

# The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

September 2015

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

## Leader's Line

*by John Hogg, GBF President*



Our August meeting was unusually well attended for a summer session, with first-class-eats supplied by **Leaman Houston**. September kicks off a series of education clinics, and **Leaman** steps up to the plate again with **Lester Grigsby**, to conduct a "**Knots and Leaders**" clinic on September 15<sup>th</sup>. **Larry Lee's** ever popular **Rod Building Workshops** will begin in October. And sign-ups are starting for the October semi-annual fishout on the Upper Sac at Dunsmuir. This is a "can't miss" fishout, with attendance usually in the range of 25 to 30 members. It will be ably led by our former Fishmaster **Eric Palmer**.

Our speaker this month is Tina Bartlett, North Central Region Manager, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. She will discuss many of the Department's programs of interest to GBF, including Auburn Ravine Creek, and the drought's impact on fisheries. This is a great opportunity to learn about these and other issues, and have the opportunity to ask questions of the person in charge of 17 counties in the northern part of the state.

Hope to see you at the September 10<sup>th</sup> general meeting. Check the contents of *The Leader*, and the website for more info. [www.gbflycasters.org](http://www.gbflycasters.org)

## Knot Tying Workshop Scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup>

If you're new to fly fishing, or would just like a tune-up, this workshop will show you a series of knots needed for connections from your fly to leader, to line and to the reel. (There are a minimum of 6 connections.)

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These knots are reliable and easy to tie (with a little practice), and are suitable for freshwater fly fishing tackle. Connections included are fly to tippet (improved clinch), tippet to leader (double surgeons), leader to butt section (perfection loops or blood knot), butt section to line (nail knot), line to backing (Albright knot) and backing to reel (arbor knot). Handout instructions will be provided for each knot.

We will also discuss some of the differences between "mono" and fluorocarbon leader materials.

So, if you would like to be "tied up" for an evening, join **Leaman Houston** and **Lester Grigsby** at the Clubhouse on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

Contact **Lester Grigsby** at [lesterg@surewest.net](mailto:lesterg@surewest.net), or **Leaman Houston** at [leamanhouston@hotmail.com](mailto:leamanhouston@hotmail.com) for more information.

# SEPTEMBER 2015

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

## Monthly Program



Tina Bartlett

Our speaker this month is **Tina Bartlett, North Central Region Manager, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife**. She will discuss many of the Department's programs of interest to GBF, including the Yuba Salmon Partnership Initiative, drought impacts on fisheries, fish ladder at Heenan Lake for Lahontan cutthroat trout, fish rescues, Auburn Ravine request to transport salmon above Hemphill Dam, Silver King Creek Basin management update, and Prop. 1 grant funding solicitation (WCB and DFW).

She currently oversees 17 counties in the north central part of the state, which includes all of the DFW's activities within the region. Having been with the Department for 15 years, she has extensive experience in both fisheries and wildlife management, hatchery operations, invasive species prevention, environmental review, CEQA and many other related programs. Prior to joining the Department, she was a private consulting biologist for 6 years in resource assessment and management.

## Welcome to Our Newest Members!

*by Ted Way, VP Membership*

Please join me in welcoming new members who have joined us recently. 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.

Charlie Robinton

Steve Siegel

## Little Truckee River Fish-out September 19, 2015

**Leader: Ed Lloyd**

The Truckee River flows south out of the Eastern Sierra into Stampede Reservoir, then upon exiting below the Stampede Dam, flows three miles through a meadow and canyon section into Boca Reservoir. Once it leaves Boca Reservoir, it flows about 100 yards to its confluence with the Truckee River. The prized stretch of water between Stampede and Boca is the Little Truckee River.

The Little Truckee River is more like a large creek consisting of riffles and pools. The volcanic rocks of the river's bottom contribute to a large variety of bugs, providing a great food source for the trout that inhabit this water. Come the end of summer, hoppers are a significant food source. Chironomids are present throughout the year.

The fishout will be a great chance to learn more about fishing this amazing stretch of river.

See the web site for details. [gbflycasters.org](http://gbflycasters.org).

## A Stretch of River East of Town (Part two of a three part series)

*by Eric Palmer*

In August, we left off where **Don Lounsbury** and I were standing in the Truckee *ACE Mountain Hardware* fly shop after meeting San Francisco Fly Casting Club member, Chip Brown. He had just invited us to fish the club's private water before making a hasty departure.

Don and I collected our wits after this stunning exchange, while Don finalized his fly line transaction. We then left to rendezvous with **Gordon Tornberg** to round out our fishing party for the next several days. We explained the ACE fly shop episode to Gordon and he, of course, shared our excitement and surprise at what had just transpired. It was immediately agreed upon that we would accept the offer to fish at the club lodge. On that particular day, a Monday, the plan was Independence Lake followed by Milton. With the lack of a cell signal for most of the day, it would be late afternoon before I could get a text off to Chip accepting his offer. Chip soon replied that Wednesday worked best for him, and he requested that we arrive at the lodge by 8:30 AM.

Within an hour, there was a second text inviting us for breakfast at the lodge if we could arrive by 7:30. After debating this at great length for at least 3 or 4 seconds, we agreed in the affirmative, and I texted Chip accordingly, thanking him for his gracious offer.

At the stroke of 7:27:00 AM of the appointed day, we slowly made our way in my truck down the club's

driveway of fresh and pristine asphalt that contrasts sharply with the rotting and pockmarked old Hwy. 40 that was abandoned in 1964 when I-80 was opened. I pulled onto the tidy pea gravel parking area, and parked next to a few other vehicles which indicated that we would not be alone for breakfast.

We identified the main lodge, found the entrance and entered a small foyer adorned with assorted fly fishing memorabilia and a plaque or



*Continued on Page 4*

*A Stretch of River East of Town - Continued from Page 3*

two with the requisite statements on the philosophical merits of fly fishing. Straight ahead we see the dining room with a long table positioned lengthwise toward the door, with the kitchen entrance at the far end. The table, at the moment unpopulated, is set with 14 place settings with identical bowls of fruit topped with blueberries at each setting, all in precise alignment.

Immediately to our right is the entrance into the lodge's main sitting room. It looks every bit the way you'd expect a proper high Sierra fishing lodge to look; a large rustic brick fireplace with a good supply of neatly racked firewood on the hearth, a large rough-hewn plaque over the fireplace reads, "WARM YE IN FRIENDSHIP – THERE'S MORE TO FISHING THAN FISH." Matching bookcases loaded with books bracket the fireplace and adorn other walls. To round out the mountain lodge ambiance, there's a beamed peaked ceiling with chandeliers suspended from long wrought iron chains.

The furniture is what I'd call "Truckee Mountain Rustic," with dark brown leather chairs and couch surrounding a rustic round table. A piano sits against the far wall next to a door heading down a hallway we would later learn leads to rooms for overnight lodgers.

Chip was standing in the middle of the room speaking with two other members, a husband and wife, as he motioned for us to join him. He introduced us with, "I'd like you to meet my friends," a refrain we would hear multiple times over the course of the morning. All club and staff members we met were very friendly and appeared unruffled at the site of three errant, scruffy-looking fishermen Chip had recently met in the ACE fly shop.

Next was a short tour of the building. Heading to the back of the room towards the hallway, I spotted two large fly-shop-style chests with drawers loaded with any fly you could possibly want for the Truckee River. On one wall there's a large framed plaque with photos of previous club Presidents. At the bottom, in the position reserved for the current SFFCC President, there's a photo of none other than our host: Warren "Chip" Brown. It was evident that Chip has also served terms as President in previous years.

After a short tour down the hall past the overnight quarters, it was back to the dining room with more introductions, as several members had arrived and were seated and chatting. Chip ushered us into the kitchen to meet the two-person morning cooking team where we were instructed to "order anything." We kept it simple at eggs, bacon and toast, but later at the table we saw that we could have literally ordered just about anything.

We would learn later that the male member of the kitchen staff is also the jack-of-all-trades and master-of-most full time caretaker and handyman. He's also the fellow who patrols the river in his pickup to roust interlopers, but I understand that he's very polite about it and does not brandish a shotgun nor use bad language.

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*A Stretch of River East of Town - Continued from Page 4*

On finishing breakfast, it was time to go fishing. Chip suggests we go out and wader up, then meet him in front of the lodge. He does not plan to fish, but will be our escort for the morning, and he suggests that we will probably knock off around noon, since he has a later engagement.

On reconvening, Chip led us down the dirt road that follows the river almost to the Glenshire Bridge. We walked upstream a bit before turning right to the water where Chip motioned to two promising spots to start. I motioned to Don and Gordon to step in, and they immediately began fishing, while Chip led me about 100 ft. farther upstream.

I had only made two or three casts before Don is into a large fish. While he's releasing his catch, I too get one to the net. But as the luck of the draw would have it—for Mr. Lounsbury anyway—he finds himself positioned at a honey hole; a deep channel that's loaded with large Mt. Lassen rainbows. He can see them all lined up like cord wood and they're all winking at him with that come-hither look. Don continues to hook fish while Gordon and I were dealing with more challenging shallow water where we had to work harder and with greater stealth. That's my plausible excuse anyway, and I know I have Gordon's full support. All fishermen need a good excuse in their back pocket.

Over the next hour or so, we worked our way upstream under Chip's direction, where results varied with fish netted and lost, and a few grabs here and there to keep us in the game. So that the less-lucky can save face, let's just say that over the course of a few hours among the three of us, four 18-to-20-inch fish were netted, and two lost with several hard grabs.

As we approached noon, Chip came by and rounded us up for the hike back up the road to the lodge. As we walked, Chip proposed that after we de-wader, we reconvene on the lodge porch for some liquid refresh-

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**WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT FLY TYING...**

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*A Stretch of River East of Town - Continued from Page 5*

ment and a recap, and we were happy to oblige. I mentioned that I occasionally write a newsletter article, and would he mind if I wrote about our experience. He said, "not at all," and so write I do!

Once settled in with our beverage of choice, we shot the bull for a good 45 minutes. At some point, the ISE show came up, to which Chip interjected, "Oh, I used to own that." Huh? Turns out that Chip was half owner of the ISE show before selling off his share.

As we were wrapping up and about to depart, the club's chef came to the lodge front door and Chip introduced us. He is a younger fellow who prepares the evening meals, and is apparently also a Truckee River fly fishing guru, if not an actual guide. On that note we made our exit, after thanking Chip for a quite enjoyable morning at their lodge and fishing a stretch of river east of town.

Next month, part 3: The origin and history of the *San Francisco Fly Casting Club*.

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

## Introduction to Rod Building Class

*by Larry Lee*

There will be an **Introduction to Rod Building** class scheduled for Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Folsom Lake Activity Center. This introduction is designed to introduce GBF members to why build your own rod, and what is entailed in the actual rod building classes. Rod building kits availability, prices, and materials provided via **L3Rods** will be discussed. The actual rod building classes are then scheduled for Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Introduction to the rod building class will be sharing the center with the fly tying night. The class will begin at 6:30 PM sharp, and last for as long as members have questions. For more information, contact Larry Lee by phone or text at 916-601-7853, or email [L3rods@gmail.com](mailto:L3rods@gmail.com). If there is a scheduling conflict and you are still interested, accommodations can be made.

This is a really fun and informative class. Many GBF members have already participated and caught many fish on their quality rods!!

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## Fishmaster's Corner

## Yikes! Snakes!

by Tony Jelinek

I will never forget the time I went fishing on the Upper Kings River in Sequoia National Park. The walk down to the river took about 30 minutes. At the trailhead was a logbook for hikers to register. The latest entry read, "Yikes! Snakes! There are rattlesnakes everywhere." Well, I must have been fortunate, as I did not see or hear one snake the entire trip. But, of course, the whole time I was looking, and listening, and hoping I would not come face-to-face with a rattler.

In fact, for many venturing into the dry canyon streams of the area; e.g. the North Yuba, the Rubicon, and the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American River, the most feared hazard is the western rattlesnake. But, the rattler is one of the least likely harm-bringers.

What is the best way to avoid being bitten? Avoid the snakes—maybe a bit too obvious and simplistic. Rattlesnakes won't hunt you down. They become a danger when you threaten them. They like to hangout on the warm rocks along the river, or in piles of brush and debris, and in tall grass. Keep your eyes on where your feet and hands are going. You can use your wading staff to poke where you want to step to make sure no rattlesnake is present. Being cold blooded, the snakes like the warm rocks in the early morning and evenings. In the heat of the day, they head for holes and crevices, as the hot sun is too much and could kill them. This also means that you are more apt to find rattlesnakes out in the Spring and Fall, when it is a bit cooler, and they need to raise their body temperature in the sun.

What do you do if you have been bitten? **Don't** pull out your knife and cut into the skin to force bleed the area, or try to suck-out the venom like you may have seen in some old western movie. Those are definite "no-noes." Keep calm and quiet (I know...A snake just bit me, and you want me to stay calm and quiet. Are you crazy? Maybe, I am a little crazy but definitely serious). Keep the site of the bite below heart level, and, if feasible, immobilize the bitten area by splinting it loosely. Remove any jewelry or constricting items, in case of swelling. Try to get to, or have someone call a first-aid station (Forest Service or Fire Department) for help.

If fishing in town, e.g. on the American River, try to get the victim to the hospital as quickly as possible. You can either drive the person to the local Emergency Room, or call for an ambulance. Calling an ambulance may be beneficial, because paramedics can establish an I.V. and administer medication for pain or anaphylactic shock. A person bitten while in a remote area should be taken out by litter, rather than trying to walk out. The goal is to keep the heart rate down in order slow the spread of the venom. In approximately 20% of cases, the bite is not venomous. A lack of burning pain and edema 3/8 in (1 cm) away from the fang marks after one hour, suggests either no or minimal envenomation occurred. If you are in a deep canyon, you most probably will have to walk out. The main goal at this point is to get the victim to a medical facility. If antivenom treatment is given within two hours of a bite, the probability of recovery is greater than 99%.

Keep your eyes open, be careful where you step or put your hands, and enjoy fishing on the river.

## Sources:

Ed Klingelhofer, "Fly Fishing California's North Yuba River." The Salmo Press. 1993.

Cathy Locke. "Rattler bites little boy and mom learns the right way to react". The Sacramento Bee.

Camping and Hiking in Rattlesnake Country.

<http://www.bigskyfishing.com/camping-articles/rattlesnakes.php>

Rattlesnake Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rattlesnake#Effect\\_of\\_bites\\_on\\_humans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rattlesnake#Effect_of_bites_on_humans)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife. <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/News/Snake>



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## Conservation Corner

*by Mel Odemar, VP Conservation*

The most recent recipient of the Robert P. Morton fellowship, **Elizabeth Perkins**, has completed her thesis and course work for her Masters of Science in Natural Resources: Fisheries. The title of her thesis is, **"Biological and Political Factors Affecting Allocations of Pacific Halibut Quota to Northern California."** The great thing about her thesis is that she tackled an existing management issue. Her thesis provides scientifically based data regarding important social and biological problems with managing Pacific halibut. Specifically, her work provides data for a more equitable and sustainable allocation of Pacific halibut to California based fisheries. Elizabeth is now working for the International Pacific Halibut Commission in St. Paul Island, AK and is hoping to enter a PhD program to further her statistical education. In case you're wondering where St. Paul Island is, it is part of the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea. This is another excellent example of how our support of the HSU graduate fisheries program is providing for the next generation of resource scientists and managers. If anyone is interested, I can forward an electronic copy.

There will be two speakers in September covering topics of great importance to the GBF. The first, Gary Sprague, a NOAA fisheries biologist, will be describing the Yuba River salmon enhancement project at the Conservation Committee meeting, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The proposed project includes the transporting of salmon over Englebright Dam to allow access to 30 miles of upstream spawning habitat. Gary has experience with similar projects in Washington State. This program has been mentioned in recent articles in the *Sacramento Bee*, and now you can hear the details and ask questions from the project leader. Meeting location and time is Round Table Pizza near Sierra College and Douglas at 6:30 PM. Pizza will be served, and I will need confirmation from those planning on attending.

Working with Ed Lloyd, I have lined up Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager, North Central Region, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, to be our featured speaker at the general meeting September 10<sup>th</sup>. I expect that drought impacts and hatchery management practices and policies will be discussed. Her region covers most of our local fishing destinations. There are a lot of resource issues to hear about, and there will be opportunities to ask questions.

## It's Upper Sac Time!

*by Eric Palmer*

October approaches, and that means "Upper Sac time" is upon us! Of course, I'm talking about the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Upper Sac Fish out, nymphing clinic, and all-around good time in Dunsmuir, Oct 22-25 (Thur-Sun). The city of Dunsmuir has again renewed their "Big Fish" program with the planting of trophy Mt. Lassen rainbows to 14 lbs. If you prefer to pursue wild trout, there are over 30 miles of river access to scratch your itch.



*Upper Sac Rainbow*

Due to abundant pocket water, Short-Line nymphing is the method of choice. The technique originated on the Upper Sac in the 1920s at the hands of intrepid Wintu Indian angler, Ted Towendolly, originally "Tau-hin-dauli," as in the city park of the same name. The nymphing technique was subsequently passed on to Ted Fay, and later through Ron Rabun to Bill Carnazzo, who taught it to the rest of us in the club with their regular clinics. For more info. on how to fish this technique, see the articles flagged in red on the GBF website [here](#).

We are fortunate again this year that Ron Rabun and long-time fishing partner, Craig Williams, will provide a Short-Line nymphing clinic in the Dunsmuir city park on

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*It's Upper Sac Time! - Continued from Page 8*

Saturday morning. This free clinic will cover everything you need to fish the method successfully, and with ample opportunity for one-on-one coaching on the water (members only, no guests please).

If new to the river, or new to fly fishing, you will be partnered up with someone who knows the ropes, and everyone who signs-up will receive info. on lodging and the agenda. So, plan on joining us for 4 days of fun, good food at local restaurants, fish catching, great camaraderie and most importantly, advancement of your fly fishing skills. Can't make all four days? No matter, just come when you can. Signups at the Sept. and Oct. meetings, or email me ([ejpalmer@pacbell.net](mailto:ejpalmer@pacbell.net)), or Fishmaster, Tony Jelenik ([jelenia@me.com](mailto:jelenia@me.com)).

More details of this event are posted on our Message Board [here](#), where you can post any questions.

Thanks for your time, and see you on the Upper Sac ...

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

## Fly Patterns - Princely Caddis Emerger



*Princely Caddis Emerger*

### Materials:

<b>Hook:</b>	Daiichi 1260 or Spirit River's 312, size 14
<b>Weight:</b>	3 wraps of .015 lead-free weight at thorax
<b>Thread:</b>	Ginger or amber 8/0
<b>Tail:</b>	Ginger or amber marabou tuft
<b>Abdomen:</b>	Extra small copper wire and light turkey wing primary feather wrapped into a rope
<b>Thorax:</b>	Ginger or amber dubbing
<b>Wing:</b>	Amber goose biots
<b>Hackle:</b>	Partridge
<b>Head:</b>	Thread

### Description

Yes, I'm on a Caddis kick. In fact, next month this column will feature a reprise of my Stick Caddis, in preparation for the Upper Sacramento outing. For the time being, though, let's consider another aspect of the life cycle of the Caddisfly: the emergent stage.

Last month's fly, the Flashy Chick Caddis, represents a Caddisfly diving to the bottom to "oviposit" (entomologist's term for the egg-laying stage). Once those eggs hatch, and the insect goes through its larval and pupal stages, it will assume the form of an adult and swim to the surface, break through the surface skin, and fly away. Of course, predatory trout munch them as they swim upward, and also feast on those having trouble breaking the surface tension.

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*Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 9*

The Princely Caddis Emerger was designed to suggest an emergent Caddisfly swimming to the surface. Like the Flashy Chick, I use it as a stinger at the end of my short line rig and, where possible, swing it down when the short line drift is done. In my Upper Middle Fork "laboratory" this fly, fished in that manner, has outstripped my expectations. So, crank a few of them and give them a try.

## 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.

1. Smash the hook barb. Wrap 3 turns of .015 weight at the thorax area, which will be about 2 eye-widths behind the hook eye.
2. Cover the shank and weight with thread, leaving it at the back of the barb.



*Steps 1 & 2*



*Step 3*

3. Tie in a tail made with a small pinch of ginger or amber marabou; keep it sparse, and the length should be no longer than the hook shank.

4. At the same spot, tie in a 3" length of extra small copper wire and a small slip of light colored turkey primary wing feather. Tie the feather in by the tip. I like to use the feathers that have a golden color to them.



*Step 4*

*Continued on Page 11*

*Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 10*

5. Bring the turkey and copper wire together, and grab them with a hackle plier near their bottom. Twist them into a rope, in a counterclockwise direction. Wrap the rope up the shank to the thorax area (see above). Tie the rope off at that point.



*Step 5*



*Step 6*

6. Cut or strip two ginger or amber biots from the stem. Tie them in just ahead of the thorax just as you would the biots for a Prince Nymph, and wrap back over them to the thorax area (in other words, to about the middle of the weight area).

7. Dub a nice thorax over the weight area but leave a small amount of room behind the hook eye for the next step.



*Step 7*



*Step 8*

8. Tie in a small partridge feather by its tip and take a couple of wraps in front of the thorax; tie off the feather and smooth it rearward while wrapping a few more times in front of it. Whip finish.

*Continued on Page 12*



*Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 11*

## **Tying & Fishing Tips**

1. Step 3 is important. The marabou should be relatively sparse, and the length no longer than the shank. When "trimming" the marabou to length, do it after tying it on but don't use scissors. Pop it off to the proper length using your thumbnail and forefinger. Cutting it with scissors produces too sharp of an edge.
2. Step 4 consists of a technique new to most tyers. When tying in the material to be wrapped with the copper wire, it is important to tie it in by the tip because when you twist the combined materials the portion nearest the hook will not twist properly (or even at all) if it is thicker than the portion attached to the hackle pliers.
3. The light turkey feather I use has an amber hue to it. It is a Hareline product called "Ozark Oak" turkey feathers. If you can't find that color, just substitute any light colored turkey.

This pattern is a modified form of soft hackle fly. So, as in the case of last month's fly, tie one of these gems to the end of your tippet and fish it like you would a wet fly (i.e., swing it). Alternately, tie it as a stinger to the bend of the bottom fly on a short line rig; then do a short line drift but let it swing into a wet fly swing.

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

## **A Closer Look at the Delta Tunnels**

*by Mel Odemar, VP Conservation*

I attended an open house on July 28<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California Water Fix, otherwise known as the Delta Tunnels Plan. This is the latest draft in the long process of environmental reviews required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

When I first learned of the meeting, I assumed it would be a hearing with presentations and public comments, and so did a number of other people, judging by the busloads of sign carrying people and one child wearing a salmon costume that gathered there. That was not the case. It was an open house format with documents and government representatives ready to answer questions. I was given a lengthy and detailed Executive Summary along with several handouts, and I went to work trying to educate myself on the project.

The environmental problems in the Delta caused by the pumping of water at the southern edge near Tracy and the resulting flow reversals, entrainment of fish at the pumps and degradation of the estuary, are worse now than in the 1980s when the peripheral canal was first proposed. This document states that the overall system, as it is currently designed and operated, does not appear to be sustainable from an environmental perspective. The anticipated effects of climate change, rising sea levels, and seismic events will add to the problem. This not only exacerbates the environmental problems, but threatens California's critical water delivery system. To address these issues, the program has two coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply, and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem.

I am not aware if a "no project" option was considered in the original proposal. Because of California's geography, transporting water through the Delta is a necessary design feature of the existing, and in any future water delivery system. The documents predict that the present water delivery system will eventually fail if nothing is done.

Some of the key points taken from the documents are as follows:

*Continued on Page 13*

*A Closer Look at the Delta Tunnels - Continued from Page 12*

- o Water will be diverted through three - 3,000 cfs capacity intakes each near Courtland;
- o water flow will be by gravity to the pumps near Tracy;
- o water will be transported to the pumps through 2 tunnels 40 ft. diameter, up to 150 ft. below ground, and 30 miles long;
- o average annual yield is 4.9 million acre feet;
- o maximum diversion of 9,000 cfs at Sacramento River flows of 35,000 cfs and greater with no diversions at flows of 5,000 cfs and less;
- o estimated cost \$14.9 billion to be paid for by agencies relying on the water;
- o Proposition 1 funds and other State public dollars will be directed towards environmental mitigation;
- o proposes 15,600 acres of ecosystem restoration and protection;
- o upper bound for water deliveries is not a target, deliveries of less than full contract amounts are consistent with the project purposes;
- o project will reinstate a more natural direction of river flows in the South Delta by 46-160 percent;
- o an adaptive management and monitoring program will guide real time operations of the system.

Opposition to the original peripheral canal proposal, and now the Delta Tunnels from an environmental view point, has been driven by the fear that these projects will result in more water being diverted out of the Delta. The tunnels have been seen as massive water grabs. However, according to the documents, the Delta Tunnels proposal with a maximum capacity of 9,000 cfs is 40 percent smaller than the existing system. I assume that is because the existing pumps at the far southern edge of the Delta draw from a much larger body of co-mingled San Joaquin and Sacramento River water, and are larger capacity. The proposed tunnels will only divert from the Sacramento River, thus avoiding most of the ongoing entrainment and flow reversal problems in the south Delta. Water will continue to be exported from the San Joaquin side of the Delta through separate existing facilities. The documents did not say if there are plans for increasing deliveries out of the San Joaquin tributaries.

There was no mention on how the project would be constructed and the resultant impacts on the local environment. This may have been covered elsewhere. A quick calculation on the amount of material to be excavated for the tunnels are in excess of 7 million cubic yards, and that doesn't include the fore bays and vertical shafts that will be required. In comparison, the 31 mile Chunnel under the English Channel consists of 2 tunnels 25 ft. in diameter with one 16 ft. diameter service tunnel. I found no mention of the build-out time for the project in the documents, but I was told by one of the engineers that it would be in excess of 10 years.

As I wrote in last month's issue of *The Leader*, the legal authority for limiting Delta water export in recent years has been the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which is under constant attack. If the two species targeted by the ESA, the Delta smelt, and the winter-run Chinook salmon, are lost (which unfortunately is likely), one wonders what will become of protection from the ESA. As reported in the August 9, 2015 *Sacramento Bee*, some growers prefer a simpler fix for California's water network: revise the ESA in order to devote more water to agriculture and less to nearly extinct fish such as the Delta smelt. A bill that passed the House of Representatives takes exactly that course.

Opposition to the tunnels is universal and vocal among Northern California fishing organizations and other groups concerned for the environmental health of the Delta. The peripheral canal proposal went to the voters in 1982, and voter opposition resulted in the rejection of the project. It does not look like the Delta Tunnels will be subject to a vote. I am of the opinion that eventually something will be built to improve water transfer through the Delta. We need to know what the other alternatives are.

### **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](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.*

## 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 Ted Way at 916-761-7115, 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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