fly line (or butt section) and the leader. The indicator is 12” in length and consists of 3 sections, each 4” in length. Two of the segments are red Amnesia mono, and the segment in the middle is char-

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treuse Amnesia mono. The indicator has loops at both ends. The leader is made of monofilament: 30" of 30#; 24" of 20#; and 12-18" of 10#. There is a loop at each end of the leader, which is looped at the top to the in-line indicator. The bottom is looped to a fluorocarbon tippet section that features a dropper that is perpendicular to the tippet section; from the dropper down to the point fly position, the tippet is 20-22" of fluorocarbon, usually 3x or 4x. I usually add split shot between the dropper and the point fly. A packaged version of my system, called "Bill's Short Line Nymphing System," is sold at Kiene's Fly Shop and at the Ted Fay Fly Shop in Dunsmuir. The package contains the looped indicator, the looped leader, and a looped tippet section; both 3x and 4x versions are available. Also available are extra tippet sections in bags of two, in both 3x and 4x sizes.

4. Leaders for Stillwater fishing. When fishing with sinking lines (full sink, sink tip, and shooting heads), the short rig mentioned above for fishing with streamers is generally used. When floating lines are used, the leader will normally be tapered and longer—in some cases, much longer, up to 18 or 20'. Leaders that are nine feet in length are about average and are most often used for standard dry-fly fishing and retrieving subsurface nymphs or streamers when using a floating line. Both water clarity and fly size should determine which leader you will use in stillwater. Longer leaders of 12, 15, or 18 feet in small diameters (from 4X to 7X) are subject to twisting as the air-resistant dry fly wants to spin during casting. When casting large dry flies, a nine-foot 3X leader or a seven-and-a-half-foot 4X helps prevent twisting. Leaders that are 12, 15, and 18 feet offer some stealth when fishing finicky trout. Often on calm days or clear waters, the fly line can easily spook fish when it comes too close to them during the presentation. A longer taper leader presents your fly at a greater distance from the fly line, allowing for less disturbance of the water and a better presentation to those spooky fish. Longer leaders can become challenging when casting into even a slight wind, so depending on the application, you may have to go from a 15-foot to a 12-foot leader in order to get the turnover you are looking for. I most often fish a 12-foot leader as a standard length when fishing to rising trout. To make a leader longer than 9 feet, it is best to add tippet rather than try to purchase a super-long tapered leader. This gives you the chance to create your tippet with fluoro.

5. Specialty leaders. There are leaders made for special types of fishing. For example, there are leaders for striper fishing, bone fishing, bass fishing, permit fishing, etc. However, I have found that there is no real necessity to purchase specialty leaders; rather, leaders can easily be constructed out of available mono and fluoro products, to match fishing needs and conditions.

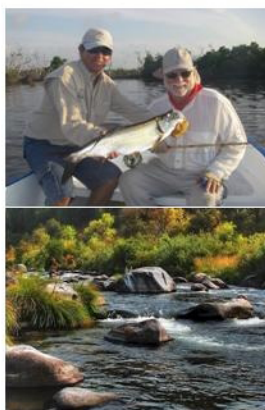
It pays to be creative in designing your leader, but in order to do so you will need to give a significant amount of thought to the conditions you will encounter, how and where the fish will be feeding, and the type of line(s) that you will be using. In other words, "one size fits all" just plain won't work. Thinking through these situations will vastly improve your understanding of our sport, your enjoyment, and, hopefully, your catch rate.

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Come spend a few hours at Fly Fishing Specialties on Saturday, May 9, 2009. See local fly tiers demonstrate their skills on their favorite flies. Also help us celebrate Winston's 80 year anniversary! Come check out the 2009 line of Winston Rods. Enter a drawing for a \$4000 trip to the Five Rivers Lodge in Montana. And, of course, enjoy some hot dogs and bratwursts!



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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 Mike Howes at 916-863-6795.

Doors open between 6:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. for socializing and fly tying demonstrations. The business portion of the meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. The main program gets underway after a short refreshment break and usually involves a guest speaker and slide show, or other presentation. All meetings are open to the public and visitors are encouraged to attend.

Membership: Applications are available on-line at 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 prorated throughout the year. For membership information, call Bill Carnazzo at 530-367-5209, or visit the website at www.gbflycasters.org.

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

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Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

President - **Mike Howes**
916-863-6795 liffeisreel@aol.com
VP Membership - **Bill Carnazzo**
530-367-5209 bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net
VP Conservation - **Robin Egan**
916-396-0030 tggr514@yahoo.com
Secretary - **Karl Wolff**
916-224-7633 karl.wolff@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer - **John Hogg**
916-663-2051 johnhogg@sbcglobal.net

Directors:

Through June, 2011 - **Larry Goodell**
530-268-8160 lgoodell@aol.com
Through June, 2011 - **Ray Ito**
530-677-5250 itor@pacbell.net
Through June, 2010 - **Pete Peterson**
916-240-1997 rpeterston7@surewest.net
Through June, 2010 - **Jack Ramos**
916-774-9972 jramos@surewest.net
Through June, 2009 - **Jerry Devlin**
530-878-8934 wndycty3@aol.com
Through June, 2009 - **Ron English**
530-677-7169 rtefish@d-web.com
At Large through June, 2009 - **Tom Pettey**
916-966-3471 tapettey@sbcglobal.net
Past President - **Rick Radoff**
916-624-2107 radoffcnst@jps.net

Committees:

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