

# The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

August 2013

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

## Leader's Line

*by Mike Howes, GBF President*

Well, to start off with, a mystery has been solved. The members with GBF name badges that have a blue background instead of white are GBF Board members. We thought the blue badges would help members recognize a member that could answer their questions, or at least they could find out the answer and get back to the asking member. So, if you have questions, approach these guys and demand answers. Actually, be gentle, they are nice people doing the club a great service.

Art Livingston has the GBF Veterans program in full swing. On 6/26, 15 GBF members and one granddaughter showed up at Lake Natoma to help instruct 15 Vets and their spouses and/or friends on how to fly cast. In the evening, Art held an "Introduction to fly fishing" session at the Vets Hall for 11 Veterans. He also scheduled another casting clinic on July 25. I know this date has passed for this reading, but the writing part took place by July 15 (deadline for *Leader* articles). Art, thank you for looking into a veterans program and successfully implementing it.



GBF member, Eric Palmer, is not only our Fishmaster—a quite good one at that—he is also helping Kent Ripley with the web site. Eric has found many articles about fly fishing. He has contacted various authors of the articles and requested permission to post them on the GBF web site. On the GBF web site go to "Library" "Articles" and you will find these articles. A wealth of information at your fingertips—thanks Eric.

The Annual Dinner committee will be starting up soon. Rick Radoff has volunteered to lead this effort. If you would like to help out on the Dinner committee, or have a special talent you would like to share at the dinner, please contact Rick Radoff [radoffcnst@jps.net](mailto:radoffcnst@jps.net). The venue, Rocklin Sunset Center, has a stage to accommodate any skit or singing. The Annual Dinner is our one-and-only fund raiser during the year. This one is planned for 3/15/2014. Volunteer, you will find it a fun experience.

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## Lake Davis Fishout / Clinics September 6, 7, 8, 2013

*by Gene Goss*



Lake Davis is coming back to being a trophy trout lake again. It went through some bad times, with the loss of all the fish in the lake and some of the food sources shrank or disappeared altogether, but good things are starting to happen at Lake Davis. If you made it up to Lake Davis this spring you would have seen the incredible bug hatches in the morning and evening of midges, caddis flies, blood midges, callibaetis, and hexagenias mayfly. Yes hex are now part of the food chain for Lake Davis, and the damsels hatch was the best we've seen in a long time.

*Continued on Page 3*

## AUGUST 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.	7. Fuller Lake Fishout	8. Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM	9.	10.
11.	12.	13.	14.	15. Board Meeting 7:00 PM	16.	17.
18.	19.	20. Fly Tying Jam	21.	22.	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.	28. Truckee River Fishout	29.	30.	31.

## Monthly Program



as the small streams in the Sierra's.

Tom spends the majority of his "working" days on the American chasing steelhead from January through April, as well as shad and stripers from May through August. The Feather is also one of Tom's favorite steelhead streams during March/April and October through December. When not fishing those rivers, you can find him and his clients tricking trout on the Yuba, or tossing caddis and hoppers to a variety of trout in Alpine County.

Our guest speaker this month is guide, **Tom Peirano**, of **TLP Fly Fishing**, who will present a program on fishing the American River. He has spent the past 40 years throwing flies to trout, steelhead, shad and stripers all over the western states but Northern California has always been home.

Tom grew up in the Bay Area, but has resided in the Sacramento area for the past 25 years. During that time, he has become very familiar with the valley rivers as well



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## Lake Davis Fishout/Clinics - Continued from Page 1

This spring I fished 9 days straight and everyday was a different ball game. Some days I would catch 2 trout and some days I would catch 9 trout, if you were in the right place at the right time. Most of the trout I caught were between 16 to 23 inches and if you hook into one of those big boys you would have a smile that would last all day. But, it was challenging for me with all the changes that the lake and the trout have been going through, It was a different ball game everyday. The weather and the wind had the biggest effect on the hatches and the catching of trout.

I will be camping out at Lighting Tree campground and will use the GBF message board for all the info. for the fishout and the clinics.

**Clinic 1:** Sept. 6 - Shore fishing

**Clinic 2:** Sept. 7 - Advanced float tubing (you will backpack your float tube ½ mile and float tube across the top of Lake Davis 3 miles).

**Clinic 3:** Sept. 8 - Basic float tubing.

If you have questions, contact me at [eugenegoss01@gmail.com](mailto:eugenegoss01@gmail.com).

### Lost and Found

Don Lounsbury found a very nice custom made net, similar to the ones many club members have made in the net building class, and would like to return it to its owner/maker. The net was found at Fuller Lake, a favorite haunt of many GBF members. If you think it's yours or belongs to someone you know contact Don at [don.lounsbury@gmail.com](mailto:don.lounsbury@gmail.com).

### Denny Welch Attorney at Law

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## Fishmaster's Corner

*by Eric Palmer*

### Safety First!

I can think of at least two things that most of us take for granted when prepping for a fishing excursion. In May, I spoke of keeping ourselves **physically fit** so we don't pull muscles, cramp up and/or get debilitating back aches during the long hours on river or pond. The other is **safety**. I'm sure most of us have been blindsided more than once by something bone-head that could have been avoided with just a little foresight.

At June fishouts alone, we had two incidences in which participants took a serious dunking. One individual literally went head over heels down a small waterfall into a deep pool. Fortunately, wet wading in swimming trunks coupled with strong swimming skills facilitated a speedy exit to terra firma, and with body and gear intact, save perhaps for a bruised ego and soggy wallet. Later in the month on the N. Yuba another member slipped and went down hard and I'm told got a good soaking up to his neck, fortunately in shallow water.

Both these events occurred due to poor friction, thus my first topic: **Wading boots!** I'll speak from personal experience here and some may disagree, but while I love my Simms Vibram soles (with studs!) on the trail, the rubber without studs on slimy river rocks is useless. I'm still undecided on rubber vs. felt for my next boots, but in my opinion, for grip on the trail an aggressive rubber sole with studs beats felt, and rubber with the studs I find adequate in the water on all forms of river slime that I have encountered. Given my degree of agility – or lack thereof - I'm as concerned about slipping on dry land as I am in water since a good spill down a steep trail can be as tough on body and gear as a wet spill. On the other hand, I might give felt with studs the edge in water. Everything is a compromise.

My message is to not go wet wading with rubber soled hiking boots or rubber wading sandals or even wading boots with rubber soles lacking studs! No matter how "sticky" the rubber is purported to be, during your first use on river slime, you will wish you had studs. You can get the expensive carbide tipped fly shop screws which last longer or go to a hardware store and get standard #6 1/2" zinc plated hex sheet metal screws which you should plan on replacing after one or two seasons depending on how active you are. See the Simms site for an illustration of optimum screw placement. Turns out less is better.

**The Wading staff:** I've been asked by new members while signing up for their first Fishout "Do I need a staff and why? What's it for?" These are typically "younger" individuals, who for all I know have the agility of an Olympic gymnast with a gold medal. I patiently explain that when wading up to your waist in a strong current on a very slippery and irregular river bottom you will want a staff. It's fool-hardy to wade without a staff, no matter how agile you may feel.

*Continued on Page 5*



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*Fishmaster's Corner - Continued from Page 4*

You can spend \$100 at a fly shop for a fancy collapsible staff or visit ACE Hardware and get a unique \$15 varnished rustic wood hiking stick made from a cypress branch, and there are many options in between. Or, as I prefer, get a hardwood rake handle from the hardware store and make your own with a bike grip handle, rubber tip and bungee cord to attach to your wading belt. See me for details. Whatever you do, your staff is useless in your garage while you're on the river. On almost every fishout, someone forgets his or her staff, so my spare loaner sees regular service, but it's first come-first served and there's only one.

**Personal Flotation Device (PFD):** Few of us use one as far as I can tell, some perhaps on their float tube, but we all should. Lower Yuba guide Clay Hash always wears one on the river. If you fish big rivers, this is a must-have. Clay favors the Belt Pack style as it's minimally intrusive. \$100 at Cabelas.

**A Fishing Partner:** Anyone participating in my Fishouts will hear me repeat this with monotonous regularity. We had a compound fractured leg on the Upper Sac some years ago and were it not for the individual's partner just feet away, he could have had a very long and painful wait for help, and this was in the Dunsmuir city park. If you fish remote areas of the Truckee or N. Yuba or Upper American or any of our other favorite rivers, you could wait days for help with just a twisted ankle rendering you unable to walk. River or lake, always take a partner! Remember...you're in a fly club!

There's much, much more to this important topic, so visit our web site [here!](#)

Thanks for your time and see you on the water...

## Conservation Corner

*by Dan Edwards, VP Conservation*

Hello. I am Dan Edwards, the new VP of Conservation for the club. I am a clinical psychologist and neuropsychologist, or I was until I recently closed my private office. I retired from UC Davis Department of Psychiatry in 2002 and went into private practice. I am single and I have a 29 year old daughter who is a Plant Ecologist. She specializes in ecological restoration. She is very excited at my position with the club. I just bought a new red corvette to celebrate being more retired. It makes me smile when I'm driving. I have been fly fishing for about 20 years, mainly because my younger brother took me to all these beautiful places on the pretext of catching trout.

Below I have tried to summarize some of the accomplishments of the Conservation Committee that was led by Henry Sandigo, former VP of Conservation. I look first at the donations made to conservation organizations and at our scholarship program at CSU Humboldt which GBF has supported for the past 6 years. Then I look forward to our currently planned commitments and to some potentially new activities.

This past year the Conservation Committee voted to give \$2,500 of the



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Conservation Corner - Continued from Page 5

Club's funds to 5 fishing relevant organizations. These organizations are listed below with their current missions.

### 1. Donations FOR 2012-2013 and amounts.

- a. \$500. **SARA** (Save the American River Association) was active in trying to get a separate tax basis and organizational structure for the American River Parkway to restore funding. The County Board of Supervisors did not approve the effort. Parkway funding is still out of the General Fund and at risk of cuts whenever there is a fiscal crunch. SARA helped create the American River Parkway and is a primary defender of the Parkway.
  - b. \$500. **ARPF** (American River Parkway Association) has been coordinating volunteer activities to maintain the Parkway and make improvements in Sacramento. A recent issue was the speed of bicycles on the Parkway and the risks to walkers. They sponsor 2 major clean-ups each year and other projects.
  - c. \$500. **FOR** (Friends of the River) is a California watchdog group which is currently working in a lawsuit to try and get the twin Delta tunnels stopped. The tunnels can carry 30,000 cfs which is the usual total flow of the Sacramento when fed by Shasta, Oroville and Folsom during irrigation season. The threats to the Delta fishery are taking center stage right now. FOR has been active supporting upper American River developments like stopping the Auburn Dam. They have also supported water maintenance on the lower American River.
  - d. \$500. **FWN** (Foothills Water Network) is currently negotiating with the Nevada Irrigation District over improvement in their conservation efforts. They are using the FERC re-licensing issues to achieve their goals to bring back accessibility for fish and to increase and restore habitat while still supporting farmers and other stakeholders. They are coordinating efforts for the Yuba, Bear, and American Rivers.
  - e. \$500. **NCCFFE** (Northern California Council International Federation of Fly Fishers) An umbrella group of 33 affiliated fly fishing clubs in northern CA and NV. This group has developed standards for certifying casting instructors. They are also active in bringing together and promoting Fly Tying.
2. **Status of Robert B Morton GBF Scholarship** (\$2,160.) We have supported a student at CSU Humboldt for the past 6 years. Our rationale has been to support students who will eventually go into a career in fisheries management or ecological restoration or similar areas relevant to sport fishing. Mel Odemar coordinates this effort for the Club.
  3. Preparation for **Calling Back the Salmon** (Lincoln Festival Oct 5th & 6th)  
 We need: Information Sharers for Citizen Questions (8).  
 Fly Tiers demonstrations (4 or 8)  
 Casting Demonstrators/Coaches for citizens (4-8)  
 Activity Graphs/Information on Club efforts and programs
  4. Preparation for the Classroom Egg Program  
 We have about 70 aquariums, chillers, and other classroom equipment. Rick Radoff, Frank Stolten and Doug Groshong are heading up this effort and the Conservation Committee wants to support their important educational efforts.
  5. December will again bring the Dry Creek Fish Census project. Dry Creek Conservancy will again provide training and scheduling for the Salmon and Steelhead census.
  6. Should we join Roseville's Adopt a Creek Program?

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*Conservation Corner - Continued from Page 6*

We are currently talking to John Williams, coordinator of the Adopt a Creek Program. This would give us a local "Home Water" project that is nearby and that supports a Salmon and Steelhead fishery. I was surprised to learn that Dry Creek has salmon and steelhead. I also learned that it enters the Sacramento River near my home and just above the Discovery Park Boat Launch Area. There it is known as Bannon Slough. We may be able to improve the Dry Creek banks and creek bed to improve salmon spawning and passage through to Antelope Creek, Secret Ravine and Miner's Ravine. Would you like to help improve nearby Salmon access and productivity? (and Steelhead productivity?)

There are probably other activities that are pending but I will try to list them in next month's Conservation Corner.

**August's Conservation Tip:** If you go fishing in Putah Creek or another water that has a New Zealand Snail infestation (some parts of the American, Sacramento and other local rivers), remember to clean waders feet and your boots. Freezing for at least 4 hours is recommended to kill spores and small snails.

## A Six Day Float Trip in the Wilds of Alaska

*by John Hogg*



The pontoons of the small float plane settle on the water without even a bump, and we motor toward the beach. In a few minutes we are off-loading all of the gear that will support us for a 6 day float down American Creek - a river, actually with a flow of about 1200 cfs. Our put-in is Hammersly Lake, about 60 miles south of the southern shore of Lake Iliamna.

Our guide, Jon Streeter quickly inflates the 14 foot raft, attaches the oar frame, and begins loading the gear - tents, stove, chairs, cots, spare oar, water filter system, bear box with all of our food; then our gear goes on as well - fly rods, and equipment, clothing for all types of weather, toilet kit, cameras, and a couple of books - everything in waterproof bags. For the next 6 days, we will live in our boots and waders, and layered clothing that ranges from only a T-shirt on a day when the temperature exceeds 80 degrees, to seven layers of clothes - (everything I had), when we encounter cold rain, heavy winds, and temps in the low 40's.

Now loaded with our gear, plus three guys, Jon, my son Robby, and me, we slowly enter the creek. Over the next six days we will cover about 45 miles to reach our take out at Lake Coville.

The first fish belongs to Robby, a 22 inch rainbow that falls for a size 14 Adams. The weather is drizzly and very wet, there is no wind; this section of the river is very wide, wadeable all the way across, with lots of small riffles and long glassy runs. We are using OX tippet - they are not leader shy. The afternoon passes quickly - we land numerous rainbows up to 23 inches. But now we have to get down the river a couple of miles and set up camp. A small damp, gravel bar will be our home for the night. It looks singularly uninviting until our cook tent goes up, some chairs get set up, and we start snacking on some cheese, salami, and crackers. At 11 o'clock in the evening, the sun still has not set. We go to bed with hat brims in place shading us from the still bright light.

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*A Six Day Float Trip in the Wilds of Alaska - Continued from Page 7*

On our second day we remain in tundra terrain, and camp about 100 yards from a long deep run, with a large back eddy on the far side. Nymphing the run immediately produces a nice char, and then another and another, and another. Robby and Jon wade across and search for an angle to present a dry fly in the eddy, and 'boom!', its fish-on with a big rainbow. The char hug the bottom and only seldom will jump after being hooked, but the quantity of them in this run is astounding.

As the river drops in altitude, we move into heavily forested terrain. We see our first grizzly with two cubs about a mile away. She is maneuvering down a steep slide area several hundred feet above the river when she loses her footing and rolls head over heels for 100 feet or so. Well, it just shows that its not just humans that take risks in the heights, but it turns out she appears to be uninjured. At camp that night we are introduced to Alaska's national bird, the mosquito. I have a spray bottle of 100% Deet and it is my constant companion for the next few days. Our guide Jon, who is exposed for the entire season, is reluctant to use Deet on a daily basis, so he wears a head net.



More grizzlies appear like brown ghosts moving in and out of the dense brush. They want nothing to do with us. In fact, when they are close they refuse to make eye contact. They just turn and leave, or keep moving on. It is clear that neither party wants anything to do with the other.

The gradient of the river is steeper now, about 450 feet per mile. Lots of pocket water; the river braids into multiple small channels. Several times we are forced to exit the raft and clear away logs and brush to keep moving. At one point the river comes together and there is a huge rapid – class 4, which Jon expertly negotiates.

On our 4th day we have dropped over 1000 feet in elevation and we start to see a few fleeting red forms in the water – sockeyes! This is what is drawing the bears, but as yet, the sockeye are still too few in number and too fresh and fast for the bears to catch them. The weather changes to unbelievably hot, 85 degrees or so! Moose flies, which are gigantic versions of horse flies buzz around us constantly. The fish shut down – we don't get a hit for hours - so we entertain ourselves killing moose flies with our hat brims.



The following day the weather cools and the fishing turns back on. Jon offers us his own mouse pattern – made something like a gurgler with gray foam body, and legs and tail added. This pattern, as well big stimulator patterns produce well. It is hard work, we have to wade down the middle of the river and work the banks and pocket water... but in my view, there is nothing more satisfying in fly fishing than drawing a strike with such a presentation. In one small run I hook a sockeye. It is nine pounds of saltwater muscle. In a few seconds all my line and most of my backing is off the reel. The fish is 150 yards down the river. Jon Streeter is trying to get a hold of my fly line (before

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*A Six Day Float Trip in the Wilds of Alaska - Continued from Page 8*

I lose the whole thing), and the fish is now thrashing just a few feet from Robby, who now tails it. The fish turns out to be dinner – salmon fritters – just a couple of hours later.

The river opens up as it approaches the lake; the terrain is marshy, the river now 200 feet wide, still with a strong current, but with a surface like glass. Robby dabbles again with a parachute Adams, and lands the biggest rainbow of the trip, a 25 inch. (One might be surprised that 25 inches is the measure of our biggest rainbow, but keep in mind that we deliberately scheduled our trip to avoid the salmon run. The benefit is that we got to use all fly fishing techniques – presenting dries, swinging streamers, searching with terrestrials, and nymphing. Once the salmon run is fully in, the rainbows grow much larger as they gorge on eggs and salmon flesh – but the fly fishing then is pretty well restricted to one type of presentation – nymphing with egg patterns and flesh flies.)

But now its time for the plane to pick us up and fly us back to civilization. It has been the trip of a lifetime! We arranged our trip through Rainbow River Lodge, which is owned and operated by Chad Hewitt. I now have a lot of appreciation for the outfitter of such a trip who must provide, bush plane, food, raft, tents and equipment, and of-course a great guide and oarsman – our guy Jon Streeter. For questions or comments, my email is [johnhogg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnhogg@sbcglobal.net).

## The Auburn Ravine Creek Project

*by Dan Edwards, VP of Conservation*

On May 27, 2008, the Club had a surplus and we donated \$10,000 to help remove barriers to fish passage on Auburn Ravine. Henry Sandigo, past VP for Conservation told me that our donation had helped build a fish ladder on the gauging station just above Lincoln. Did this do any good?

In Fall 2012, for the first time in 24 years (since 1988) spawning Salmon were able to get past the gauging station for several miles before stopping at the next barrier, Hemphill Dam. Department of Fish and Wildlife surveyed the newly opened creek and counted 273 spawning Salmon on over 50 Redds for the first time in 24 years. The steelhead more likely than not followed the chinook salmon upstream. Population estimates are difficult but in a stable population at least 2 adult Salmon are produced for each spawning salmon who will return to the creek to spawn again. Hatcheries report a 1% to 5% return rate for smolts they release. Chinook salmon lay between 1,500 and 10,000 eggs so more than 2 could survive in an expanding population.

The major funding for this effort was provided by Nevada Irrigation District (NID), California Department of Water Resources, Placer County, Dry Creek Conservancy, and Granite Bay Flycasters. We helped create approximately 546 new adult salmon (2 times 273) for each year the Auburn Ravine is open. There are two more barriers on Auburn Ravine to open the creek all the way to the City of Auburn. I do not know how many Steelhead that our donation may have helped produce but a survey of the Auburn Ravine estimated between 7000 and 8000 Fish per mile.

A major player in this effort was **Save the Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead**, founded by Jack Sanchez, president. He had the dream of bringing the salmon and steelhead back to downtown Auburn and now has the help of numerous children, adults and organizations.

Go to [www.SARSAS.org](http://www.SARSAS.org) and click on the 4th orange line where it says "Click here to view a video about SARSAS." This is an 18 minute, incredible video. Click on the top of the Website page on "Videos" to go to a second page where it says, "Click here to see a video." This is a 55 minute video called "Journey of Lifetime" documenting the Salmon and Steelhead returning to the Auburn Ravine above the Gauging Station.

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*Auburn Ravine Creek Project - Continued from Page 9*

I think our donation forwarded our goals of increasing access for fish and increasing their productivity in the wild. There is public access to Auburn Ravine at 2 parks in Lincoln (McBean and Auburn Ravine), and at every bridge over the Auburn Ravine. Jack Sanchez says that they are working at mitigating the 2 dams, Hemphill and Gold Hill, that remain preventing access to the City of Auburn. They are also working with private owners to develop public access points in the upper Auburn Ravine above Hemphill Dam.

I think our donation was very successful although the total cost of the Gauging Station fish ladder was reported at \$900,000. I hope you will be as inspired as I was by these videos and the documented results of restoring fish to the Auburn Ravine Creek Project.

## Baja California 2013 Trip

*by Mark Pinski*



*Fly Fishing Baja Style!*

What do you get when you travel to Baja California to target Dorado on a fly and the main source of food, the Sardinia, is not present? The answer; No Dorado! The Dorado present were almost completely non-existent. A couple of members on our fishout managed to scrape a Dorado up. Some didn't even see one. Normally Dorado would be present in large numbers where a fly caster can hold fish out in front of a boat with the motor turned off by tossing out an occasional Sardinia to keep the fish in one location.

The situation forced us to fish for other species. Luckily for us there were juvenile Marlin and Sailfish around. It was a matter of searching the blue water by trolling with teasers. Sometimes the fish could be spotted in advance and could be enticed to the teasers. Other times the fish would just show up behind the

boat right on top of the teasers. When the fish came close to the boat in hot pursuit of the teasers the boat would be kicked out of gear where a fly fisher could toss the fly to the immediate side of the fish just as the teasers was being removed. Or, some version of that method, sometimes abbreviated or not quite followed at all. The most opportunities came when the sun was high in the sky and the clouds were not present. When it's overcast, it makes it difficult for billfish to spot their prey as the water is dark in color.

Juvenile Marlin were caught in the 50-100 pound range. Our biggest fish contest became difficult to determine the winner as Mike Howes, Frank Stolten and Robin Egan all caught fish approaching 100 pounds. None of these fish were weighed as releasing the fish unharmed was top priority. We analyzed photos in an attempt to determine the winner. With methodology just short of a coin toss, Robin ended up the winner of the winner takes all prize.

We did feast on fish every night. The crowd favorite was Yellow Fin Tuna that would readily eat your baitfish pattern once you located a school. We had Tuna prepared a number of different way including Ceviche, Sashimi, Seared and stuffed in Tacos. The Mexican hospitality was good at the Buena Vista Resort and the food was unanimously voted as outstanding.

Several members worked the beaches and managed to scrape up the prized roosterfish. Overall the species caught included Striped Marlin, Blue Marlin, Sailfish, Dorado, Yellow Tail Tuna, Roosterfish, Cabrilla, Ladyfish, Needlefish, Snapper and the ever hungry Trigger fish. The numbers of fish present and caught might have not have been impressive this year, but when you consider the lack of primary baitfish this year and the presence of recent clouds and storms, we did all right. That's why it's called fishing and not catching. Of the ten members who were out fishing, the experiences varied greatly from day to day. We compared notes of each other's success daily to maximize our chances. Everyone tried new fishing approaches and came back happy from a fun trip. I'm looking forward to the next adventure south of the border. Who knows, maybe the next time there will be so many fish present that my arm will be tired from fighting them. To see more photos of the fishout and some impressive catches go [here](#).

Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner  
(Taken from the Article Written in August 2008)

## Fly Patterns - Spring Pupa



### Materials:

<b>Hook:</b>	Tiemco 2457 or Daiichi 1120, #12-16
<b>Thread:</b>	Chartreuse 8/0
<b>Bead:</b>	Small copper or gold bead, sized to match hook size
<b>Underbody:</b>	Pearl crystal flash
<b>Abdomen:</b>	Chartreuse Ultra-Chenille
<b>Ribbing:</b>	Pearl crystal flash
<b>Legs:</b>	Partridge, sparse
<b>Antennae:</b>	Barred wood duck fibers
<b>Head:</b>	Black ostrich herl

*Spring Pupa*

## Description

I know, it's not springtime. But that doesn't mean that this little fly won't work for you. If you turn over rocks in most any freestone stream, you'll find little "green rock worms." These bugs are caddis larvae. Without getting into the entomological intricacies of caddis species, some caddis larvae make cases and some are free-living. If you look closely at what you find on rocks or amongst the debris on the stream bottom, you'll notice that the bright green "worms" can be of both types. In other words, there will be some crawling about, and others inside their cases. If you grab one of the little square cases and open it up, you will see what I mean. The little cased variety engage in "behavioral drift" from time to time at certain times of the day. This just means that they leave their cases and drift downstream where they establish a new home and build a new case. I don't know (and entomologists say they don't know either) exactly why this happens, but it indeed does. And, luckily for fly anglers, the fish know about this phenomenon. The Spring Pupa is actually just a chartreuse Fox Poopah, tied in exactly the same way as the regular Poopah series flies. In my experience, this fly works well as an imitation of either a free-living caddis larva caught in the current, or a cased caddis larva engaging in behavioral drift. I use it as a "stinger" (a third fly) off the bottom fly in a two-fly nymph rig. It saved the day for me and my client recently just above Pollard Flat on the Upper Sac, where it accounted for a good number of very large rainbows..

## Tying Instructions



1. Smash the hook barb unless you are using a barbless version of the hook, and slip the bead around the bend. Cover the shank with thread.

2. Tie in a piece of crystal flash (will be used as ribbing) just above the hook barb, and move the thread to the bead. At that point, tie in another piece of crystal flash.

3. Wrap this piece of crystal flash back to where the first piece was tied in, and forward again to the bead. Tie it off there. This forms a shiny underbody.



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4. Cut a piece of Ultra-Chenille to 1.5 times the length of the shank. Using a lighter held away from its tip, singe it lightly so that it is rounded off. With the singed end pointing to the rear, tie it in just behind the bead.



5. Rib the abdomen, using 4 or 5 wraps.



6. At the same spot, tie in the legs on the underside of the hook, "beard" style. Make this very sparse; otherwise, it will detract from the principal elements of the fly. In other words, we want a hint of legs—nothing more.

7. From a wood duck flank feather, cut two barbules and tie them in behind the bead, tips to the rear. When tied in, they should be just a tiny bit longer than the end of the body. This represents the antennae.



8. Tie in a piece of black ostrich herl behind the bead, and take 2 or 3 wraps. Tie it off and whip finish behind the bead.

## Tying Tips

1. Don't add weight to this little gem; in my opinion, it kills the action of the fly, and distorts the shape of the underbody,
2. Cut and singe a dozen bodies at a time; it will save you a lot of tying time, and will result in more uniform, consistent bodies.

Tie the Spring Pupa on as a dropper, or as a third fly off of your point fly in a nymph rig. Set the hook at the slightest hesitation of your leader. Go rip a few lips, and....see ya on the creek.

*Enjoy, and see ya on the creek...!!!*

## 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).

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 Taylor Yates at 916-608-4560, 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.

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