

# The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

June 2011

[www.gbflycasters.org](http://www.gbflycasters.org)

## President's Message

*by Dennis Baker, GBF President*

It is my pleasure to announce the **Service Awards for 2011:**

**Joe Aichroth** for many hours spent on the Annual Dinner.

**Mike Brune** for his work on the Annual Dinner and election materials.

**Bill Carnazzo** for his hundreds of hours of conservation work and clinics for our membership.

**Don Graig** for his many hours of work on the club library.

**Kellie Berry** for her efforts on the Annual Dinner table gifts.

**Jerry Devlin** for his constant work as VP Membership.

**Tony Fabian** for his work in conservation and any club event you can think of.

**Larry Goodell** for his contributions as head of the Golden Trout Program and member of the Board of Directors.

**John Hogg** for his efforts to educate all of us and being Treasurer.

**Jim Holmes** for coordinating our Fly Tying Jam every month.

**Ray Ito** for his years of service on the Board of Directors and coordinating the ISE Show.

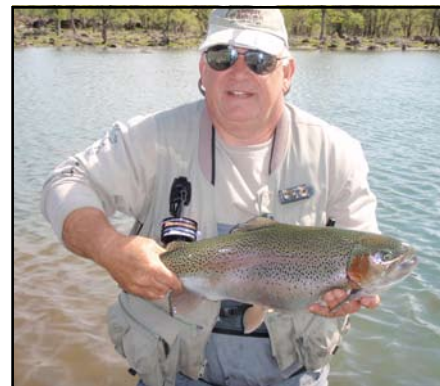
**Kim Lloyd** for his efforts to modernize the Library.

**Art Livingston** for creating our new Education tri fold and coordinating our clinics and education programs.

**Mel Odemar** for his continuous service in conservation and as Secretary to the Board of Directors.

**Eric Palmer** for his service on the Board of Directors and coordinating the Chili Cook Offs.

**Tom Petty** for coordination of our Members Night, service on the Annual Dinner Committee and Board of Directors.



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**Pete Peterson** for his efforts to ensure the club house is ready for our monthly meetings, his contributions in Bass Fly Tying at the Jam and we always have coffee on hand.

**Rick Radoff** for his continued service on the Annual Dinner Committee and with the Classroom Education Program.

**Dick Shannon** for his years of service with the Library.

**Henry Sandigo** for his tireless efforts to get us involved in conservation projects that make a difference in our home waters.

**Frank Stolten** for his continued service with the publication of *The Leader*, our Annual Dinner and the Classroom Education Program.

**Don Van Sant** for his coordination of the GBF Annual Picnic.

**Steve Wilkins** for his efforts in reorganizing the club Library.

**Sturmer White** for his continued efforts to improve our casting with his clinics and patients.

**Taylor Yates** for his efforts in Merchandise and as a member of the Board of Directors.

Every man and woman listed above has given significant effort to making the Granite Bay Flycasters a better club and a better experience for those members who attend our meetings, clinics, fishouts, and events. It is my pleasure to recognize these individuals for their contributions over the last year.

J U N E 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7. 7:00 PM Conservation Committee Meeting	8.	9. Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM	10.	11. Ladies Day on the Yuba River Davis Lake Fishout
12. Annual Picnic	13.	14.	15.	16. Board Meeting 7:00 PM	17.	18.
19.	20.	21. Fly Tying Jam	22.	23.	24.	25.
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.		

### Monthly Program



The June program for the general meeting will be presented by Lower Yuba guides Frank Rinella, Clay Hash, and Keith Scott. They will start out with a slide presentation on access points and other important general information about the river and its fishery, bugs, hatches, seasons, and techniques. This will be followed by a panel-type discussion, and a question-and-answer period. This unique program will prove to be highly informative, and will improve your success chances on this wonderful fishery.

Frank, Clay, and Keith are the top angler/guides on this venue. We are extremely fortunate to have them present a program for us. Their program will be followed by a June 11<sup>th</sup> fishing clinic for women members of GBF. This program is being coordinated by Robin Egan, and anyone interested needs to contact her for information.

### North Fork Yuba River Book Available Again

*by Bill Carnazzo*

The "little white book" ("Flyfishing California's North Yuba River") written by Ed Klingelhofer on his beloved North Yuba River, written in 1993, has been out of print for some time. A short time ago, on a day when I was working at Kiene's Fly Shop, Mr. Klingelhofer came into the store. We talked about his book, and reminisced about times on, and stories of the river. I asked him whether he had any more copies of his book; he replied that indeed he did have some left. I then inquired as to whether he would bring some

*Continued on Page 3*

*North Fork Yuba River - Continued from Page 2*

to the store so our customers could purchase them. He said he would—and he did. So I thought I'd pass that information along.

The copies that are available at Kiene's are the updated edition, issued in 2004. The update consists of a separate little booklet attached to the back of the main book; it's called "Son of Flyfishing California's North Yuba River." As it happens, Mr. Klingelhofer called me in 2003, to ask me some questions regarding some pieces I'd written on the North Yuba. I was recuperating from hip replacement surgery at the time, so I had plenty of time to talk. Some of our conversation appears in the update booklet.

I highly recommend this dynamite little book. It contains a wealth of handy access point information, and much lore and humor to boot. For those who have fished the river, or simply dream of doing so, this book is invaluable. For me, it adds to the foggy, complex mists of nostalgia that haunt me as I reminisce about the hundreds of days I've spent on this lovely brook, alone and with friends like Rob Ferroggiaro, guide clients, and others.

### Virginia Lakes Fishout — July 14-17

Let's go to Virginia Lakes!! July 14-17 (I will be going up on the 13<sup>th</sup>). Virginia Lakes is one of the most beautiful places in the Eastern Sierra, and this should be the perfect time to go. This is an excellent outing just for the fishing, but is also a super place for families, as there is plentiful hiking and such attractions as Bodie not far away. There are three lakes within walking distance of the campground at Trumble Lake, all of them excellent still-water fishing with rainbow, brook, browns and Alpers available (twenty-plus fish days are fairly normal). There are numerous streams and rivers nearby, though they may be blown out. The lakes are at 9700', so nights can be cold. There is a small store with showers at Little Virginia Lake, and cabins for rent. I will be happy to help new comers to still-water fishing (including children).

A float tube is the usual way to fish the lakes with an intermediate or faster sinking line on a 3-5wt rod. For some top water action, there are lakes a short hike up the trail that are loaded with active brookies. A taco dinner will be provided the afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup> for all in attendance. Just bring a chair and your drink of choice.

Please let me know if you intend to come, need a campsite, or if you have any questions. Michael Kaul (530) 677-8022 [mkaul@sanjuan.edu](mailto:mkaul@sanjuan.edu).

### Suction Dredge Mining The Environmental Review Process

*by Bill Carnazzo*

On behalf of the Foothills Angler Coalition, the Upper American River Foundation, and the North Fork American River Alliance, I participated in the environmental review process for the Department of Fish & Game's proposed revised regulations. For the past two and a half years suction dredge mining has been prohibited by court orders and a legislative moratorium. During that time DFG was supposed to undertake the process of producing revised regulations to address environmental concerns relating to fisheries, and to produce an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that would support the proposed revised regulations. The EIR was supposed to be completed by September of this year—completed meaning having gone through the draft EIR process, a comment period, a final EIR, and an approval process. Suffice it to say that the EIR that was produced was a slap-dash effort, done at a late hour by a consultant hired and paid for by DFG.

The draft EIR was released in late March, with a comment period that ended May 10th. The document, not including the huge appendices, was approximately 600 pages in length. Many hundreds of pages of comments providing balanced analysis of the issues were filed by concerned, responsible individuals and groups, pointing out the legal and policy deficiencies of the documents. Although the miners were vocal in the comment process, most of what they

### Denny Welch Attorney at Law

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*Continued on Page 4*

*Suction Dredge Mining - Continued from Page 3*

had to say can charitably be called incomprehensible and angry rhetoric rather than analytical and informative discussion.

The comments I filed on behalf of myself and the organizations mentioned above, were approximately 75 pages in length, not counting attachments and exhibits. Anyone interested in viewing that document, will find it on the web site of the Upper American River Foundation. The identified defects in the documents are far too extensive to attempt to summarize here.

During the comment period, a legislative effort was conducted by influential persons and organizations, to obtain an extension of the moratorium. One of the issues raised in this context was the fact that the suction dredge permitting process was not self-supporting, and that DFG was having to rely on the State General Fund to do even a modicum of enforcement and administration. Do the math: each of the proposed 4000 permits that were proposed to be issued statewide would allow a permittee to dredge at 6 separate sites; that means that DFG would potentially have to monitor and enforce at 24,000 sites. Each permit would generate a fee of \$40 annually, or total program revenue of \$160,000—which barely provides the salary and benefits of one warden. Based on this, DFG admitted in the process that it would not be able to enforce the regulations. Faced with a huge budget deficit, the Budget Subcommittees of both houses of the Legislature adopted identical language extending the moratorium for an additional five years, and ordering DFG to properly address all environmental issues. While this language will have to be adopted by the full Legislature as part of the budget approval process, the financial issues are so severe that it is likely that approval will occur—let's keep our fingers crossed.

Also, I presented the matter to the Placer County Fish & Game Commission, asking them to adopt a resolution recommending to the Board of Supervisors that they file a comment letter with DFG opposing the regulations and the EIR. The Commission voted 7-0 in favor of that resolution, and the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the recommendation. The letter was sent to DFG.

In short, there is hope that suction dredges will continue to be banned from our rivers. I have observed incredible damage to small streams by heedless miners. Not only do they trash the stream, they leave huge mounds of garbage in our wilderness areas, much of which contains hydrocarbons that end up in our waters.

### Classes and Clinics

*Art Livingston, Chair, Member Education*

Below is a list of clinics and classes that will be offered to members. Some have scheduled dates; the others will be scheduled shortly. If you have suggestions as to other clinics or classes, be sure to contact me and we can discuss your thoughts. Look for specifics on classes and clinics on the web site, and in future *Leader* articles.

#### **Scheduled Clinics/Classes**

Fly Tying Jam: Jim Holmes, Pete Peterson

#### **Date(s)**

Third Tuesday Each Month (Continuing)

#### **Upcoming Clinics/Classes**

Rod Building: Larry Lee

Ongoing

Fly Tying Basics: Paul Egan

Dates TBD in the Fall

Stillwater Fly Fishing: John Peterson, Jim Holmes

Dates TBD

Fish Food: Terry Eggleston

Dates TBD

Sagehen Entomology Clinic: John Carroz

Date TBD August/September

N. Yuba Nymphing Clinic: Bill Carnazzo

July 23, 2011

#### **Other Possible Clinics**

Spey Casting

Swinging Flies

Steelhead/Shad Fishing

Stripper Fishing in the Delta

Map, Compass, and GPS



## Conservation Corner



It's been a long time [Fall 2010] since we've been out to the Rio Americano Islands and Peninsula for a Red Sesbania removal day! The water's been up to 30,000 CFS and is now down to 7,000 CFS, as of this writing. We've had some pretty warm weather too, so these last several weeks have seen PERFECT growing conditions for those little buggers. I imagine our area will be pretty much infested with seedlings, so we'll need LOTS of pairs of hands to make this light work! This is a great opportunity to get in a few conservation hours for the year, and bodies of all ages are encouraged to participate. I mean, if **Sturmer White could do it in August** – don't you think you ought to be able to handle a few hours in June?

Well, here's your chance to find out! Our first workday of the year will be **Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet at Rio Americano High School's (4540 American River Drive) parking lot at **8:00 AM** (From Fair Oaks Blvd, turn south on Saverien Dr - this dead-ends into the school). We want to start early, as we all know how hot June can be! We plan on working until around noon time. Lunch and water will be provided. Remember, long shirts/pants to protect your skin from sunburn and berry bushes, and shoes that can be wet/muddy, as we may have to get in the water to reach some areas. Please let me know if you will be able to participate, so I have a head count for lunch.

Robin Egan, [Tggr514@yahoo.com](mailto:Tggr514@yahoo.com) or (916) 396-0030.

### Granite Bay Flycasters Classifieds

#### For Sale:

Super Fatcat float tube, blue with inflatable seats, great condition — \$225.

Shad season is here, Anderson Custom spey rod 12'-6" 5wt. complete with new Scandi line — \$250. Contact: John Peterson [cdjcpet5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cdjcpet5@sbcglobal.net).

Dyna-King Supreme fly tying vise. See it [here](#). This vise has four different locking positions, comes with a large c-clamp (no base) second set of midge jaws and a bobbin cradle. Only been used as my traveling vise, so really hasn't had that much use. Guaranteed to tie nothing but great looking flies!

Sells new with the added jaws for \$345, I'm selling for \$225.

Jim Hunter, 408-8966.

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](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the following month's *Leader*.

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**Putah Creek Trout's Annual Wine Tasting and Fundraiser**  
**June 18 at the Lake Solano Nature Center**  
**8685 Pleasant Valley Rd., west of Winters, CA**  
**1:00 - 4:00 pm**

The Nature Center is a new educational facility, focused on the aquatic life of the Putah Creek region. PCT is the only regional nonprofit conservation organization focused entirely on improving the cold water fishery from Monticello Dam to Lake Solano.

As in past years there will be wine tasting, lots of silent auction and raffle items and great items to purchase.

**Cost:** \$20 admission (one glass of wine included) Parking fee \$5 additional

**Please RSVP:** Due to Solano County's policies regarding alcohol use at the facility we request those planning to attend to RSVP with your name and number attending to:

[RSVP@putahcreektrout.org](mailto:RSVP@putahcreektrout.org)

[www.putahcreektrout.org](http://www.putahcreektrout.org)



 **Third Annual  
Putah Creek Trout  
Winetasting Fundraiser**

Support the rehabilitation of the  
Wild Trout fishery

**Saturday, June 18, 2011**  
**1:00-4:00 pm**

Lake Solano Nature Center, 8685 Pleasants Valley Road, West of Winters

Proceeds to support spawning habitat improvements,  
fish population studies, and the Wild Trout program

**\$20 at the door**  
 Price of admission includes one complimentary  
glass of wine and all the food you can eat.

**Featured Raffle**  
 Custom Hand Built 8' wood pram by James Haan.  
 \$10 Tickets limited to 200.

**Raffles, sales, and silent auctions  
throughout the day**  
 Items being auctioned off include rods, reels,  
outdoor gear, artwork, adult & children's apparel,  
hand-tied flies, guided trips, casting lessons, wine  
and more.

All proceeds support Putah Creek Trout wild trout projects • [www.PutahCreekTrout.org](http://www.PutahCreekTrout.org)  
 RSVP to Steve Karr 530-753-8885 or RSVP at [putahcreektrout@gmail.com](mailto:putahcreektrout@gmail.com).



**GBF Annual Picnic and One-Fly Tournament**  
**June 9 - 12 — Fuller Lake**

This year our annual picnic will be better than ever. Every year we learn and improve. If you have any ideas to better the games please let us know.

**Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>** - Arrive any time after 2 PM, set-up camp, open a soda, and kick back. Or go fish!

**Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>** - Go Fish!

**Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>** -

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 to feed the hungry fishermen & women, and any one else, a lunch of hamburgers & hot dogs. Then, while chef Tony Hamamoto and the assistant chefs are busy cooking, we'll hold the 7<sup>th</sup> annual "Frank Massey not-so-special Olympics." This is open to all. It's like picnic games combined with fly fishing skills, drinking or not.

**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 12<sup>th</sup>:** 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 1/3 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.

You can email either of us 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.

Don VanSant, [donvansant@pacbell.net](mailto:donvansant@pacbell.net) (916) 927-9824

Mike Powers, [mikepowers@gmail.com](mailto:mikepowers@gmail.com) (916)606-5558



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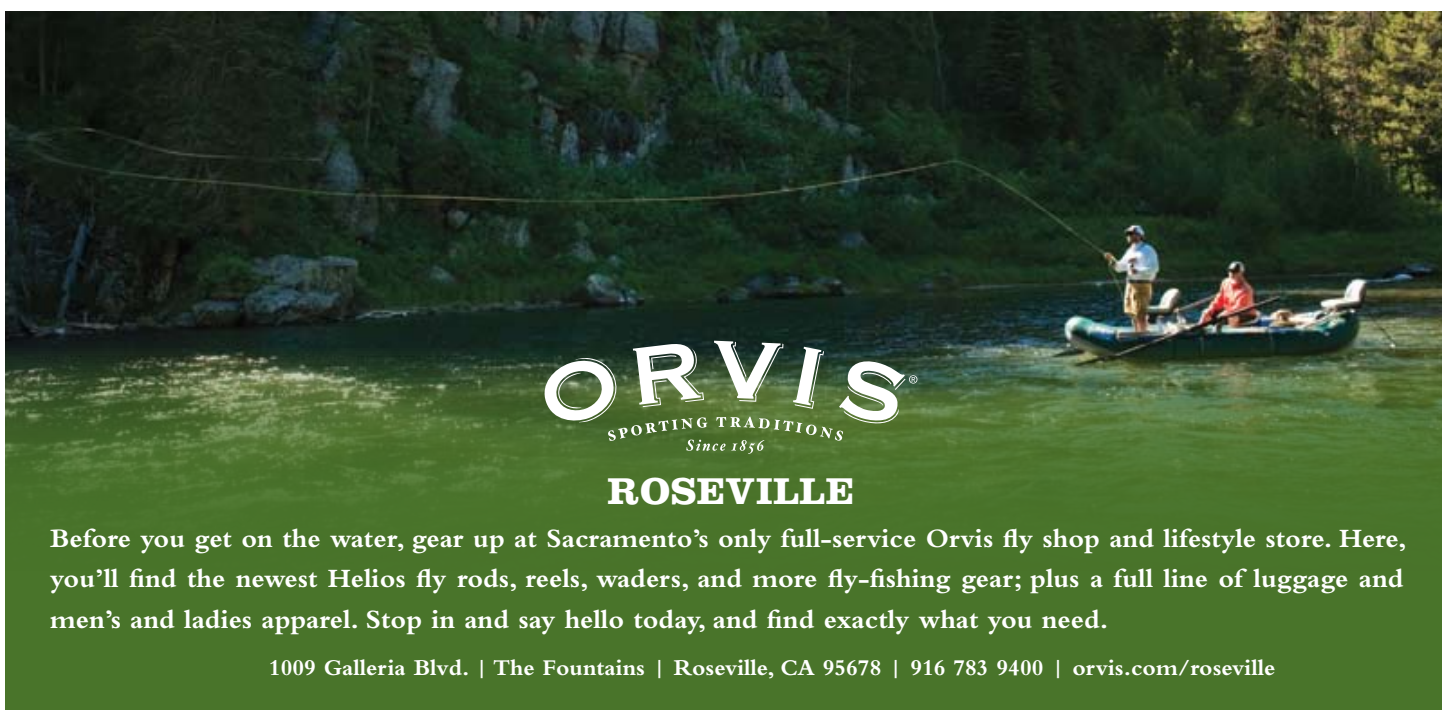
## Annual Elections

The annual election of officers and directors takes place at the June general meeting. Below is a list of the positions to be voted on and the members who have been nominated so far:

President	Dennis Baker
Vice President, Membership	Open
Vice President, Conservation	Henry Sandigo
Secretary	John Pellegrin
Treasurer	Corley Phillips
Director, 3 year term	Tony Fabian
Director, 3 year term	Duane Nelson
Director-at-Large, 1 year term	Scott Vaughn

Nominations were finalized at the May general 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 less than 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.

We still have an opening for Vice President, Membership. If you are interested in volunteering your time and assistance or would like more information about this position, please contact Frank Stolten 725-6894 or Mike Brune 723-4524 prior to the June meeting.



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## North Yuba Nymphing Clinic

Bill Carnazzo

This annual event is one of GBF's signature clinics—it's always filled to the 20 person capacity. So sign up and enjoy!

**Where:** North Yuba River above Downieville

**When:** Saturday, July 16, 2011

**Clinic Leader:** Bill Carnazzo, Licensed Guide (CGL #2917)

**Fee:** None

**Signup limit:** 20 members; if more than 20 sign up, we will have a lottery so that everyone has an equal chance of participating.

**Equipment required:** A valid California fishing license is required—please be sure to purchase it prior to the date of the outing, and have it with you. Rod—4 or 5 wt, 9' (preferably, but an 8 ½' rod will do); floating line; leader—Bill's Short Line Leader System (3x or 4x), and an extra package of tippet sections (both available at Kiene's Fly Shop); flies—to be determined. In July waders are optional. A wading staff is also an absolute requirement, for safety reasons. A complete equipment list and other information will be given to participants well in advance of the outing.

**Purpose:** Do you want to learn how to fish with nymphs in pocket water, or learn different techniques for this type of fishing? This is your opportunity to do so on a first-class river. You will learn rigging, reading water, spotting fish, proper approach/wading techniques, short line strategies, and much more.

**Signups:** Signups will be taken commencing with the May general meeting, and continuing into the July meeting if the clinic doesn't fill up before then.

**More information:** Bill Carnazzo - [bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net](mailto:bcarnazzo@ftcnet.net) ; (530) 367-5209 (home) or (916) 295-9353 (cell).

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## Fly Tyer's Corner

by Bill Carnazzo

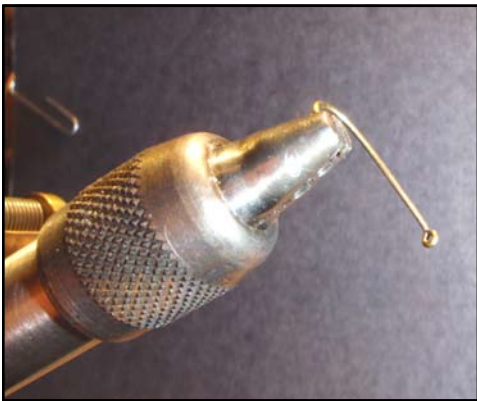
### Partridge and Orange Soft Hackle

“Old” flies—ones that have survived the test of time—tend to be simple, starkly sparse, and spot on when it comes to hooking up. The Partridge and Orange Soft Hackle (“POSH”) is a perfect example of that paradigm. Handed down to us by our brethren across the pond, it has been attached to leaders here for many years. It is a consistent producer, ultra-simple to tie, and sleekly sparse in appearance. The history of this fly, and some tying information, can be found at the following link: <http://flyangleronline.com/features/oldflies/part374.php>.

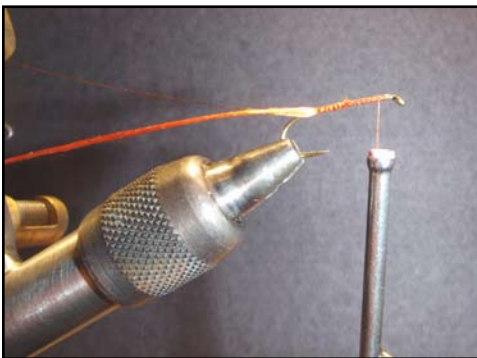
I always have soft hackle flies in my working fly boxes, and the POSH occupies a prominent place among them. There are similar patterns out there, but the true original was constructed of just two materials (other than the hook): thread, and partridge hackle. Variants include a ribbed model, and one with a dubbed or wound thorax. The purpose of ribbing is, in my view, to give a segmented look to the body; the purpose of a thorax is to keep the hackle from flattening itself against the body while the fly is in the drift. There are other modifications out there, but for our purposes we'll just add the ribbing and the thorax, to keep things simple and sparse. Oh, and one more thing—we'll add some floss or silk for the body, instead of just using thread.

#### MATERIALS NEEDED

Hook:	TMC 3761BL or similar hook, #10, 12
Thread:	Orange flat waxed, smallest size available
Body:	Orange one-strand floss or silk
Rib:	Extra-fine copper or gold Wire
Thorax:	Peacock Herl
Hackle:	Brown partridge
Head:	Thread



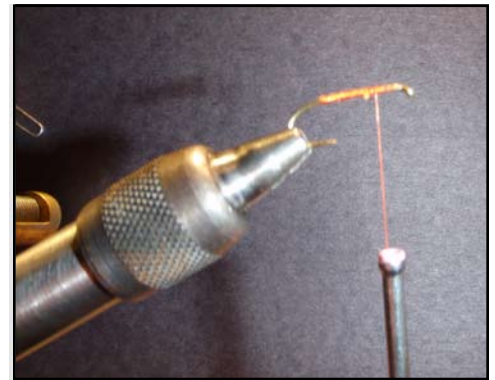
Step 1



Steps 2, 3, & 4

#### Tying Instructions:

1. Smash the hook barb (unless you're using the barbless version of the 3761).
2. Cover the shank with thread, leaving it at the rear of the hook, just above the hook point (note that this is different than where we'd normally stop; i.e., the normal stop point is the back of the barb).
3. Tie in a piece of fine gold or copper wire.
4. Tie in a 4" piece of orange floss or silk at the same point, and move the thread forward to the eye of the hook.
5. Carefully wrap the floss or silk forward to the front third point on the hook shank. Tie it off there and trim the excess. Rib the fly, using 4 or 5 wraps; tie off the wire at the same point and trim the excess. This completes the body. Leave the thread at the front third point.
6. For the thorax, tie in another piece of wire at the same point, along with two pieces of fine peacock herl (here it is important



Step 5

Continued on Page 11



## Fly Tyers Corner - Continued from Page 10



Step 6a



Step 7a

to use the extra-fine wire; otherwise, the herl will be overpowered). Twist the wire and herl together in a counter-clockwise direction, until you have a nice, tight herl chenille. Wrap the herl chenille around the shank, building up a nice thorax; leave plenty of room between the thorax and the hook eye for the hackle. Tie off the herl chenille and trim the excess.

7. At the front of the thorax, tie in a properly sized brownish partridge feather by its tip (see below under "tips" for feather preparation



Step 6b



Step 7b &amp; 8 - finished fly

hints). Using your hackle pliers to grip the stem of the feather, take two turns of the hackle, tie it off, and trim the excess.

8. Form a nice, small head and whip finish. Carefully add a tiny drop of cement to the head, being careful not to get the glue on the hackle. If you use too much glue, it will leach up into the hackle, rendering it useless.

### **Tying Tips:**

1. To prepare the hackle, remove the fuzz at the base of the stem (don't cut the stem off). Then, using your tweezers, grab the tip of the feather and smooth back the barbules. It helps to moisten the feather a bit during this process. That exposes the tip for ease of tying it onto the hook.

2. When tying in the ribbing and the floss, tie them in at the front one third point on the hook and then wrap them down to the hook point. This will help in maintaining a nice flat, smooth body. Use as little thread as possible, and try not to overlap thread wraps.

Crank out a bunch if these puppies and fish them through riffles, run, and pocket water, and....See ya on the creek.

## Kiene's



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### **Fly Tying Contest Winners for May**

Beginners: Tony Gariano  
Advanced: Jim Holmes



### Ladies Day on the Lower Yuba River

Attention all Granite Bay Flycasters' ladies... this fish-out/clinic is just for you! The ladies of Gold Country Fly Fishers have invited us to join them for a joint ladies-only outing on the Lower Yuba River Saturday, June 11th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm for an instructional clinic and fishout. This is open for women of all levels of fly fishing. Members of Gold Country Fly Fishers will put on a table top clinic with various instructors teaching rigging, knot tying, fly selection, methods for fishing the river, and then on-the-water instruction. The clinic will be held at Hammon Grove County Park, just off of Highway 20, in the back parking area by the river.

Members will need to bring all of their own gear, as well as a valid California fishing license and steelhead report card. If you want to participate, but don't yet have the gear, contact me anyway and we'll make some arrangements. The instructors that will be helping with this event will also be presenting at our June General meeting on June 9th. If you have any questions, or want to sign-up for this event, please contact me at [Tggr514@yahoo.com](mailto:Tggr514@yahoo.com) or (916) 396-0030. ~Robin Egan

### Middle Fork American River — a Relicensing Odyssey

*Bill Carnazzo*

I am pleased (ecstatic, in fact) to report that we have reached agreement with Placer County Water Agency on all of the instream flow and related issues such as mitigation measures for past damage to the fisheries of the upper Middle Fork. As always, the devil is in the details, but when time begins to grow short (as was the case here) everyone, including the licensee, is increasingly motivated to reach consensus. I am especially pleased because the rivers, streams, and creeks that are affected by the hydro project are right in my back yard, and we have ensured major permanent benefits for their fisheries.

Some months we reached tentative agreement on the upper, or "bypass" reaches; the most recent agreement addressed the issues relating to the "peaking" reach, which is the main Middle Fork below Oxbow Lake. Everyone understood that an ultimate agreement depended upon a consensus-based agreement the entire package, because although the two areas (bypass and peaking reaches) are separate in some respects, they are intricately related in the overall picture. The overall package had to make economic sense to PCWA in terms of both lost generation cost of the agreement, and preservation of operational flexibility. It also had to make sense to the federal and state agencies, who are legally required to write enforceable conditions into the permit language, and exercise their duties that require protection and management of the resource. It also had to be acceptable to the **Foothills Angler Coalition** (represented by Tom Bartos, Bob Burnham, and me) and the other NGOs, in terms of addressing each group's expressed interests. In our case (i.e., F.A.C.), our interests were in establishing minimum instream flows at levels that are protective of fish, BMIs, and habitat, during all of the six water year types, on a month-by-month basis; limiting peaking to the extent reasonable and feasible; establishing periods for anglers to wade and fish safely; and protection of spawning fish, their eggs, fry, and young of the year from stranding and predation. The Foothills Angler Coalition is a non-profit corporation that we formed specifically for the purpose of watershed and fisheries improvement. The Coalition's supporters include Trout Unlimited (national organization, and local chapters); Cal Trout, national organization and California affiliate; Federation of Fly Fishers (national organization and NCCFFF); many fly fishing clubs, including Granite Bay Flycasters, CFFU, Auburn Flycasters, Golden Gate Casting Club,



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*Continued on Page 13*

*Middle Fork American River - Continued from Page 12*

and many others; and private companies, including Sage Rod Company, Orvis, and others. In short, we presented a united front, representing a huge angling community. This worked to our benefit in the tripartite negotiations among us, the federal and state agencies, and the licensee.

Regarding the agreement on minimum instream flows, we achieved most of our goals and objectives. For the smaller streams in the upper drainage, we achieved much higher minimum instream flows for the new license period (50 years). In addition, we were able to negotiate spring pulse flows that will mimic the natural spring hydrograph, in the wetter types of water years. Flows will be increased and maintained in the lower river at levels which will allow the lower Middle Fork to function more like a good tailwater system. As soon as the revised instream flow charts are provided to us by PCWA, we will include it in a future article.

There are a number of other important components of the agreement:

1. An agreement by PCWA to endeavor, in good faith, to limit peaking to the extent possible by operating Oxbow Lake during the winter months primarily as a regulating facility. PCWA is drafting language on this point, which we will all review at next week's meeting; however, all of the "business points" were agreed upon unanimously, so we are confident that we have put this one to bed. This agreement will not be a license condition, but will be contained in an enforceable side agreement.
2. A new spawning channel will be established in the half mile below Oxbow dam, with appropriate minimum flows of cold water during the rainbow spawning and rearing period, and lower cold water flows during the rest of the year. PCWA will maintain these flows as a license condition, and will annually provide spawning gravels in this section to replace that which has been washed downstream. This is a very significant element of the agreement, because the science shows that because of peaking there is little, if any, spawning in the mainstem MF. Virtually all MF spawning now occurs in the tributaries.
3. A recreational flow regime has been established (a few tweaks remain to be agreed upon between the commercial and recreational boaters, but PCWA will agree to whatever settlement is reached between those two interests).
4. While we will still have to live with peaking during the non-winter months, protective ramping has been established on both the up-ramp and down-ramp shoulders of the peaks, in order to protect against stranding of fish and BMIs.
5. In the past there has been no way to know what flows to expect on a day-by-day basis, or for any other temporal period. We have obtained agreement from PCWA that it will post on its web site a day-by-day firm statement of the next day's flows for weekdays, and a weekend flow schedule for the weekends. This is a huge item for us, as it will allow anglers to predict when they can wade fish safely, and when to expect the best fishing. It also addresses the interests of other river recreational users.

There are other provisions, but the above represents the core of the agreement. As mentioned above, when the revised flow chart is received, we will provide it to everyone. Major kudos are in order for Julie Leimbach, who patiently "herded the cats" and ushered them along in a very professional manner. Julie acted in the capacity of a very informed coordinator on behalf of the Foothills Water Network.

I, along with Tom Bartos and Bob Burnham, express our appreciation for the support shown by GBF throughout this long, at times exhausting process. Special thanks to Tony Fabian and Mel Odemar, who took some of their personal time to attend a number of meetings.



Granite Bay Flycasters  
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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](http://www.gbflycasters.org), or call Dennis Baker at 916-580-7639.

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](http://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 Jerry Devlin at 530-878-8934, or visit the website at [www.gbflycasters.org](http://www.gbflycasters.org).

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

Please notify if address change

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