

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

July 2017

<http://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by Wendell Edwards, GBF President



July 1, 2017 notes the beginning of the Club's 2017 fiscal year, and with it, a number of changes to your club President and Board of Directors. Thank you to last year's Board of Directors for your contributions to our club.

Your 2017 Board:

- Wendell Edwards - President
- John Hogg - Past President after two successful years as president.
- Don Whitecar - VP Membership chair and our website facilitator
- Dave Fujiyama - VP Conservation
- David Bennett - Secretary
- Treasurer - Mike Howes will continue as Treasurer only because no one stepped up for that position. We are a club of volunteers, I expect someone to step forward and solve this issue by next year's election!

Continued on Page 2

Monthly Program

by Ed Lloyd, Monthly Program Chair



Jordan Romney

Fly Fishing Specialties. Check out his website for more information www.driftonthefly.com.

His presentation will be on "Technical Nymphing Techniques," and will show different ways to set up for nymphing, and how to read water to get the best possible presentation to a fish.

IN THIS ISSUE

2017 Tenkara Fishouts	8 - 9
Annual Picnic Report	7 - 8
Bridgeport Fishout 2017	4
Calendar of Events	2
Classified Ads	6
Conservation Corner	6
Fishing Hat Creek, Baum and Manzanita Lakes	8 - 12
Fly Tyer's Corner	12 - 14
Leader's Line	1
Monthly Program	1
Officers	15
The Fly Mooch	5
Trail Awareness	6 - 7
Virginia Lakes Fishout	3
Welcome to Our Newest Members	12

J U L Y 2017						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1.
2. American River Fishout	3.	4.	5.	6. Upper Sac Fishout July 5 - 7	7.	8.
9.	10.	11. Board Meeting 7:00 PM	12.	13. Monthly Meeting	14.	15. Truckee River Fishout Lower Yuba Fishout
16.	17.	18. Fly Tying Jam	19. Little Truckee Fishout	20.	21.	22.
23.	30. 24.	31. 25.	26.	27.	28. Tenkara Fishout	29.

Leader's Line - Continued from page 1

- Ron Fay - Director for 3 years and will serve as Facilities Chair
- Dale Spear - Director for 3 years
- Ed Lloyd - Director for 2 years and will serve as Program Chair
- David Jones, Director through 2019. David will also direct the Golden Trout program
- Eric Palmer - Director through 2018. Eric will continue to keep our website safe and updated
- Gordon Tornberg - Director through 2018. Gordon will continue to be our Education chairman
- Carol Tevlin - Director at Large for 2017

Leaving the Board:

- Bill Grigsby - Director and Facilities Chair
- Mel Odemar - VP Conservation
- Ron Rabun - Director

A special "Thank You" goes to those that are leaving the Board of Directors, and a warm welcome to those that have been elected to serve as Directors and Officers of the club. GBF has concluded a very successful year under the guidance of President John Hogg. We had a very successful dinner, made lots of conservation contributions, had some great speakers at our monthly meetings, and many, many fishouts and education clinics. John's hard work and extraordinary diligence demands our gratitude.

That leaves yours truly to serve as your elected President for the upcoming year. It was a tough election, but I prevailed as the only candidate! I look forward to maintaining the Club's successes, and hopefully, with your help and support, making some additional contributions. One of our future goals will be to foster leadership skills and a spirit of giving to the club, as well as enjoying the benefits.

And once again, we answer that inborn call for more fishing time.

Virginia Lakes Fishout **NEW DATE** - August 8 - 14, 2017

Flycasters, it is time for the annual Virginia Lakes trip. We are looking at the 8th to the 14th of August. We will be going up on the 8th, and coming home on the 14th. We will have a taco dinner on Saturday the 12th that we will provide for all who attend.

For those of you unfamiliar with Virginia Lakes, they are on the eastern slope of the Sierra just past Bridgeport, and before you drop down to Mono Lake. The scenery is "eastern side incredible." We will be staying at Trumble Lake campground at 9,700 feet. If you are concerned about the elevation, you might consider staying a night at Twin Lakes or the Tahoe area on the way. Drink plenty of water on the way up! This is a nice campground with water and exceptionally nice pit toilets. Reservations can be made on line, but we usually are able to secure sites without them. There is also unimproved camping a short distance down the road by the creek (Road 139). These are also very beautiful, and right next to a main stream, and free. The two Virginia Lakes are easy walking distance from the campground, which sits right next to Trumble Lake. There is excellent wet and dry fly fishing at all three lakes as well as in the multiple lakes up the trail. There are plenty of opportunities for stream and river lovers as well; these include Virginia Creek, Green Creek and the West and East Walker Rivers just down the road. There is a store at Little Virginia with high priced goods, a little restaurant (very nice breakfasts and lunches), and hot showers. They also rent cabins (usually for a week) but will do a weekend at the last minute if they aren't rented: <http://www.virginialakesresort.com>. Bridgeport is a 30-to-45-minute drive, and there are motels if camping is not your thing.

The lake fishing is generally float tube with sinking line (intermediate - fast). Catching twenty fish in a day is not extraordinary, and I will be available to help anyone who desires it. Flies will be plentiful, as I will bring my tying stuff, as will others. There will be extra equipment available for anyone to use. Rods from 3-6 wt. are the norm.

This is a great family outing, as there are a variety of things to do besides fishing. The hiking is excellent, with relatively short distances between lakes. Just down the road there is horseback riding, and the old gold ghost-town of Bodie is within 45 minutes. The city of Mammoth is less than an hour away, as is the entrance to Yosemite.

Please call me if you have any questions, and let me know if you are planning to come so I can get enough camp sites and bring enough taco fixin's.

Michael Kaul
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or cell (916)337-5468



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Birdgeport Fishout 2017 August 31st thru September 5th

Fishout Leaders: Bill & Bev Hagopian

No, we haven't given up on Bridgeport! We have changed our fishout to August 31st. We plan on arriving on the 31st. 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. 2nd 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.

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
home: 916-771-5837; cell: 916-847-9047.

See you in Bridgeport.

Bill and Bev

"The Fly Mooch"

by David Jones

OK. You are wondering what a "fly mooch" is. To explain this new phraseology, I have to start with a Pyramid fish-out story.

The first item of business in planning a trip to Pyramid is spending many days tying the "right" flies. Included are 49er's, Popcorn Beetles, Mahalo Midges, buggers, etc. Eventually, you have 3 dozen flies you are certain will catch those monster Lahontan Cutthroats.

Finally, the big day arrives. You arrive at the lake, wader up, set up your rod, and grab your fly box. Problem being that when you open it, the fly box is empty. Deductive reasoning indicates you grabbed the wrong box. (Before you laugh and call me funny names, how many look alike fly boxes do you have?)

What to do.....obviously; mooch flies. (Who says begging and whimpering is overrated?) I am fortunate that GBF members are a sharing community. Before long yours truly had a number of flies borrowed (not to be returned) from other folks on the fish-out.

Conversely I had an extra reel with me that a member, who will remain nameless, but may be our *Leader* editor, was able to borrow. At that point, I determined that there is such a thing as fishing karma.

Anyway, the point of the story is that we are all fortunate to fish with individuals who will help you out when you commit a fishing faux pas. The bottom line is that I was able to dry my tears, stop whining and catch fish with my mooched flies.

My thanks to the moochees. The adult beverages are on me.

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"They have the largest selection of fly tying materials in California!" - Andy Burk

Conservation Corner

by Mel Odemar, VP Conservation

At the May Board meeting, the Board of Directors provided additional support for the Sierra Trout Camp by approving the presentation of a fly box with 50 flies to each participant of the camp. Following the efforts of **John Hogg** in obtaining the flies, and **Bill Grigsby** for obtaining the fly boxes through *Kiene's American Fly Shop*, eleven members met June 1st at Round Table Pizza and assembled 35 fly boxes. Twenty fly boxes were for the Sierra Trout Camp, and the remaining 15 for use by the club. We shared the restaurant with a crowd of Granite Bay Jr. Grizzlies supporters, but the restaurant staff accommodated us with the back room used for our conservation meetings. As always, pizza was provided.

Participants were: **Don Whitecar, Gordon Tornberg, Bill Grigsby, Eric Palmer, Ron Fay, Dave Fujiyama, David Jones, Wendell Edwards, Mike Howes, and Kim Lloyd.** **John Hogg** could not make it, since he had a prior commitment with some redfish in Mississippi.

This is my last function as VP Conservation. The club's conservation and education efforts can only be done with the support of the Granite Bay Flycasters membership, and I'm confident that these efforts will continue under the next VP Conservation, **Dave Fujiyama**.



Trail Awareness

by Tony Jelinek

There is nothing like the excitement of finishing the hike into what you hope to be that magical fishing spot on the river. As you draw nearer, you can hear the stream, and the flow of adrenalin starts to increase. Then you get a glimpse of the river, and boy, does that look like some great fishy water. As you break out of the forest, you see the perfect spot on the river, and can't wait to get your line wet and enjoy the excitement of that first strike. You are entirely focused on the spot and beeline it there, and make that initial cast. Hmmm, no strike. You start moving upstream hunting fish in the seams and pocket water that the river offers. After a while of fishing, no matter how your catching success has been that day, it is time to head back. You do, and start looking for the break in the forest where you came out. But, all you see is forest and brush. Is that the rock where I started? I think I remember that pool? Didn't I come out just before that large tail-water?

This feeling of not knowing where the trail is located, is not a fun one. If you just take a few extra seconds to be aware of your surroundings, and take note of a few key features, you will have a much more enjoyable day.

Follow these few easy and quick steps:

- Take a breath and be patient. Do not rush out to the river/stream.
- Take note of your surroundings. Are there any distinctive bushes, trees, or visible topographical changes that you can see?
- Thanks to the river/stream, you have a pre-existing navigational tool—a handrail. A handrail is something that parallels your course.

Continued on Page 7

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 with subject line: "GBF: Classified." All ads must be submitted by the 15th of the month to be included in the following month's Leader.

Trail Awareness - Continued from page 6

- Thanks, also, to the rocks and stones along, or in the river/stream, you have the tools to make a traditional trail marking device, a cairn, or a stack of rocks.
- When you stand with your body perpendicular to the river/stream, what distinguishing features do you see that line you up with the trail? Take note of these.
- When you stand with your body perpendicular to the river/stream, build a cairn that is easily visible and in-line with you and the trail entrance. For greater accuracy, build two cairns that line-up with each other, and you as the 3rd point, so that you can look along that line and see the trail entrance.
- If the water is too high and you are wading, note the trees, ridge, and other distinguishing features that line up with you when you stand in the water perpendicular to the bank and in-line with the trail entrance.

Take a little extra time at the beginning, and you will save yourself time and possible panic at the end of the day after a tiring and exciting day of fishing.

Annual Picnic Report

by Wendell Edwards



Leaman and Cheryl Houston cruising

Our annual club picnic was held June 17th, and WOW, did we have a great picnic or what! We were on the shore of a great lake called Rancho Seco. We had a wind and breeze all day that kept our temperature in the mid to high nineties most of the day.

We had some delicious chicken, hot dogs and tri-tip grilled by **Mike Howes**, **Ron Ellis** and **Bill Grigsby**. Thank you guys for your support. Our salads, fruits, desserts etc. were great, and all were consumed in rapid fashion. Thank you, **Marilyn**, for the great selections. **JoAnn**, your decorating efforts were great, and thank you so much for your time.

We completed our day with games, and the following articles are the summaries submitted by **Gordon Tornberg** on the

Corn Hole game, and **Eric Palmer** on the Blindfold Casting games.

Cornhole Contest Result, submitted by Gordon Tornberg

At the 2017 Granite Bay Fly-Casters Annual Picnic, a total of 22 players braved the heat and signed up for the Cornhole Tournament. The ACO Official Rules for the Sport of Cornhole were strictly adhered to, with a few minor exceptions. There were two games going on at the same time, with the winner of each advancing to the next round.

Continued on Page 8



Corn hole competition

Annual Picnic Report- Continued from page 7



Chef Ron at work

Soon after lunch, the Blindfolded Casting began. Two hula hoops were placed about 30 feet apart, with the contestant standing in one and casting to the other, with a stiff and erratic wind at his back, often trashing the back cast. The caster was given a few practice casts to dial in the range and amount of line out. Then, with blindfold in place and a partner standing by to correct errors, the task was, within 10 attempts, to get the yarn as close to the center of the hoop as possible. Results ranged from not even in the hoop, to 3 to 4 casts well in bounds, but none dead center. Two participants did, however, manage to get 3 to 4 consecutive casts reasonably close to center. Top honors went to **Lester "Bill" Grigsby** and **Mike Sullivan**, who received a certificate of accomplishment and a gift card from Jumba Jucie. Virtually everyone participated in the contest, except for those fully engrossed in the Corn Hole competition.

After several hours of play and fierce competition from **Michael Gervais**, **Frank Stolten** earned the title of Cornhole Champion 2017. For those not familiar with the game, the object is to toss a bean bag about 27 feet, and land it on a sloped playing surface which measures about 2 ft. by 4 ft. The surface has a 6-inch diameter hole about 9 inches from the top. If the bag lands on the board, one point is counted. If the bag goes through the hole, 3 points are counted. It's not as easy as it sounds, but a lot of fun.

Blindfolded Casting Competition, by Eric Palmer



Blindfolded casting

2017 Tenkara Fishouts

This year, there will again be two Tenkara fishouts. The first will be at the Silver Fork (of the South Fork of the American) on Friday, July 28th. The water will be running high for the next several months, of course, but the Silver Fork is fed by controlled releases out of Silver Lake and Caples Lake, up on Hwy 88. It has provided fish reliably for fishout participants in years past.

The second fishout will be at the East Carson on Friday, Sept. 22nd, 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.



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Continued on Page 9

2017 Tenkara Fishouts - Continued from page 8

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.

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
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John.Pellegrin@comcast.net

Fishing Hat Creek, Baum and Manzanita Lakes

by Eric Palmer

Over May 24-27, I hooked up with former GBF'er and long-time fishing partner, **Don Lounsbury**, who was back in the Redding area from Florida for a few weeks. On Wednesday, the 24th, I got an early start and met Don just below Redding, and by noon we were in **Burney** on Hwy. 299 checking into the Green Gables Motel, which proved more than satisfactory for our three-night stay.

After a quick lunch at the McDonalds next door, we were on **Hat Creek** at the **Power House 2** access by 2:00 PM. When a fly fisher speaks of fishing Hat Creek, he should be referring to the wild trout section that runs from the PG&E Power House 2, to **Lake Britton** some 20 miles downstream. Above the power house there's **Baum Lake** (think Lake Natoma on the American), which is well stocked—and anything goes in terms of lures—as well for miles upstream through several campgrounds with easy road-side access. Power bait and hardware predominate in those areas, but the fish can be plentiful, and of course, easier to catch.

If you actually want more than just casting practice at Power House 2 on Hat, and especially the miles of flat dry fly water



Continued on Page 10

Hat Creek Power House 2 Access

Fishing Hat Creek - Continued from page 9



Mr. Lucky shows us how to fish Hat Creek

also impressed with the local eating establishments, including Anna's Kitchen and a Mexican place called La Fogata. In fact, we ate at Anna's three times, if that says anything.

On the morning of our first full day we hit Baum, where I was soundly skunked from my float tube; while Don, walking the bank, was rewarded with 3 trout during a vigorous hatch. Don was involuntarily on foot, having left a crucial inflation valve for his Super Fat Cat in a shirt pocket back at the motel. As most of us have found, no fishing trip is complete without at least one key item going AWOL, and on his arrival home, Don would find his dry fly box MIA as well. Ouch! That one really hurt, but at least there's a happy angler out there on Hat Creek.



A black wiggle tail fooled this 18" brown

downstream, you'll not only need to bring your "A" game, but every good-luck charm and mystical incantation you can muster. Consider emulating "Mr. Lucky" here, who's employed every trick he knows to charm fickle Lady Luck. Count his "lucky" charms and be the first to post the right answer [here](#) for a special award with accolades at a future meeting.

Seriously, there is no magic to fishing Hat Creek, and it's simply a matter of doing your homework (which we did not do, shame on us!) and exercising a little discipline. Well...maybe a lot of discipline. On that first afternoon, through a sheer fluke of nature and perhaps momentary perfect alignment of the constellations, just below the PH2 riffle for a few minutes, I actually did have a very large trout attached to my fly, but once he saw the net looming, it was game over.

In a weak moment he'd fallen for a Green Drake nymph under a #6 Caddis Stimulator in a Hopper-Dropper configuration, a rig I would doggedly persist with unsuccessfully for the duration.

Using Burney as a base of operations is ideal, since you are well situated to also fish **Baum** and **Manzanita Lakes**, should Hat prove a tad too perplexing. Spending 3 nights in Burney, we found this arrangement very convenient, and we were



Manzanita Lake beneath Mt. Lassen

Having given Baum our best shot that morning, we decided to head for Manzanita for the afternoon, since we were already 20% of the way there. Being a weekday, we found the lake sparsely populated, and conditions ideal. As you embark from the boat ramp to the left, there are three or four "islands" of bushy shrubs emerging from the lake bottom. I found this area productive early on, and was rewarded with three decent browns—including the one shown—all on a black wiggle tail or leech. On the way back in at day's end, a 4th smaller brownie succumbed to an olive leech.

While Baum was better to Don than Manzanita, we both loved Manzanita Lake for the insane beauty, ease of access, and multiple fishy spots around the many brushy islands, and

Continued on Page 11

Fishing Hat Creek - Continued from page 10

vowed to return. The next day, Friday, was our last full day, so with our bruised egos somewhat recovered from the butt-kicking served up by Hat Creek Wednesday afternoon, we decided to give it another go. After a hearty breakfast at Anna's, we headed back to Power House 2 for more abuse. It was another gorgeous day, temps moderate, fishing pressure low, but alas, only more casting practice was our lot. However, as we left, we at least had the supreme satisfaction of seeing but a single fish taken the entire morning, and that included two fellows with a guide who went fishless after a good three hours of flogging the water with countless fly changes.

After a sandwich in the shade with a superb view of the water, we decided to explore the flat water downstream below Hat's intersection with 299. There's a wide trail just past the 299 bridge which runs north almost to Lake Britton. We hiked this trail above the water for perhaps a mile, dropped down a few times to fish, and while it was all very pleasant with easy access and easy wading on a mostly gravel bottom, plus exquisite scenery, in the end, we had only rigs lost to snags to show for our efforts. Of course, there had to be fish there, but they somehow knew that we'd yet to pay our dues on the Creek, and they were right!

The following morning, Saturday, our drive-home day, we decided to hit Manzanita again as the most promising prospect, and a logical choice, since continuing west on 44 is a shortcut to Redding and I-5. One word of caution on Manzanita Lake—you may want to avoid the lake on weekends, especially Memorial Day weekend. We found the place a three-ring circus. It was awash in kayakers, idle-yackers, paddle-boarders, tubers, and pontooners (sorry Dr. Seuss) and countless looky-loos wandering aimlessly in our path as we tried to launch and later take-out. And, as further insult, there was but one grab for our troubles...but, then again, the awesome beauty of the place is worth the price of admission alone, so we did not regret our time there that morning, plus it's all part of the learning process.

Now, back to Hat Creek and its storied high degree of difficulty. Yes, Hat can be difficult technical fishing. It is said that if you can get Hat dialed in, you can be successful with trout anywhere in the world. Likely true. And while I still suck badly in this regard, I'll offer up the following justifications for giving Hat Creek a good solid try. First, as a spring creek its flows and cold temps are fairly constant year-round, so it's a great escape when our more local venues suffer from excessively high spring flows, or warm and low summer flows.

Secondly, and most important, 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 a life-long challenge requiring continuous learning and skill development. Hat Creek will take some homework, reading, study, practice and discipline... but, that's fly fishing! Right?

In the meantime, see the reading list below by noted authors from back issues of *California Fly Fisher* to get you started. If you don't subscribe, bug a friend who does, or see **Kim Lloyd**, our Librarian, at the back table at the next meeting; or failing that, get Chip's book, or spend some time online with Google. Also, check out the new [Hat Creek](#) forum on the GBF website message board for some helpful tips, and please leave some of your own.



Continued on Page 12

Fishing Hat Creek - Continued from page 11

What's Up with Hat Creek, Chip O'Brien, *California Fly Fisher*, Aug 2015

Manzanita Lake, Chip O'Brien, *California Fly Fisher*, June 2014

My Favorite Northern California Waters, Chip O'Brien, *California Fly Fisher*, Oct 2016

California's Best Fly Fishing – Premier streams and rivers from Northern California to the eastern Sierra, Chip O'Brien (Amazon Books)

Green Drakes, Andy Guibord, *California Fly Fisher*, June 2015

(An important Hat Creek insect, nymph or dry)

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

by Don Whitecar, 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.

Jacob Chavarin
Rick Salvatore

Jim Lloyd
Anna Ventura

David Peterson
Mike Ventura

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

Fly Patterns - Bill's 12-Step Stonefly



Bill's 12-Step Stonefly

Materials:

Hook:	Daiichi 1260 or similar hook, size 6-14
Thread:	Olive or black 8/0, or similar thread
Eyes:	Small black mono eyes
Tail:	Mini-size gray Turantulegs
Abdomen:	Brownish-olive dubbing
Ribbing:	Fine silver wire
Legs:	Dark hen hackle and mini-size gray Turantulegs
Wing case:	Mottled golden stone color Thin Skin
Thorax:	Same as abdomen
Weight:	.020 lead, wrapped from mid-bend to behind bead

Description

I've always espoused simplicity in fly design, and the 12-step Stonefly is no exception. Don't be intimidated by the fact that there are 12 steps needed to complete the fly. Each step is simple and easy enough for a beginner to manage. My main purposes in featuring this new design are: (1) to emphasize the importance of thinking about the order of applying materials; and (2) to demonstrate that a realistic-looking pattern can indeed catch fish if "action" materials are used in its construction. I've been testing this pattern on pocket water streams for some time now, in various colors and in various sizes. I like it for golden stoneflies, as well as dark olive, brown, and black stones. For this month's fly we'll tie it in brownish-olive, size 8.

Continued on Page 13

Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from page 12

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. Apply 10 wraps of .020 lead wire to the hook. Flatten the wire with flat-nosed pliers; cover the lead with Flexament and thread.
2. Tie the eyes on ahead of the lead and about 1 eye-length behind the eye. It's important to leave this small space ahead of the eyes.



Steps 1 & 2



Steps 3, 4 & 5

3. Return the thread to the rear of the hook and tie in the tails. They should be no longer than 1/4".
4. Cut a piece of Thin skin, leaving the backing on it for now. The piece should be 1/4" in width, and about 1" long. Cut one end to a shallow "v" and pull the material from the backing. You will notice that one side is shinier than the other; tie the pointed end in just above the back of the barb, shiny side down (when it's pulled over the top, the shiny side will be on top).
5. Tie in the ribbing material at the same point, and pull it backward out of the way.

6. Dub the abdomen—which will be the rear 2/3 of the hook. Use a stiff brush, wire brush, or similar tool to brush out the sides of the body, and pull the dubbing out to the sides with your fingers. Trim the abdomen to a "v" shape (this gives it a nice taper) back to the tail (careful not to cut the tails).
7. Rib the abdomen, weaving the wire into the dubbing; this gives the dubbing the look of "gills".



Steps 6 & 7



Steps 8 & 9

8. At the front of the dubbed abdomen, tie in a hen feather dull side up, with the tips to the rear. Later on we'll pull this forward. See the accompanying image for details.
9. At the center of the thorax area, tie in the rubber leg material so that you have a total of 4 legs in an "x" shape.

Continued on Page 14

10. Dub the thorax, working the dubbing around and between the legs.



Step 10



Step 11

11. Pull the hen feather forward, while at the same time sweeping the barbules rearward. Tie off the feather behind the eyes.



Step 12

12. Grab the Thin Skin and pull it forward over the entire body, stretching it a bit as you do so. Tie it off behind the eyes, and then again in front of the eyes. On the remaining tab, cut a small "v" into the material, pull the material rearward, and tie it off again behind the eyes. Whip finish at that point.

Tying Tips

1. Be sure to leave at least 1/3 of the front area of the hook for the thorax. This is true for all nymphs, and is especially essential for the proper construction of this stonefly pattern.
2. When cutting out your pieces of Thin Skin, give them a slight taper so that when the material is tied in at the tail area, the narrower end is at the back. This will give the shell back a tapered look, to match the taper of the abdomen.
3. Don't flatten the lead until it is covered with thread and Flexament. This will keep the lead from breaking apart when you use the pliers to flatten it.

Bounce this beauty through pocket water and be prepared for aggressive strikes. Set the hook at the slightest hesitation of your leader. Go rip a few lips, and....

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. Please put **GBF Leader** in the subject line. Deadline for materials is the 15th of each month.

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