

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

March 2015

www.gbflycasters.org

Leader's Line

by Tony Fabian, GBF President

Happy 30th Anniversary Granite Bay Flycasters!

Here's an excerpt from GBF Historian and Charter Member, **Warren Schoenmann**:

"During the December 10th, 1985 meeting, a name was proposed for the club: "The Granite Bay Fly Fishers", (4 words) and the Editor, Fred Zimmerman "took editorial license" as he stated, and proposed "The Leader" as the unofficial name of the club newsletter. The president requested that each of us think about a name for the club, sketch a logo and we would vote on it next meeting. Later we decided to change the name to "Granite Bay Fly Casters" (4 words). In January 1986 we officially became the Granite Bay Flycasters (3 words.)"



On Pages 2-5 in this issue is a copy of the first *Leader*. Notice the dues have increased by only \$10 in the last 30 years! Enjoy.

Here Fishy Fishy!

Continued on Page 2

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

by Ted Way, VP Membership

Please join me in welcoming new members who have joined us over the last few months. Make sure you keep an eye out for them at our meetings and events so that we can make them feel that they are an important part of our club.

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David and Harriet Bennett

Rick Chavez

Ron Fay

Ron Floyd

Josie Gorski

Steve Hibbert

Bob Markley

Chuck McGraw

Ron and Andrea Smit

Mike Walsh



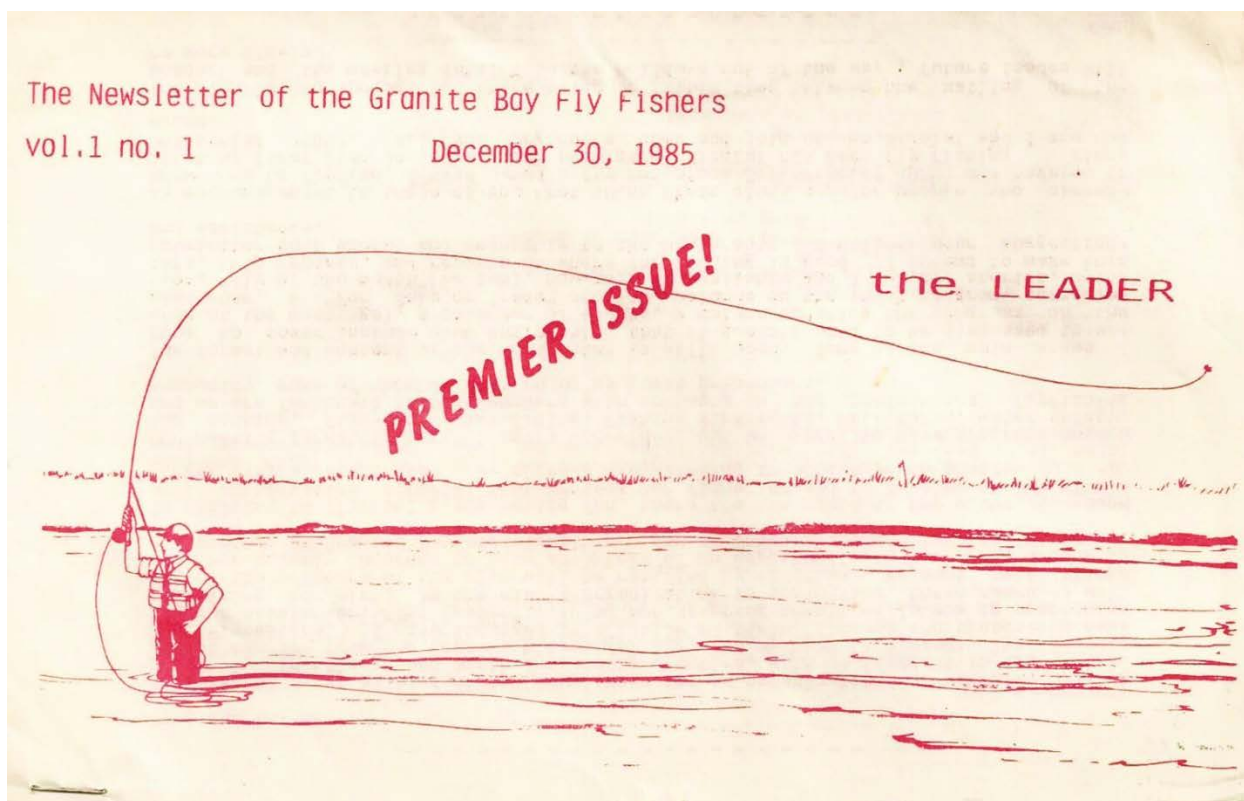
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MARCH 2015						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1.	2.	3.	4. Conservation Committee Meeting	5.	6.	7.
8.	9.	10. Board Meeting 7:00 PM	11. Intro Fly Tying	12. Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM	13.	14. GBF Annual Dinner
15.	16.	17. Fly Tying Jam 6:30 PM	18.	19.	20.	21. Casting Clinic
22.	23.	24. Pyramid Lake Clinic	25.	26.	27.	28. Casting Clinic
29.	30.	31.				

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Leader's Line - Continued from Page 2

From the Editor

This is the first edition of the newsletter for an organization of people, living primarily in Placer and North Sacramento counties, with an interest in flyfishing. As you can see from the header, a name for the club as been proposed; The Granite Bay Flycasters. I have indulged in a little editorial license and proposed a name for our newsletter, "The Leader". An ad hoc steering committee is now in process of organizing our club. As the club's organization is solidified, these names as well as the the officers of the club will be ratified by election. We must pull things together quickly in order to take advantage of an opportunity to have free access to a clubhouse at Granite Bay (additional info can be found elsewhere in this issue).

In addition to flyfishing and having fun, there are two goals of the club: to support conservation efforts that protect our fisheries and to develop a club with a strong family orientation. We already are planning an active youth program.

Our meeting format is still largely undefined, but we expect to have programs covering casting, flytying, rod-building, fishing strategies, tall tales, water safety, and we are fortunate to have members with contacts in the professional flyfishing community, some of whom we will enjoy as guest presentors.

The format and content of the newsletter is still open. Some of the main areas I hope to cover include club business (so that it doesn't need to be discussed in excess at the meetings), a calendar of events, a column updating the progress on the clubhouse, a "For Sale or Trade" section, columns on the youth program, conservation, "fly of the month" (or two), how-to's as available and I welcome stories, opinions, trip reports, and reports on where the fishing is good. I intend to make this newsletter both useful and enjoyable to the membership. I welcome your suggestions and assistance.

As encouragement to those of you that think these clubs are for people who already know how to flyfish, I have owned a fly rod since September (of 1985) and have yet to catch my first fish on it, and our president, Nicolai has been fly fishing since October (of 1985). All you beginners come and join us, so Nicolai and I are not alone.

And finally, an apology for there being so little time between the mailing of the Leader and the meeting date. With the holidays out of the way, future issues will be more timely.

These are some additional columns that will be added in future issues.

The Fly Market

Classified advertisements.

The Young Flyfisher

Tom Dibble

A column for the youth membership.

The Clubhouse Report

Ron Bigelow

An update on the progress of the clubhouse at Granite Bay.

The Tying Desk

How to tie flies, especially those for the northern California area.

Have you ever tried...

Thread your rod by stripping out about 10 feet of fly line, double it over just behind the leader. Thread this loop through the eyes. If it slips from your fingers it won't fall into a pile at your feet like it does when you try to thread the tip-pet.

=====

Continued on Page 4

Leader's Line - Continued from Page 3

vol. 1 no. 1

the LEADER

December 30, 1985

President's MessageNicolai Laquaglia

For those of you who could make it, or find it, thanks a lot for braving a cold night to attend what I feel was a successful first meeting of our Roseville-based flyfishing club. The meeting was held at the Roseville High School Multi-purpose room on December 10. For those who couldn't find us, we will include a map in the next invitation. We invite you to attend our next meeting on Thursday night, the ninth of January. It will, again, be at Roseville H.S. in the Multi-purpose Room. Join us during this exciting gestation of what promises to be an outstanding group of people bound by a mutual concern for nature...fishing...and having a good time.

A number of us who are handling the development of the club have all received positive feedback and an enthusiastic endorsement of our efforts from those at our informal gathering place, Terry Hellekson's "Fly Fishing Specialities", a "prime lie" if you will. From these individuals was perceived a greater and greater need to start fresh and create a new club to represent us those of here in the Placer County/North Sacramento area. We have good reason to be excited. We have been virtually "given" a fantastic clubhouse. As Jeff Herman, Ranger for California State Parks, explained to us at the meeting, in trade for volunteer labor, the State has agreed to "lease for free" a building on the park property at Granite Bay on Folsom Lake. The building is located adjacent to the group picnic area, South of the Granite Bay Beach and North of the boat ramp. Some needed repairs and basic installation must be completed before we can step in. In fact, I hope to report at the next meeting that the papers have been signed, confirming the relationship that enables our club to have this home. Think about how rare and opportunity this really is. Most clubs, of any type, don't even conceive of this fortunate possibility, especially at the moment of conception.

And we have already launched efforts to research the availability of Federal funds for the creation of casting ponds that can, hopefully, be built at the clubhouse site.

There will also be a push to have the next FFF conclave here at our club and at the lake. We've got a clean slate and only all of us together can write our destiny and set our goals together, and then...let's go fishing!!

There is a great amount of information that we will be attempting to deliver by way of this newsletter, and at our next meeting, so read and spread the poop sheet around, or call us, or drop by Fly Fishing Specialities and talk to Terry or Stan on any questions about the club status or a job to be done. Our names and phone numbers are elsewhere in this issue.

And one more thing, think of a name for the club, and sketch out a logo. I will be working on some kind of a prize for the winning entry. Happy Holidays, good fishing and a safe New Year to you all. See you at the next meeting.

What follows is a list of committee chairpersons and officers(all subject to ratification).

Officers

President	Nicolai Laquaglia	786-3470
Vice President/Membership	Peter Dibble	645-8247
Secretary/Treasurer	Fred Zimmerman	

Committees

Building	Ron Bigelow	
Conservation	David Davy	
Youth	Tom Dibble	
Librarian	Warren Schoenman	
Raffle	Morris Schlesinger	
Public Relations	Robert Weygandt	645-8961
Programs	Ken Winkleblack	
Newsletter/Editor	Jim Ferguson	781-2358

The Club CharterPeter Dibble

A charter committee is forming to develop a charter for the club. The committee is open; you are welcome to participate in charting our course. The next charter meeting will be announced.

Contact Morrie Schlesinger for more information at (916)782-5277

Leader's Line - Continued from Page 4

Why Have a ClubPeter Dibble

Search yourself. Why do YOU want to join a fly fishing club? Do you want more opportunities to talk flyfishing, learn techniques, how to tie new flies, save a stream? There is room for everyone. The success of the club in satisfying your needs will be a result of YOUR voice and YOUR participation.

MembershipPeter Dibble

Our club will become larger, stronger, better and more fun for all when everyone joins in. For the next meeting bring someone along. Bring your spouse. Your daughter(s). Your Son(s). Your friends.

Coming Attractions

Jan 9	General Meeting Roseville H.S. Multi-purpose Room Special Guest Mike McIntyre will entertain us with tales of fishing in Alaska.	7:30PM
Feb 13	General Meeting Location-to be announced	7:00PM
Mar 13	General Meeting Location-to be announced	7:00PM

DuesPeter Dibble

An unfortunate necessity, but... Printing this and postage to deliver it are the most immediate. The charter committee will set the dues amount and it will be ratified by the membership.. The collection of dues will begin, by necessity, at our next meeting(9-Jan 86). It is anticipated that the dues will be set at:

\$ 5.00	Youth Membership(17 and under)
\$20.00	Regular Membership
\$25.00	Family Membership(heads of households, spouses and dependents under the age of 18)

The Last MeetingFred Zimmerman

On Tuesday, Decemeber 10, the inaugural meeting of the Granite Bay Flyfishers was held in the Roseville cafeteria. Many exciting things were discussed that night and a few decisions were made but basically this was an infomative meeting and a time for the temporary officers to cry for help! Things started off with a discussion of the free clubhouse that is being offered to us by the State of California. Jeff Herrman spoke to us about the buildings, which are located at Granite Bay in the Folsom Lake Recreation area, and what the state would require from us. Basically, the club would have to do some cosmetic work on the buildings, laying some linoleum tile and moving or installing some partitions, to receive the use of this facility rent free! The State would do much of the heavy work necessary to prepare the site, and our part would be much less than originally anticipated.

Next, plees for help were heard from various committees, particularly the steering, charter and building committees. There are some great opportunities for all members to become involved in determining the direction of our new club. If you are interested in helping out in any of the above committees, please contact Terry Hellekson at Fly Fishing Specialties in Roseville.

Finally, the group heard a presentation from Ed Hobbs and "Sarge" Reynolds on behalf of the Federation of Fly Fishers. The principle thrust of the presentation was all of the good reasons why we, as a club, should affiliate with the Federation. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

The next meeting has been set for Thursday 9 January at 7:30PM at the Roseville H.S. Cafeteria. Hope to see you there!

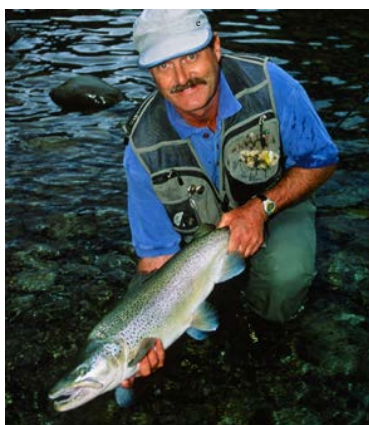
Everyone's invited to the
GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS
 29th Annual Dinner and HUGE

Fly Fishing Raffle & Auction!

With special guest speaker, David Lambroughton

Saturday, March 14, 2015 • Doors open @ 4:30pm

David has been a professional flyfishing travel photographer and writer for nearly 30 years. His presentation this evening will share the people, places, patterns (fly), and passions of his annual flyfishing migration between the legendary waters of British Columbia, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the beautiful islands of New Zealand. Don't miss it!



Granite Bay Flycasters is one of the most active fly fishing clubs in the West. This event supports our club's famous scholarship and conservation programs and is a great way to meet lots of other local fly fishermen and women. Please join us for this special occasion – and you could win great gear, fantastic trips, and much much more!

BBQ dinner starts at 6pm.
 For tickets (just \$40/ea.)
 and all the event details,
 please visit our website:
www.gbflycasters.org.



DINNER LOCATION:
 Rocklin Event Center
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 Rocklin, Calif.
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10% of proceeds to benefit



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Monthly Program



Lance Gray

Our speaker this month is **Lance Gray**, a northern California guide and outfitter who will be presenting a program on **"Fly Fishing Northern California."**

This presentation has a little of everything—an overview of what Northern California has to offer the fly-fisher. The venues include rivers to the beaches: Moss Landing, the Yuba & Feather Rivers, the metro American River for Shad, East Park Reservoir, Lake Almanor and the little East Fork Hat Creek. Northern California has many types of fish to cast a fly to: steelhead, trout, shad, stripers, surf perch, rock fish and halibut are all represented in this program.

The presentation will include comprehensive handouts that cover locations, access points, equipment and maps needed to fish these areas.

Conservation Corner

by Mel Odemar, VP Conservation

Granite Bay Flycasters has adopted a section of Secret Ravine in cooperation with the Dry Creek Conservancy and the Sac-Sierra Chapter of TU. As mentioned in last month's *Leader*, the section of Dry Creek the club adopted before did not work out for a variety of reasons. The section chosen this time is on Secret Ravine behind the Residence Inn on Taylor Road east of East Roseville Parkway in Roseville. I was accompanied on a tour of the area by club members **David Jones** and **David Baker**. The overall habitat is sound, with good water quality, and there is great potential for improving salmon and steelhead spawning habitat and public access and use.

This will be a cooperative effort between the three organizations coordinated by John Williams, Adopt-A-Creek Coordinator for the City of Roseville. The total length of stream adopted by the three organizations is 1.3 miles, of which GBF has .4 miles of the upstream section. John Williams will schedule work parties and will provide all the equipment and materials needed. Work parties will pool efforts in all stream sections to maximize volunteer efforts. David Jones offered that his wife, Cindy, will recruit her Girl Scout troop to aid in planting as they did at the previous site. That will be a great help. David Baker is a Board Member of the Dry Creek Conservancy. The Dry Creek Conservancy has been leading spawning surveys of area streams

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Conservation Corner - Continued from Page 7

for several years. The most recent surveys this season found 286 live salmon and 50 carcasses in Secret Ravine, and another 68 live salmon and 19 carcasses in Miners Ravine and Dry Creek. These are not total counts, but indicate that these are viable spawning grounds. The presence of spawning salmon in the system bodes well for the success of our efforts. I encourage club members to visit the site to get an idea of the potential of this section of Secret Ravine. Park behind the Residence Inn and take the path leading to the creek. Just upstream there is a section where work has already been done to stabilize the bank. Our section is upstream from there.

This year when the call goes out to work the site and survey area streams to count salmon, I hope to see a good turnout. By the time you have read this, we will have had our March Conservation Committee meeting, and will have made our first cut at this year's conservation funding allocations.

Pyramid Lake Cutthroat Brute wins to Fight Another Day

by Gene Goss

After three days of searching and fishing Pyramid without a grab last month, I decided to kick back to the bank and call it a day, and go home fishless.

Then, just as I was thinking about having lunch with my wife, to be followed by a nice nap back at the room, I get this grab; but it's more like I'm hung up on the bottom—then a grab. So, with my fingers clamped down hard on the fly line, the line suddenly got heavy and started stretching, and that's when the bottom started to move and come alive with some head shaking. I knew that I had a very big Cutthroat on the end of my line, and after 10 minutes of fighting, I could see that this Cutthroat was a big, thick, and heavy brute.

I was fishing at the Popcorn access where two weeks earlier I had helped **Jim Holmes** land his 15 pounder at this same sandy point, so I was hopeful that I too had hooked something comparable. I finally got the brute to swim along with me to the beach, which was about a 10-minute kick, and things were looking pretty good for a few minutes until I found, to my dismay, that this brute could swim faster than I could kick.

I'm stripping line in as fast as I can, and kicking like a wild man to stay ahead of the brute, but he got ahead of me, and was now towing me to the beach until he saw the bottom, and made a U-turn and came straight back at me with the fly line slicing through the water right next to the float tube. This happened a couple of more times before my fins finally touched the sandy bank bottom and I was ready to finally put an end to this fight; but the brute had other plans, and decided to do a couple more head shakes. Next, as my fly line went slack, I watched my popcorn beetle pop to the surface while this 20+ lb. brute of a Cutthroat swam out to the safety of deeper water.

So was the fishing slow with only one grab in three days of fishing? No it was not! This was the biggest Cutthroat I ever hooked in my life so far...so, you never know when that next grab will be your dream fish.

Fishmaster's Corner

by Eric Palmer, Fishmaster

On saying "yes"

This is an updated version of something I wrote for this column exactly three years ago to the month. It's as applicable today as ever, and just might resonate with many of you as you reflect back on your successes and the "smart moves" you made in your personal life over the years. While the name [Eric Schmidt](#) may be unfamiliar, I'm pretty sure his little company **Google** is not. Eric Schmidt is currently the Executive Chairman of Google, and was their CEO in the early years, and I'm betting that he played a major role in shaping their corporate culture.

Here's what Mr. Schmidt had to say some years ago:

"Find a way to say yes to things. Say yes to invitations to a new country, say yes to meet new friends, say yes to learn something new. Yes is how you get your first job, and your next job, and your spouse, and even your kids. Even if it's a bit edgy, a bit out of your comfort zone, saying yes means that you will do something new, meet someone new, and make a difference. Yes lets you stand out in a crowd, be the optimist, see the glass as full, be the one everyone comes to. Yes is what keeps us all young."
~ Eric Schmidt

The conclusion I quickly reached in reading this quote for the first time, while contrasting the message with Google's enormous success, is that the word "yes" was very likely deeply embedded into their corporate culture from day one. If an employee was asked if he/she would take on expanded job responsibilities without a raise? "Yes." What do you think about this idea for an app.? "Yes." Can we fund this risky project? "Yes."

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Fishmaster's Corner - Continued from Page 9

All this is in sharp contrast to companies I worked for back in the day where the response was typically "no," and all said companies are now defunct.

The operative phrase for me in the above quote is, **"Even if it's a bit edgy, a bit out of your comfort zone,"** because this is where the growth and exciting and new, and often unanticipated positive outcomes can occur.

What's this got to do with a fly fishing club you may ask? Quite a lot. Any club is only as strong and viable long term as the degree to which its members are willing to participate; to get involved and give back in a measure comparable to what they take from the club. We can't all be "takers" without a good number of "givers" as ballast.

And, there's also a huge personal upside potential to participation, assuming that you joined the club to accelerate your pace up the fly fishing learning curve. People who get involved make new friends and develop fishing partners that they might not otherwise have. Besides the obvious benefits, this leads to the sharing of ideas and information. A new friend I met on a conservation work crew some years ago now provides me with fly tying coaching sessions (and flies), while I help him keep his computer running. He introduced me to his fishing partner, and the three of us have gone on to fish up and down NorCal from the Trinity at Hoopa in the north, to Twin Lakes in the south, and many points in between. Leading fishouts has also produced many new friends and fishing partners, and I'm seldom lacking for someone to go fishing with.

This is all something to ponder the next time you browse the table with the sign-up sheets at the monthly meetings, or hear a request to lead a fishout, or participate in a conservation effort or some other club program.

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

Private Water Fly Fishing

Antelope Creek Lodge, Northern, CA

\$295 p/angler per day, dbl occ. - Inc. lodging, food & fishing

Hat Creek Ranch, Hat Creek, CA.

\$185 p/angler per day, dbl occ. - Inc. cabin & fishing

\$135 p/angler per day - fishing only

Rock Creek Lake, Manton, CA.

\$135 p/angler per day - cabin rental \$135 per night + tax

Clear Creek Ranch, French Gulch, CA.

\$175 - \$185 p/angler per day, dbl occ.

Inc. cabin & fishing + \$2 tx/day

Battle Creek Ranch, Manton, CA.

\$135 p/angler per day

Bailey Creek Lodge, Manton, CA.

\$295 p/angler p/day dbl occ. - \$165 non-angler
lodging, food & fishing

Henderson Springs Lodge, Big Bend, CA.

\$245 p/angler p/day dbl occ. inc. lodging & fishing

\$225 p/day fishing

Lake Christine, Manton, CA.

\$135 p/angler per day

Pleasant Valley Fly Fishing Preserve

\$95 p/angler per day

Riverside Lodge on Fall River

\$595 + tx per night with 2 night minimum - max. 8 guests

Yamsi Ranch, Chiloquin, Oregon

\$295 p/angler per day - 3 day min. - Food, Lodging & Fishing

Lonesome Duck Ranch, Chiloquin, Oregon

\$250-\$300 p/cabin p/night for 2 - 2 night min.

Guides \$350 p/day/ 2 anglers

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Annual Fly Casting clinics

This is to announce GBF's annual Fly Casting clinics. These clinics are appropriate for all skill levels of casters. If you are a novice, we will get you going, and if you are experienced, we will make you better. The clinics are conducted over three consecutive Saturdays—each day will offer new material.

Dates and times:

Saturday, March 21, 10 am to 1:00 pm

Saturday, March 28, 10 am to 1:00 pm

Saturday, April 4, 10 am to 1:00 pm

The agenda will include a 30-minute break for lunch. We recommend you bring a sack lunch, as the lunch time period will be insufficient to drive to a restaurant.

All classes will be held at Gibson Ranch Regional Park. There is a car pass charge of \$5.00 to enter the park.

You must be a GBF member to take this clinic—there is no fee.

We will address the following casts, topics, and techniques:

- The 6 essential elements of a fly cast.
- Why most fly casters can never throw more than 50 feet.
- Roll cast
- Pickup – Laydown forward cast
- False casting
- Shooting line to add distance
- Introduction to the double haul
- Maximizing your distance cast
- Rigging and casting for chironomid fishing under an indicator
- Rigging and casting heavy flies with sinking lines for bass fishing

Signup at the next general meeting or email to johnhogg@sbcglobal.net.

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The History of Fly Fishing, Issue #15

by Ed Lloyd, Monthly Program Chairman



In our last issue, we learned about the emergence of the fish hook in early times, and then right up to include Medieval Times as well. In the earlier part of history they were actually made out of bronze, and then progressed all the way to steel, and stayed that way for at least a couple of centuries. From there, curved points were developed, and then the barbs, which even now are being somewhat phased out in order to protect the fish. Now, we turn to the evolution of trout flies, specifically in medieval times.

Continued on Page 12

The History of Fly Fishing, Issue #15 - Continued from Page 11

In the book, the *Treatyse of Fishing with an Angle*, there are twelve trout flies identified and are thought to be the earliest known trout flies. There were two Dun flies, a Stone Fly, Yellow fly, the Black Leaper, the Dun Cut, the Maure fly, the Tandy fly, the Wasp fly, the Shell fly, the Drake fly and a twelfth fly that was unnamed. Much material was used, such as silk, various wools, hemp, feathers from partridge, mallard, jay, buzzard, cock and capon hackle, and peacock hurl. A major disappointment occurred when during research, it was discovered that there was no illustration of these flies. The flies were used during various times of the year. For example, during March it was the dun fly, for April the stone fly was used, in May the yellow fly, in March the dun, in June it was the dun cut, in July the wasp fly, and in August the drake fly.

For a large period of time, these were thought to be the earliest known fly patterns, and this actually puzzled historians and scholars for hundreds of years. The interest and skepticism that has gone on for these centuries has only served to increase the interest in our beloved sport. Even though the bodies of flies were first made out of silk, and then progressed to wool, and then back to silk, it still remains a mystery for the millions of fly tiers around the world to recreate these flies exactly. These uncertainties left by the passage of time have inspired many fly tiers to experiment and create their own fly with the idea of imitating a real fly, which is the same idea we use today.

As the evolution of creating the fly from silk and then to wool continues, so does the instructional methods used to construct these flies. Some, for instance, use exactly what was used in medieval times, while others take a more modern approach. Later on in Britain, a gentleman by the name of McDonald created a book known as *The Origins of Angling*, which contains a series of pictures believed to be some of the earliest known flies, the ones described in *The Treatyse*.

In summary, there was much interpretation and speculation that was occurring, and is still going on about just what these original trout flies looked like. In our next issue, we will launch forward and look at Reels, Lines, and Rods in Medieval Times.

Granite Bay Flycasters Classifieds

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.

For Sale:

Honda 5HP FOUR STROKE OUTBOARD MOTOR - \$1,100

Model #BF5AK3LA, 20" long shaft, pull-start, electronic engine.

Under warranty until 8/16/2017.

Purchased new from Auburn Outdoor Marine in 2012.

Approximately 10 hours run-time—like new.

Includes gas tank, maintenance kit and hoses.

Tom Simms

TomSimms64@gmail.com

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Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner
(Taken from the Article Written in March 2011)

Fly Patterns - Cutter's Perfect Ant



Cutter's Perfect Ant

Materials:

Hook:	Standard dry fly hook, sizes 10-16 (I like Tiemco's 900BL; Ralph Cutter suggests the Tiemco 9300, which is a slightly heavier hook because he likes the fly to submerge slightly)
Thread:	Black 8/0 or smaller
Abdomen:	Black Antron
Thorax:	Same as body
Overbody:	Black deer hair (over the abdomen only)
Wing Post:	Butts of the black deer hair
Hackle:	Brown dry fly hackle (good saddle works well)

Description

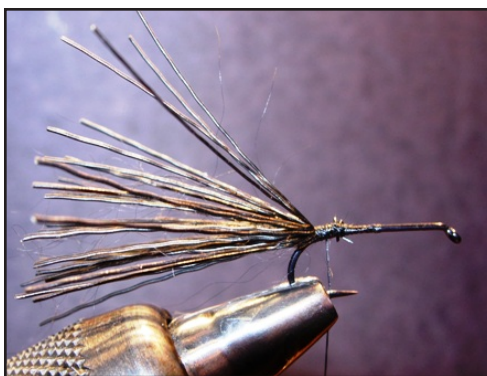
Ralph and Lisa Cutter, who live in Nevada City, California, are the owners of the California School of Fly Fishing. They have traveled extensively, and have accumulated a vast amount of information about fishing in the Sierra and the foothills. They recently produced, after years of underwater research, a startlingly informative DVD called "Bugs of the Underworld." I purchased a copy as soon as it hit the market. It's a video that every fly fisher should make a point of viewing. Ralph has also authored the *Sierra Trout Guide* (first and second editions), and a fine little book bearing the title *Fish Food*. I highly recommend *Fish Food* as a primer on the important bugs that inhabit the waters we frequent. I have read it numerous times myself, and have found it well written, informative, humorous and interesting.

Ralph concludes that ants—principally Carpenter Ants—are a major staple in a trout's diet. He tried various ant patterns and found them unsatisfactory, finally settling on a specific pattern of his own design. Apparently it worked well—hence the name "Perfect Ant."

Personally, I enjoy fishing ants in small streams, especially where there are downed streamside trees—great ant habitat. The Perfect Ant is a dry fly, but if it sinks it will still be effective since trout can't resist a properly presented ant. If your ant does sink, let the cast fish out, keep the drift drag-free, and watch your leader closely for any indication of a strike.

Tying Instructions

For best viewing: (1) Maximize your Computer Screen Window. (2) Type "Ctrl + or -" to enlarge or contract the photograph display. (3) Use the Horizontal and Vertical Scroll Bars to scroll right and up/down to display larger photos on your screen.



Steps 1 & 2

1. Smash the hook barb; if you are using the "BL" type hooks, this is already done. Cover the hook with thread back to the bend (just above the back of the barb).
2. At that same point, tie in a small bunch of black deer hair by the tips (you will end up clipping the post anyway).

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 13*Steps 3 & 4*

3. At the same point, begin dubbing the abdomen into the shape of a ball, covering the rear half of the hook.
4. Bring the deer hair over the top of the abdomen and tie it down at mid-shank, directly in front of the abdomen.
5. Pull the deer hair upward and take about 6 or 7 wraps of thread around its base, so that it stands up vertically. This forms the post for the hackle.
6. Tie in a dry-fly quality neck or saddle hackle of the appropriate size. It should be tied down securely both in front of and behind the post.

*Steps 5 & 6**Steps 7, 8, 9, & 10*

7. Grab the hackle with your hackle pliers and take three wraps of hackle around the post; tie the feather off in front of the post.
8. Dub the thorax of the bug in front of the wing post. You will need to pull the post and hackle rearward to do this. The thorax should be smaller than the abdomen (that's the way an ant's body is shaped).
9. Whip finish and apply a small drop of super glue to the head, and on the underside of the hook where the post was tied in.
10. Trim the post down so that it sticks up past the hackle slightly. This will keep the fly from being top-heavy and out of balance. Add a tiny drop of super glue to the top of the post.

Tying & Fishing Tips

1. In step 6, mention is made of a hackle of "appropriate size." In dry fly parlance, this means a hackle with barboles that are about 1.5 times the size of the hook gap.
2. Why use only 3 wraps of hackle? This fly is not meant to float high and dry; rather, it needs to be down in the film, even partially submerged. That's the way that ants appear to the trout.

Remember to tie sparsely, and...See ya on the creek (which is where I was today).

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.

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 Ted Way at 916-761-7115, 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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