

# The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

August 2017

<http://gbflycasters.org>

## Leader's Line

by Wendell Edwards, GBF President



It's been a hot summer, and with the heat comes the snow melt, which has our rivers running fast, and the sierra lakes are mostly at 100% capacity. Remember, water temperatures are also very cold. DF&W has started fish plants throughout the sierra lakes.

Our fishmasters have been busy organizing a great variety of fishouts over the next 2 months. Check out this list for August with further details on the website. Signups will be available at the August 10<sup>th</sup> general meeting, so get yourself a partner and go fishing!

August 8-13. Virginia Lakes: Michael Kaul will be serving his famous tacos.  
August 18. Discovery Bay: Doug Kytonen  
August 22. Prosser Creek: Doug Kytonen  
August 26. Truckee River: Ed Lloyd  
Aug. 31-Sept. 5. Twin Lakes/Bridgeport: Bill & Bev Hagopian  
South Fork American River- Date to be determined. Jacob Carlomango

*Continued on Page 2*

## Monthly Program

by Ed Lloyd, Monthly Program Chair



Katie Osborn

Our August Speaker is **Katie Osborn**, the recipient of the *Bill Carnazzo Fellowship Award* in fisheries science, sponsored by Granite Bay Flycasters at Humboldt State University. Katie is a graduate of UC Davis, and is currently finishing her masters degree at HSU.

For the past five years, she has worked with juvenile fishes in estuaries at the critical interface of marine and freshwater fisheries, which serve as migration corridors for anadromous fishes, nursery areas for flatfish and rockfish, and as seasonal feeding grounds for a

diversity of marine species. Her lengthy study focused primarily on the Mad River Estuary, where she documented for the first time which fishes are there and when, and also studied their diet to link fish populations to their invertebrate prey.

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AUGUST 2017						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8. Board Meeting 7:00 PM	9.	10. Monthly Meeting Virginia Lakes Fishout August 8 - 13	11.	12.
13. Virginia Lakes Fishout August 8 - 13	14.	15. Fly Tying Jam	16.	17.	18. Discovery Bay Fishout	19.
20.	21.	22. Prosser Creek Reservoir	23.	24.	25.	26. Truckee Fishout
27.	28.	29.	30.	31. Sept. 1. Bridgeport Fishout August 31 - September 5		2.

Leader's Line - Continued from page 1

Of course, fishouts don't happen by themselves, and we always have a need for fishout leaders. So, if you have a favorite fishing water, please consider stepping up and lead a fishout. It's not difficult, and there is plenty of help from experienced leaders to organize one. Contact me if you're interested.

### Discovery Bay Fishout, August 18<sup>th</sup>

by Doug Kytonen, Fishout Leader

It is that time again for some Striper Action. Stripers have moved in and are entering the American River for some local action. We will again travel to Discovery Bay for a day of fishing for Stripers, Largemouth Bass, Crappie, and Red Ear/ Blue Gills. Discovery Bay is located on the south side of Stockton off of Highway 4, and is a protected residential development on the water with huge houses with private docks.



There is a long rock jetty that goes out to the delta entrance of the community—all great for bass fishing. This is all a 5 MPH zone, so it is great for float tube and pontoon boats to fish from. There is a tide, but little to no current unless you go out to the entrance and right side of the little light house, and then you will fight the current.

Discovery Bay

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*Discovery Bay Fishout - Continued from page 2*

Fishing can be great because you have a variety of species to target, with all being great little fighters. There is also a chance of hooking a large striper or LMB over 5 pounds. This is our first trip of the year with our main trip on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, Veterans Day, where we target more on the stripers in the bay. I will be monitoring the waters with the harbor master at Discovery Bay for the dreaded Blue Green Algae that can form in the stagnant water areas of the bay. If this does occur, there is an alternate location planned where they have weekly/weekend LMB tournaments that we can change to, if needed. I have not fished it yet, but it looks good, and is on the Delta by Frank's Tract. I plan to check it out prior to our fishout in case we need an alternate. Look forward to seeing all of you on this annual and successful fishout.

Doug Kytonen [travelmaster@surewest.net](mailto:travelmaster@surewest.net)

## Birdgeport Fishout 2017 August 31<sup>st</sup> thru September 5<sup>th</sup>

*Fishout Leaders: Bill & Bev Hagopian*

No, we haven't given up on Bridgeport! We have changed our fishout to August 31<sup>st</sup>. We plan on arriving on the 31<sup>st</sup>. We have 2 campsites at Lower Twin Lakes Campground, sites 2 & 3. Camping Reservations are available at <https://www.recreation.gov/>. We will have a GBF sign at our campsite. The campground is located approximately 10 miles southwest of Bridgeport, off Twin Lakes Rd. The nights will be cold, since the campground is at 6500 feet. For those who would like to fish and not camp, there are many cabins, bed and breakfast inns, and motels in the area.

Bev and I will be hosting dinner on Saturday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> for everyone attending the Bridgeport fishout. It will be at our Lower Twin Lakes campsite #3 at 5:30PM. Please e-mail me to let us know if you will be joining us for dinner. All you need to bring is the beverage of your choice and a chair.



**Directions:** From Sacramento area, go to Highway 395 in Nevada, and go south. US Highway 395 runs through Bridgeport. At the first street in Bridgeport, (at the gas station) turn right on to Twin Lakes Road. Travel on the Twin Lakes Road for about 9.5 miles, until you get to the Lower Twin Lakes Road and turn left. Follow the road, and just after you cross over the bridge, the campground will be on the right.

**A word to the wise: Bridgeport is famous for its HIGH gas prices. The cheapest place to gas up is in Minden or Walker.**

**Equipment:** See Website.

*Ken's Sporting Goods* has a good selection of fishing tackle, flies and is generous with fishing tips. His website has a lot of information on fishing conditions in the area. <http://www.kenssport.com>

Guide services are also available (760) 932-7707.

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*Bridgeport Fishout 2017 - Continued from page 3*

For more information about lodging, RV, and campgrounds:

Camping Reservations: [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov/) Toll-free 1-877-444-6777 <https://www.recreation.gov/>

Twin Lakes Resort (760) 932-7751. <http://www.twinlakesresort.com/>

Mono Village (800) 280-CAMP. (760) 932-7071. <http://www.monovillage.com/>

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

Bridgeport Ranger District (760) 932-7070.

If you are interested in coming up, post on the website, or contact us at: [Billh07@comcast.net](mailto:Billh07@comcast.net)  
home: 916-771-5837; cell: 916-847-9047.

See you in Bridgeport.

Bill and Bev

## Prosser Creek Reservoir Fishout, August 22<sup>nd</sup>

*by Doug Kytonen, Fishout Leader*

Prosser Creek Reservoir is new to our stillwater list of fishouts; it is located just outside of Truckee off Hwy 89 north. At the first traffic circle, turn right on Prosser Creek Dam Road to the lake, where we will meet just off the road in the Alder Creek Cove Area to launch our tubes. There are other areas and boat launches at or near the campgrounds.

The surface temps are starting to warm up, and as a result, fish are moving deeper into the water column. For trout, go early or late in the day. When the trout quit eating, then switch to smallmouth bass. Smallmouth love trout flies, and any that I mentioned for the Truckee River will work. Indicator nymphing and sinking lines will get you down in the zone. Early and late in the day, try a Stimulator on the surface.

All of the bugs are hatching, and now that the water has eased, we should begin to see some fish looking up. Caddis, Little Yellow Stones, and various Mayflies are on the menu. Dry Dropper and Nymphing Techniques are working the best. For Dries, try Caddis 14-16, E/C Caddis 14/16, Stimulators 10-14, Ants 10-14, Humpies 12-16, Green Drake 10, Green Drake Cripples 10, BWO's 14-18, Little Yellow Stones 14 and Midges 16-18. For nymphs, Pats Rubber Legs 10, Poxyback Golden Stones 8-10, Little Yellow Stones 12-14, Copper Johns 10-16, Micro May 16-18, SJW's, Pheasant tails 14-18, Flashback PT's 14-18, Hares ears 12-16, and Princes 10-16.

This lake is a 5 MPH reservoir with more kayakers and paddle boarders than any other watercraft. Fishing

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Prosser Creek Reservoir Fishout - Continued from page 4

pressure is light, but should produce some trout or bass action for us. It is always fun to try new locations and not the same old places time after time. If you have a venue that you would like to share, set up a fishout and let's go fishing.

Doug Kytonen [travelmaster@surewest.net](mailto:travelmaster@surewest.net)

## Senior Pass

While most of us would agree we look *much* younger, if anyone admits to being 62 or—gasp—even older, here's one of the few benefits of getting older you might want to take advantage of. It's a [Senior Pass](#). No, it won't get you head-of-the-line privileges to the rest room, but it can save you a few extra bucks to help support your fly fishing habit.

But, the clock is ticking on one of the best travel deals around for seniors. While the price hasn't changed since first being offered in 1994, on Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>, the cost of a lifetime pass to our national parks for those 62 and older will jump from \$10 to \$80. That means there are only a few weeks remaining to lock in a \$10 lifetime pass to more than **2,000 sites and parks** across the country that are managed by the National Park Service.

To put it in perspective, consider that admission fees to Yosemite, Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Grand Canyon National Parks are already at \$30, with many other parks and recreation areas not far behind. Passes can be purchased online for an additional service fee of \$10, or at any of the parks without the extra charge. There's more detailed information [here](#).

## 2017 Tenkara Fishouts

*by John Pellegrin*

This year, there will again be two Tenkara fishouts. The first was at the Silver Fork (of the South Fork of the American) on Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. The second fishout will be at the East Carson on Friday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, south a few miles from Markleeville, on Hwy 4. This river is not controlled, and by September, should be excellent for Tenkara fishing, having both rainbows and browns. That is a fair distance from the Granite Bay area, and there are accommodations in town or in local campgrounds if you don't wish to make the round trip in one day.

Currently, there are over 30 GBF members that own Tenkara rods, and another dozen people who have been interested and attended introductory clinics. If you have not had many opportunities to use your Tenkara rod, consider one of these fishouts, since that will be the main focus of them. If you do not have a Tenkara rod and wish to go on one of the fishouts, there are 3 rods available for use at the fishouts.

If you decide to go, consider experiencing fishing Tenkara as it was practiced in Japan for centuries, where it was a means of livelihood; it required minimal equipment, but had to be very effective to support the fishermen. We can experience that now by stripping down all the things we usually take when we go fishing: reels, multiple lines, multiple flies for many insects and their life stages. In traditional Tenkara, a small number of generic flies are used, and long rods with fixed length lines that sink; with complete focus on the water and technique to entice fish. A typical day is spent completely by, or in the water, with frequent targeted casts and short drifts, and many types of fly presentations and manipulations. There is no time spent changing flies to match insects. This is fishing at its most essential level—understanding everything about the water and where the fish might be.

If this appeals to you, consider only taking along to the fishout the essentials: tenkara rod, a couple of level lines, a small box of Tenkara flies (such as Ishigaki or Amano kebari; I have many spares), and some #5 tippet. There are, of course, the other necessary items: nippers and hemostats, net (opt), waders, wading staff, etc. The few fishing things can fit in a very small pouch.

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2017 Tenkara Fishouts - Continued from page 5

These are opportunities to experience a completely different philosophy of fishing from your other fishing experiences. It can be very liberating, yet very focused on the essence of fishing. If you have interest in this or have questions about it, we now have in the GBF library the excellent book "Tenkara," by Daniel Galhardo.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the fishouts, or wish to learn some details about Tenkara before using one of the loaner rods.

John Pellegrin  
620-862-0675  
[John.Pellegrin@comcast.net](mailto:John.Pellegrin@comcast.net)

## Sierra Trout Camp

*by Mel Odemar*

**Bill Grigsby** and I participated in the June 24-25 Trout Unlimited sponsored Sierra Trout Camp, a fly fishing camp for 9-12 year olds. This is the third year Granite Bay Flycasters has supported the camp, both financially and by providing volunteers. The camp is supported by other fishing clubs and local guides from the Truckee/Reno area, resulting in a high level of teaching. The goal of the camp is to provide one-on-one guidance to the campers.

Bill and I had a very full and active weekend. The boundless energy of 9-12 year olds, especially boys, along with their attention span that only lasts for seconds, makes for a challenge for us older, more sedentary folks. Some campers managed to fall into Squaw Creek and Sawmill Lake. It was a bit of a shock when I

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*Sierra Trout Camp - Continued from page 6*

saw one of my students floating down Squaw Creek, only to find out after he had “slipped” again into the water, that it was not an accident.



*Trout Camp Fly Tying*

The camp consisted of 20 campers, half of whom were girls. The first day started at the Resort at Squaw Valley with a general introduction and welcoming to the campers, followed by a casting lesson on the grass. This was followed by a discussion of the basics of fly fishing, including an introduction to aquatic entomology. Then came the fun part where the campers collected bugs in Squaw Creek, giving some ample opportunity to fall in the water and to lose shoes. Knot tying and indicator selection came next, followed by fishing on the well-stocked ponds on Squaw Creek where they learned to cast an indicator on water, hook, play, and land a fish.

The camp resumed Sunday at Sawmill Lake, a “pay-to-play” lake that supports a good population of large rainbow and brown trout near Northstar Ski Resort. The first activity was fly tying, where each camper tied a streamer/bugger, a foam ant, and a zebra midge. The

ant was tied with a large wing, making it visible and for use in a dry fly/dropper rig. The students were then sent out with guides to fish with the flies they had tied, as well as a good selection of flies provided in the program. The campers had a good time, and some nice fish were landed. However, constraining an overactive 9-12 year old to patiently watch an indicator or dry fly-dropper, is a challenge. Guides were kept busy coaching, untangling leaders, and tying on new flies. Indicator casting into a head wind was a challenge for the campers, but overall they did very well.

The final activity was a wrap-up where there was a good exchange between the guides and campers. Prizes were handed out—everyone got one—and a lottery was held for two fly fishing rods, reels and line. Bill and I then handed out the 20 fly boxes with flies that the club had assembled as I reported in last month's *Leader*. That was a huge success, and we received many thanks from the campers and their parents. I had announced that the boxes contained 50 flies each. That was a mistake, since not every box contained 50 flies. One sad-faced camper approached me to tell me that his box only contained 45 flies.

I expect that GBF will participate in the camp next year. It serves as our youth fishing program, and by teaming up with Trout Unlimited and the supporting clubs and guides from the Truckee-Reno area, we are able to provide for a first-class youth fishing experience. Two camper enrollments will be offered again at next year's silent auction at the annual dinner. This is the opportunity to be a super parent or grandparent by sending a young family member to fishing camp.

An excellent video was made of the camp that can be viewed [here](#).

As you can see in the credits, Granite Bay Flycasters is a partner in the camp.



*Trout Camp Students and Coaches*

## "Spring" Upper Sacramento River Fishout Report

by Tony Jelinek

The fifth annual "Spring" Upper Sacramento River Fishout finally took place at the beginning of July. Thanks to the suggestion of club member, Ron Rabun, we pushed the fishout back to later in the year from the original beginning of June date, and the river was in good shape. This year, the flows were around 435 cfs, about what they were during the fishout at the beginning of June last year. The big run-off from the snowmelt from Mt. Shasta (snowfall of 220% of normal) changed the river somewhat, creating new spots to hunt for fish. Home base was Sacred Springs, a house on the river in north Dunsmuir.

The Upper Sac was its usual self, making the anglers work for the fish, and rewarding persistence. Wet wading was in fashion. The river was a cool 58 degrees, which was a great cooling



*Cabin on the River*



*BBQ on the Way*

Dry fly action was good, also, mostly in the evening, but even in the early morning. There were not a lot of rising fish, but they were taking a dry – a Stimulator, Hopper, Yellow Humpy, or Caddis pattern. Success is usually being at the right place at the right time. **Frank Stolten** enjoyed a rain of Salmon Flies while catching fish at the Cantara Loop on dry flies. Several members fished one evening south of the home base, and picked-up fish on Caddis patterns in the nice pools below the house.

It was "open mike night" at Dunsmuir Brewery, and, once again, that meant that not only our own **Michael Biggs** would

system, and made one forget that it was 97 degrees outside (still much cooler than in the valley). Everybody caught fish, including first-time "short-line nymphers" **Bill Grigsby**, **Mark Pinski**, and **Bobby Simpson**. **Chris Warren** even decided to give in and get rid of the thing-a-ma-bob, and caught fish on short-line. **Dave Fujiyama** and **Tony Jelinek** did some Tenkara fishing, and brought in a few fish. **Michael Biggs** showed that having decent wading boots (last year his boots fell apart), and persistence pay off, breaking the ice on the final day of the fishout and landing several fish. **Leaman Houston** ventured up to the McCloud and brought in some nice fish. Dark nymphs, around size 14 to 16, were working well. The old stand-by, the "Dark Lord," was a productive fly.



*Making the BBQ Disappear*

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### 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: [editor@gbflycasters.org](mailto:editor@gbflycasters.org) with subject line: "GBF: Classified." All ads must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the following month's Leader.

## Spring Upper Sac River Fishout Report - Continued from page 8



Michael Biggs Entertaining at Dunsmuir Brewery

be singing, but also, somebody would strike it big on dries. Last year, during open mike night, **Leaman Houston** and **Bill Corbin**, had the time of their life catching trout on dries. Bill's fly was so frayed that it was nothing but thread, but still catching fish. This year, **Steve Pitts** struck it big, catching 20+ fish on a hopper with a Yellow Humpy combination in a deep cut and long run-off. He got so carried-away with the fishing that he had to stomp back through darkness to make it back.

We enjoyed a tri-tip barbeque the final evening of the fish-out before the evening dry fly action. The next day, Saturday, most headed home. We weren't sure what to expect as far as fishing pressure on the river, as it was the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>, and we thought there might be a lot of anglers on the water. We only saw 3 other anglers outside of our group the entire time. If you are looking for a good time on the river, head up to Dunsmuir.

## Fly Fishing is Hard, and We Like it That Way

by Eric Palmer

As with many fly fishers, I started out as a young teenager fishing conventional gear, except for me it was at the bottom of the skills hierarchy—salmon eggs. I couldn't afford expensive shiny lures, and an egg worked just fine anyway. Nothing gets a fish's attention like a bright red ball of pure protein, just as bacon sizzling in the pan gets my attention pronto.

Bury a size 16 hook, in a single egg, add a BB shot about 12" above and it does the trick nicely. I'd stand in the middle of the stream, way upstream and out of sight of my target, in my 1950s natural rubber hip boots with age cracks at the folds, and feed the line downstream to naive, under-educated and unsuspecting planters who would immediately inhale the egg. Set the hook? What the heck is that?

Over time, I became aware of the admonition to "be sure to set the hook." I thought "what nonsense." Who are these people anyway? Whack jobs trying to complicate something almost as simple as walking? Are they insane? Clearly, if you had to set the hook, fishing as a sport would cease to exist, and here's why plain and simple: First, it's impossible, since there's no conceivable way to know when to set the hook on a fish unseen and unfelt on the line. But most importantly, why? No need! Just wait a second or two and wham! The fish will set the hook for you. Done! Reel him in, a humane whack on the head with a pocket knife handle, on to the stringer, grab a fresh egg and repeat. Why make life complicated?

Fast forward many years (way too many) to my discovery of fly fishing. Ok, now I get it; sort of, because in my early fly fishing years I was still getting a few fish with no attention to hook setting, with "few" being the operative word. But then I ultimately join GBF and met the late (and the great) Bill Carnazzo, and he spoils everything for me, along with many of us I suspect. He patiently explains during his many nymphing clinics how the fish we hook easily are only the ones hell-bent on suicide; just the tip of the iceberg. For every suicidal fish, there are many, many more we're missing. They were there, they took a taste, they thought about it for a milli-second, then ptooiie! All while we were asleep at the switch admiring the scenery, or yacking with our fishing partner. And this is well documented by others too from underwater stream observations with snorkel. There's a good article [here](#) on this on the GBF site articles page. Ralph Cutter has also thoroughly reported on this.

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*Fly Fishing is Hard - Continued from page 9*

Bill would demonstrate this with his hand, his thumb and forefinger, forming a mouth-like gesture. Open-close-in-out-in-out indicating that you have one second, maybe two if you're lucky, to set the hook. This is sub-surface in moving water with a nymph (it's a bit different with dries—I'll get to that in a second). Every piece of debris flowing their way in the current, trash or real food, gets a quick taste...in-out-in-out, repeat. OK, great you say; but how do I know when to set the dang hook? Ah-ha! Therein lies the rub.

Lots and lots of practice helps, and it's said to, over time, suddenly—or maybe gradually—"just come to you." John Gierach's, *Trout Bum*, the chapter "Zen and the Art of Nymph Fishing," provided me with excellent insight into this. No answers, mind you, just insight. Fly fishing is hard!

Then to further complicate life, on a paid outing with Bill many years ago on the Upper Sac, it's 7 PM, and we're getting a dry fly lesson at one of his secret spots way below Soda Creek. To my horror, Bill instructs us that after the cast, you must spot your fly immediately as it hits the water and watch it like a hawk, then on seeing a fish rise and take the fly, immediately set the hook. That is, "immediately" in normal middle-aged human response time, which is glacial in fish time, providing just about the right time lag for the fish to turn his head to aid the hook set. If you do not see your fly, you will miss the non-suicidal takes, and get no fish; "fishing sure was crappy last night."

Watch the fly? Really??? We typically fish dries late in the day with the sun in our face and the fly indistinguishable from a million other tiny points of light on the rippling glistening mercury-like surface. It soon became crystal clear why gear-guys outnumber us fly-guys and gals 10, or maybe 15 to 1. Fly Fishing is hard!

Then, recently, I was exchanging emails with **Jim Holmes**, and he remarks on the reliability of bug hatches on most California rivers and streams, and the attendant need to "match the hatch." But then, he adds, that one never seems to have the right size or color when you're standing in the water, so it's important to visit the local fly shop first to be sure you have the right local flies (Fly shops love Jim). So that's complexity No. 1 with "match the hatch." Complexity No. 2: You're on a river at the right time for bug action, and you look up or down river where your partner is some distance away, and see him or her in a cloud of caddis and hooking fish like crazy, while your location remains bugless. You debate with yourself for a few seconds whether it's worth all the effort to move, then finally you decide to get out of the water and hike over to where the action is. You get over there and wade in; you're ready to cast...then nothing. The hatch is over, save for a

few stragglers. You look back to where you just were and it's crazy with caddis. Complexity No. 3: Why should they pick your merely impressionistic offering out of thousands of authentic naturals that are not skating across the surface unnaturally, being dragged by your fly line in the current? Or worse yet, your fly keeps sinking because your floatant is not working, or you don't even have any floatant.

So, lets recap dry fly fishing: 1) Execute a brilliant cast that delivers the fly on the surface on target with delicacy and grace while positioning your leader and line to create zero drag on the fly as it traces its intended path until the retrieve; 2) Immediately find your just alighted fly with the sun in your face or in failing light amid myriad foam bubbles, and watch it like a hawk for a

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*Fly Fishing is Hard - Continued from page 10*

take; 3) On observing the take, set the hook within zero milli-seconds of the signal from your eyeballs to your brain, and it's fish on...maybe-maybe not. Fly fishing is hard!

And we have not even gotten to casting, knots, learning fly names and types, understanding the gear, reading the water, etc, etc...Ad infinitum.

But, wait a minute! Hold the phone! We knew all this going in, right? And, as I recall just reading somewhere: *"we all took up fly fishing because we wanted a greater fishing challenge than dozing in a chair soaking power bait. We rejected "easy" in favor of "hard," seeking a life-long challenge requiring continuous learning and skill development."* And, boy, did we ever find it.

Lucky for us, we belong to one of the premier fly clubs in the state, if not the country, and are surrounded by experts in all facets of the sport who are eager and willing to share and teach us what they know. If you're new to GBF, check out the wealth of resources on our website. For clinics, go [here](#), fishouts [here](#), and for many educational and informative articles click [here](#). Also, frequent the [Message Board](#) where you'll often find helpful tips and pointers from others who have "been there-done that."

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

## Fly Patterns - Spring Pupa



*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

### 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.

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## 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 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.



*Steps 1 & 2*



*Step 3*

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.

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.



*Step 4*



*Step 5*

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

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*Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from page 12**Step 6*

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.

*Step 8*

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.

*Step 7*

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 <http://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 <http://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, contact Don Whitecar at 916-804-5384, or visit the website at <http://gbflycasters.org>.

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

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