



The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS



January 2018

<http://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by Wendell Edwards, GBF President



Happy New Year everyone.

I trust that each of you celebrated this past Christmas season with friends and family—I certainly did.

Our annual potluck holiday dinner was well attended. We had a great time visiting with other members, and enjoyed some great food. Thank you, **Dave Jones**, for organizing this event.

Our guest speaker this month will be **Jimmy Morales**.

We are at a slow time in the calendar year as far as fishouts and educational updates are concerned. I hear that a Pyramid fishout may be coming our way soon!

Jim Holmes will resume his fly tying jam January 16, 2018. This fly tying jam will be held at the activity center, and starts at 6:30PM.

The [ISE Show](#) is coming January 18-22, 2018. If you have not signed up for a time slot, you may do so by reviewing the schedule [here](#) on our website and sending an email to dalespeaer@sbcglobal.net. When you fill a time slot, you will receive a free entrance pass for that day's event (you will have to pay for parking). There is a lot to see at the ISE Show, so plan to spend the day there checking out all those new fly-fishing items.

The Board of Directors meetings occur the Tuesday prior to our monthly general meeting. This meeting starts at 6:30PM at the activity center. All club members are welcome to attend. We will soon be looking for nominees for directors, treasurer and president. You are encouraged to step forward for one of these positions.

Now is the time to renew your membership. Now is also the time to buy your annual dinner tickets. You may do so by going to our club website [store](#); it's all online and so easy.

Reach out to a new member and go fishing!



*The Annual Holiday Potluck,
a feast for fly fishers*

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J A N U A R Y 2018						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
7.	8.	9. Board Meeting 7:00 PM	10.	11. Monthly Meeting	12.	13.
14.	15.	16. Fly Tying Jam	17.	18.	19. ISE Show Jan. 18 - 21	20.
21. ISE Show Jan. 18 - 21	22. Conservation Committee Meeting	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.
28.	29.	30.	31.			

Monthly Program

Our guest speaker this month is **Jimmie Morales** of **Sierra Fly Fisher**, which specializes in providing guided fly fishing trips in Yosemite, Sequoia and King's Canyon National parks, along with Sierra and Stanislaus National Forests. Program details are still being developed.

GBF Booth at the ISE Show January 18 - 21, 2018

by Dale Spear, ISE Coordinator

Happy Holidays club members. We need volunteers to staff our club booth in January at the International Sportsmen's Exposition (ISE) show. Many fly fishers at GBF learned about the club at the ISE show, and you have the opportunity to invite other prospective members to join and make our organization even stronger. We will share with prospective members that through our club, they can improve their casting skills, learn the art of fly tying, participate in conservation efforts, attend fish-outs with guidance provided, build a fly rod or net, and much more.

Most of the shifts are a short two hours, with a couple shifts being one-and-a-half hours. There will be two people for each shift, although many club members come by the booth and spend time shooting the breeze; that's what fly fishers do. You will receive a ticket to get into the show for free, so you can spend time before or after your shift looking at the other great booths and presentations. You will need to purchase a parking pass, however.

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GBF Booth at the ISE Show - Continued from page 2

By the time you read this, I will have already put out the sign-up sheet at the December meeting, but I will also bring it to the January meeting as well. You can also go to the [club website](#) to see which shifts are open. Feel free to email me, Dale Spear, at dalespear@sbcglobal.net, or call my cell 916 502-0455 to sign-up. Thank you.

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. All ads must be submitted by the 15th of the month to be included in the following month's Leader.

Classes and Clinics

Gordon Tornberg, Director of Education

Below is a list of the classes and clinics that are offered to members. Some have scheduled dates while others will be scheduled shortly. If you have suggestions for other classes or clinics, be sure to contact me to discuss your needs and ideas. Look for specific dates and times on the web site, at upcoming meetings and in future Leader articles.

Classes and Clinics

Dates

Fly Tying Jam	Third Tuesday of each month
Rod Building	On-going as needed
Net Building	January – April 2018
Fly Fishing 101	January - February, 2018 dates TBD
Non-slip Wading Soles	March 20, 2018
Fly Casting Fundamentals	March - April 7, 2018 dates TBD
Tenkara Fishing Clinic	April 14, 2018
Fundamentals of Knots	April 17, 2018
Introduction to Float Tubing	April - May, 2018 date TBD
Workshop on Novelty Flies	June 20, 2018
Short-Line Nymphing	Spring & Fall Upper Sac. Fishouts
Introduction to Spey Casting	September - October 2018 dates TBD
Fundamentals of Knots	October 16, 2018
Fly Tying Basics	2018 date TBD
Fly Tying "Beyond the Basics"	2018 date TBD
Pontoon Boat Clinic	2018 date TBD

Remember, if you sign up to participate in a clinic, please make every effort to attend. If your plans change and you can't make it, please notify the Clinic Leader so that others can attend in your place.

Nine GBF Members Attend the Trinity Fishout

by Corley Phillips

Our base of operations was the Indian Creek Lodge in Douglas City. Attendance started at four on Saturday 12/2, climbed to seven on Sunday, peaked at nine on Monday, and saw two intrepid fishermen stay through Wednesday 12/6. There was only a slight rain on Saturday, and the weather was otherwise clear—which in the world of steelheading was bad news, as the river was low and clear, and in need of some additional water. And clear generally means cold—I had to deal with ice forming in my guides on the third day.

We met for dinner on Sunday in the Cafe attached to the lodge for the best food in Trinity County, and the next night had the annual spaghetti feed in the apartment.

Ready for cake! Pictured (L to R): **Corley Phillips, Don Whitecar, Tom Ross, Jack Peuler, Kim Lloyd,** and **Eric Palmer**. Photo by **Frank Stolten**. **Dennis Baker** and **Michael Gervais** had already departed.



Spaghetti feed after a long day on the river

I managed to hook an adult steelhead every day of fishing, including one guided day, and landed two of the three. I also landed a couple of half-pounders (16-18" juvenile steelhead that come in with the adults). On my last day of fishing, I focused on the Steiner Flat area adjacent to the Lodge, and hooked the 25" wild adult in the photo below.



Corley's steelhead in spawning colors

It was particularly satisfying because I had just switched to my "Christmas rig," which consisted of a red copper john top fly, and a green copper john dropper fly. The latter

I had pulled up off the bottom when I snagged on some old line; I pulled that up and decided to tie it on. It hit the green one. Alas, after landing the fish, I lost it the very next cast to a piece of tree on the bottom, so it is now someone else's "river booty."



Michael Gervais with one that didn't get away

In spite of numerous guided days (7 members had at least one guided day fishing), the fish counts were low in general. As always in steelheading, the hook-ups greatly outnumbered the ones brought to the net. But the beautiful surroundings of the Trinity Alps and the camaraderie of being on a GBF outing made up for it.

Michael Gervais hooked this tagged adult hatchery fish that measured 26". He hooked a second, larger fish that he lost trying to land.

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Nine GBF Members attend the Trinity Fishout - Continued from page 4

I've set the dates for next year's Fishout for Monday-Wednesday, November 12-14. It's a little earlier in hopes of warmer weather. Base of operations will remain the Indian Creek Lodge, and the spaghetti feed will be on Monday night as usual.

Fishmasters of Tight-lines and Fast Waters

by Tony Jelinek

As we kick-off a new year of fishing, what streams will you be tackling this year? Thanks to the fishouts, I found several new runs to fish on familiar rivers, learned new techniques, discovered new streams and made new fishing buddies.

Thank you to the fishmasters in 2017 who took the time to introduce their fellow club members to the rivers and streams that they enjoy to fish, passing along their knowledge, and probably, giving up a few secrets along the way. With the streams being so high this year, twelve fish-outs were packed into a four-month period from mid-June to mid-October, with one final fishout to end the year on the Trinity. The following is the list of fishmasters who led fishouts on the rivers and streams of Northern California:

- Ed Lloyd: Truckee River and Little Truckee River
- Jake Carlomango: North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American River
- Pete Koistinen: UC Davis Lower Yuba River
- Ron Rabun: Upper Sacramento River
- John Pellegrin: Silver Creek and East Carson River
- Corley Philips: Trinity River

Consider leading a fishout for 2018. What a great way to give back to the club. We have many more streams and rivers to explore. If you have an idea for a fishout on a river or stream that you would like to lead, please reach out to me (jelinea@me.com).

Wishing you all sure feet, leak-proof waders, and tight lines in 2018.

Meet Ken Hanley

You'll have the chance at our Annual Dinner in March! Ken will be there as our Guest Speaker to entertain and enlighten us on one of his many professional passions...outdoor photography (aka...how to get better photos of your fly-fishing adventures)!

Ken's life has revolved around outdoor education, adventure travel, and fly-fishing for over 40 years now, and as a licensed guide and instructor, professional artist, author, photographer, and adventure travel host, he is a master of capturing outdoor images. Check out Ken's [website](#) for more information.

His field experience spans the highest peaks in Tibet and the Himalaya, to some of the most remote wilderness regions of Asia, New Zealand, Mexico, Europe, and North America. Ken's passion for experiencing and interpreting wild places is infectious!

Ken has been a fly fishing ambassador since the 1970's. He's the author of seven books on fly fishing, he writes and photographs for both domestic and international outdoor publications, and has produced videos celebrating fresh and saltwater adventures.

Ken says..."Sharing your experiences through visual media is a celebrated part of the fly fishing legacy"...and by sharing with us at the Annual Dinner his tips and techniques for taking better photos...we should all become a little better fly-fisher/photographers!

Everyone's invited to the
GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

32nd Annual Dinner and HUGE

Fly Fishing Raffle & Auction!

With special guest speaker, Ken Hanley

Saturday, March 17, 2018 • Doors open @ 4:30pm

Ken is a Fly Fishing Hall-Of-Fame author (7 books to date), writer/photographer (domestic & international publications), and long-time outdoor industry instructor (over 15,000 students since 1970). In this presentation, Ken will share his famous enthusiasm and expertise for getting the most out of fly-fishing photography!



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

Catered Italian dinner @ 6pm.

For tickets (just \$40/ea.) and all the event details, please visit our official website:
www.gbflycasters.org.



DINNER LOCATION:

Rocklin Event Center
 2650 Sunset Boulevard
 Rocklin, California
 Ph# 916-625-5200

10% of proceeds benefit  of Northern California

Tenkara & Pesca alla Valsesiana: Fishing with a Long Rod

by John Pellegrin

In recent years, tenkara, the traditional method of fly fishing in Japan, has become popular with many people in the US as well as across Europe. But what many people do not realize, is that very similar fishing methods developed independently in other countries. One that is particularly interesting is known as Pesca alla Valsesiana—fishing as in Valsesia, Italy. In this article I will compare the two methods to show their similarities and differences.

Tenkara

Tenkara originated a number of centuries ago in the mountains of Japan, which is full of streams not unlike many of our own streams here in the Sierras [1]. Hunting and fishing became a method of subsistence probably 500-600 years ago. What evolved was a method of fishing that used a long bamboo rod, with a fixed line made of woven horsehair, and simple flies made from natural materials. Various feathers and thread made of colored silk were used. Over time, bamboo rod building became refined considerably with beautifully lacquered multiple sections, which would fit inside of each other for portability. The flies consisted of 2-3 components, using hackle that would open facing forward, straight up, or backwards. Very fine flies were being sold by the 1600's. The flies could be fished on the water surface or below the surface.

Tenkara was first observed and documented by an Englishman, Ernest Satow, in the 1880's. Since that time, fly fishing has become more of a sport, with modern materials; we now have telescoping rods of composite materials and lines that are light and visible.

In 2009, Daniel Galhardo started TenkaraUSA, and introduced tenkara to the US and Europe. In 2011 he gave a talk at GBF, which started several of us with tenkara flyfishing.

Pesca alla Valsesiana

Valsesia is located between Turin and Milan in the north of Italy. Its watershed is the southern slopes of the Swiss Alps, and the Sesia River runs through it. A style of flyfishing developed in the valley of Valsesia some centuries ago, with expertise handed down orally through the generations. Until recently, it was only used by a few people in that area. There is a club of these fishermen (Pesca a mosca Valsesiana) with about a

dozen members, some who have fished it for many years. A younger member, Andrea Scalvini, has been responsible for making information more widely known about their fishing method. Historically, as well as today, they use long cane rods in three non-collapsible sections, with braided horsehair lines. The end rod section is bamboo. Rods are 3 to 7 meters in length. The lines taper from around 20 hairs down to very few, and are typically about the length of the rod. They use a brace of 3 or 4 flies of different colors, separated by about 12", with two or three of the flies on short dropper lines. The colors are blue, red, yellow, green, or brown. The flies are remarkably like tenkara flies: thread and reverse hackles. There is a video of Andrea Scalvini talking about and showing the equipment (in Italian), and fishing with it [2].



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Tenkara & Pesca alla Valsesiana - Continued from page 7

In 2010, Masami Sakakibara, recognized as the best tenkara fisherman in Japan, went to Italy to meet with the club members, hosted by Arturo Pugno, the club's president. There is a video [3] showing Sakakibara and Pugno fishing their respective methods in the Sesia river, not far from each other.

Marco Baltieri, one of the flyfishermen, has spent considerable effort researching flyfishing in Italy, which developed in the valleys of the Alps, and the information he found suggests very similar methods. He was able to find a number of paintings from the 1530's that showed Grayling, considered a noble fish, hanging from lines, and long rods being used [4]. The most interesting find was a land ownership map from 1775, which clearly showed an illustration of someone fishing with a long rod and line. There was also a fresco from 1538 showing a man holding a cane rod with a fish hanging from the line. He also found text from the 1480's describing 3-section rods. It is presumed that fishing was a matter of subsistence, and later also became a form of recreation.

Today, traditional Pesca alla Valsesiana rods are made by local custom rod makers. Similarly, the Horsehair lines are made by individual fishermen, or by local line makers.

Until recent years, Pesca alla Valsesiana was used by only a few fishermen in the Pesca valley, using techniques handed down to them by ancestors. With the spread of Tenkara internationally, some people have been interested in the Valsesia fishing method, and have traveled to that area in Italy to experience it.

Similarities and Differences

In looking at the two methods, one is struck by the clear historic similarities: the long rods of bamboo or cane with a fixed horsehair line attached to the end and the reverse-hackled flies. They are fished in a very similar fashion. In the setup of the fishing rig, the Italian method uses a brace of 3-4 flies of different colors, whereas tenkara typically uses a single fly. In the case of tenkara, there are also other types of hackles used besides forward facing: upright and swept back hackles. In both cases, Pesca alla Valsesiana and tenkara, only two or three materials are typically used to tie the flies.

Current Situation

As mentioned above, tenkara is being used by people in many countries. Now, with the rapid spread of information via the web, Pesca alla Valsesiana has become noticed by others. Some fishermen in Valsesia use tenkara rods for current technology, since there is not a large enough population of local fishermen to encourage the mainline rod manufacturers to supply them with traditional rods. Tenkara rods provide them with light, collapsible rods that are very similar in action to their traditional ones. The cross-fertilization of information between Japan and Italy has been remarkable, as evidenced by the many trips Sakakibara and others have made there.

If you have any questions about these two traditional methods, I would be happy to discuss them with you. John.Pellegrin@comcast.net

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Tenkara & Pesca alla Valsesia - Continued from page 8

References

1. Daniel Galhardo, Tenkara, Tenkara Press, www.tenkarausa.com/publishing, 2017.
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMGEBV77RI4> Scalvini explaining and showing Valsesia fishing. (Italian)
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBJaz8Ng1tA> Arturo Pugno and Masami Sakakibara fishing.
4. <http://www.moscavalsesia.it/photogallery-pesca-mosca-valsesia.php?album=La%20Storia> Historical paintings from the 16th and 18th centuries. Click on each one for information (Italian).

Conservation Committee Meeting

by Dave Fujiyama, VP Conservation

Our next Conservation Committee Meeting is on Monday, Jan 22, 2018 at Round Table Pizza, 8755 Sierra College Blvd, Roseville, CA, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM.

Agenda:

6:00 – 6:30 pizza meet-and-greet (GBF pays for the pizza!)

6:30 – 7:15 special guest speakers

7:15 – 7:30 informal chat with speakers

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

Conservation Committee Meeting - Continued from page 9

This evening's special guest speakers are Kelsey Westfall, Outreach Coordinator, and Alex Keeble-Toll, Program Manager for [The Sierra Fund](#). Their presentation will address the issue of mercury in fish, including:

- the history of mining and mercury in the region
- how mercury gets into fish
- how to make healthy fish consumption choices
- the Sierra Fund's Advisory Posting Protocol document outlining lessons learned and best practices for launching a fish advisory posting effort.

How Granite Bay Fly Casters can help:

- spread the word to the fishing community about mercury in fish and which fish are safe to eat
- volunteer for TSF's annual Post It Day event to post state-issued fish consumption advisories at regional water bodies
- reach out to state chapters of affiliated fly fishing organizations with the Advisory Posting Protocol to encourage advisory posting events in their region
- help catch fish to test for mercury, informing the development of site-specific fish consumption advisories for various lakes and rivers.

Looking to work off some holiday calories? Here's a **STEWARDSHIP** opportunity:

Owens River Annual Clean Up on Saturday, February 10, 2018. Meet at 8AM at [Pleasant Valley Campground](#) in Bishop, CA. [Driving directions here](#).

You'll help clean up the river. Bring gloves, waders, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a good sense of humor! Coffee and baked goodies for volunteers in the morning; lunch provided at noon. Loung Tam of Tenkara Tenuki, and Chris Leonard of Kittredge Sports in Mammoth will present a clinic on fishing with tenkara rods after lunch. Loaner rods will be provided, and the clinic is free. There will be a raffle for participants! For more information, contact Chris Leonard at 818-288-3271 (cell), or at Kittredge Sports 760-934-7566.

This event is NOT sponsored or endorsed by Granite Bay Fly Casters, but it is an opportunity to become a GBF ambassador by helping out our sister organizations!

**With the Holidays Behind Us,
It's Time to Think About Annual Dinner Tickets and Donations!**

The Granite Bay Flycasters Annual Dinner is always the biggest and best fly-fishing party around! We'd like everyone to join us for this wonderful and important evening. And, whether you can make the event or not, please consider donating something, fishing-related or otherwise, to help support the raffle... and your club...on this special night.



Here's everything you need to know about attending (and contributing to) this event...

- **Who:** Club members, friends, families, co-workers, neighbors...anyone who's interested in having a great time, winning great prizes, and supporting a great cause.

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Annual Dinner Tickets - Continued from page 10

• **What:** Fantastic dinner, massive raffle, outstanding auctions, plus...special guest speaker, Ken Hanley, who will share his professional fly-fishing photo techniques!

• **When:** Saturday, March 17, 2018. The festivities start by 4:30PM (bar opens at 4:30; dinner begins at 6:00), and the closing remarks usually happen by 9:00PM.

• **Where:** The dinner, raffle & auction will be at the Rocklin Event Center, at 2650 Sunset Boulevard in Rocklin. It's easy to find, and there's plenty of free parking!

• **Why:** Because you want an evening of fun, fellowship, and fishing stories—along with the chance to win thousands of dollars in fishing gear, trips, and other prizes.

• **How:** Buy your dinner tickets at the next club meeting, or just visit our website (www.gbflycasters.org) to buy tickets securely online. Tickets are just \$40 each!

Lastly...If you can't attend the dinner, please consider making a donation for the raffle or auction. If you can help, just contact John Hogg at JohnHogg3@gmail.com

Swap Meet Breaks Records and Chili King Crowned

John Hogg, Swap Meet Committee chair

Seventy attendees and 17 sellers made the Swap Meet a rousing success. Lots of rods and reels changed hands along with waders, flies, lines, nets, vests and tying vises, tools, and materials. Outside, there were a half dozen or so pontoon craft and a pram to choose from. My personal tally was three rods sold, and a beautiful Lamson reel and spool bought. One seller brought several brand new, vintage Hardy reels that he had purchased in England in the 1970's.

The food wasn't so bad either—the bargain price of \$1.00 bought donuts, orange juice, boiled eggs and coffee.

And now for the chili contest—with regret that I announce that once again my entry failed to garner enough votes. The box of 4 dozen flies and entry on the perpetual plaque went to **Doug Kytonen**—who incredibly— has won in previous years as well. Congratulations, Doug!

Dave Baker won the door prize—another box of 4 dozen flies!

Many thanks to my colleagues on the organizing committee who handled the setup, food and drink, and chili contest oversight: **Ron Fay, Eric Palmer, and Carol Tevlin.**



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Conservation Corner

Yellow Creek on the Rebound? by Dave Fujiyama, VP Conservation

The “ol’ timers” whisper about really big, spooky browns that haunted Yellow Creek in its meadow section. You’d hear something about keeping all your line on the bank, just letting your leader and hopper drop into the bubbly seam. They’d be saying something about being careful to not commit the sin of casting line shadow. You see the body language: the voices get a bit lower, there’s some lean-in like an NFL huddle, and then you hear, “REALLY?”

Yeah. No kidding. The trout in that meadow section are Casper-spooky, and some are sizeable, considering the small stream they came out of. And besides—It may be one of the most beautiful meadow streams in the area!

The ol’ timers say that all the big fish were either fished out, or went downstream when cattle were allowed to graze and trample the banks in the 1970s, and now there are only small 8-inchers left. I have



Yellow Creek’s meadow section



to admit: In the 15 years of fishing Yellow Creek, my catch rate confirms this. Little fish. Pretty water. Five-mile drive on dirt roads. Is it really worth it?

But wait!

In October, Michael Gervais joined up with an electroshocking team, led by DFW Environmental Scientist John Hansen, to sample the fabled waters. Lo and behold, there were some sizeable fish lurking in that small stream. The cattle are long gone, the willows have rebounded, there’s a streamside PG&E campsite, and there’s evidence that maybe I’m just not a good enough flyrodder to catch the big guys!

It seemed from the photographs that there were a lot of juveniles,

Michael Gervais with a 16+” brown electroshocked at Yellow Creek

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Conservation Corner - Continued from page 12

and a few large fish. What really interests me is the proof that there ARE sizeable trout in Yellow Creek. I think this upcoming summer I'll celebrate finishing my thesis with a pilgrimage to Plumas, and let those 16-inchers once again snub my fly! Fly fishing is all about tradition, right?

I started fishing Plumas area streams about 15 years ago with Gary, my older brother, and we were mesmerized by the elegant beauty of Yellow Creek: spring-fed, lollygagging across lush mats of aquatic weeds, with bankside grass tall and green enough even in early July to hide in. And then there are her multiple personalities: the meandering meadow section develops into freestone riffles and long runs, which in turn drops into a higher gradient steep-sided canyon, where the water dives under huge boulders flanked by clumps of rhododendron. If I were a rainbow, I'd hang there... unless there was a 16" brown gobbling my buddies!

Gary has always been an Energizer fishing bunny.

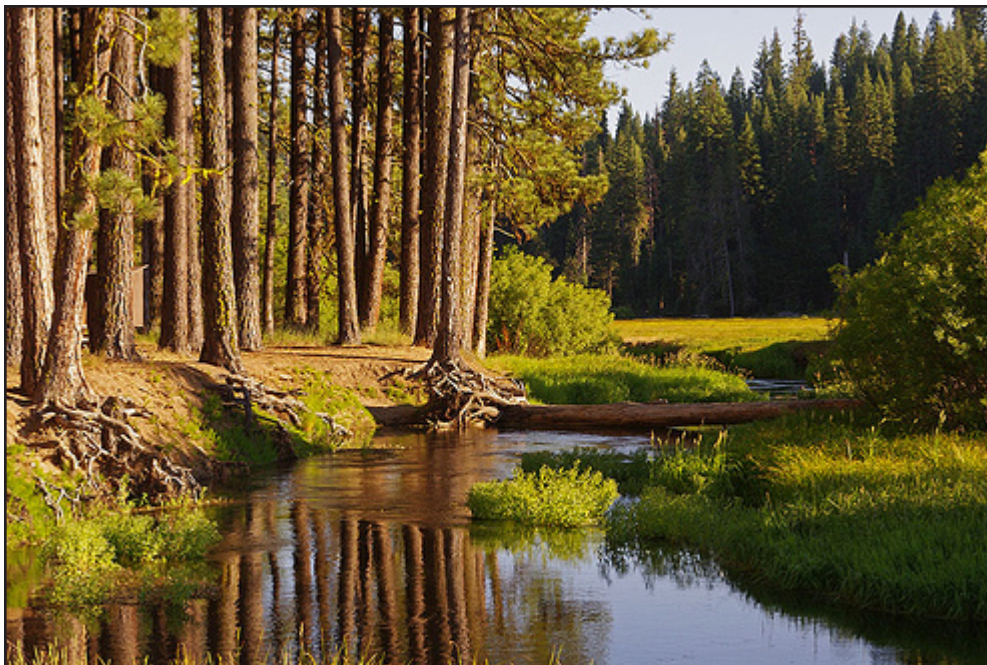
Always moving. Always casting. Hard core. Obsessed. "You can't catch fish if your line ain't in the



The crew uses electroshocking to assess Yellow Creek's trout population.

water." But later, his alter ego emerged: "You know, for the first time in my life, I feel like I don't need to be fishing every minute. It's kind of nice to just, you know, stand here, watch the water go by, think." That happened thigh-deep, mid-stream on Yellow Creek. She can be bewitching like that.

Thank you, Michael Gervais, for taking and sharing photographs, and for volunteering to help out on the electroshocking survey. You served as our GBF ambassador while bringing back some tantalizing shots. Your photos help me wrap my brain around the fact that all these years I've been casting over the heads of some decent sized fish!



Yellow Creek in falling light as it bypasses the P&E campground

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Conservation Corner - Continued from page 13



Another healthy brown...think how big he'll be when YOU finally get to Yellow Creek in summer!

Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner (Taken from the Article Written in January 2009)

Fly Patterns - Bill's Big Fish Fly



Bill's Big Fish Fly

Materials:

Hook:	Daiichi 1260, #6, 8
Thread:	Orange 8/0
Hackle post:	Tippet material, at least 3X
Hackle:	Furnace or brown dry fly quality saddle hackle
Abdomen:	Orange closed cell foam, 2mm thickness
Thorax:	Creamy orange Buggy Nymph dubbing
Underwing:	Orange crystal flash
Wing:	Burnt orange deer hair
Legs:	Pumpkin colored Sili-Legs

Description

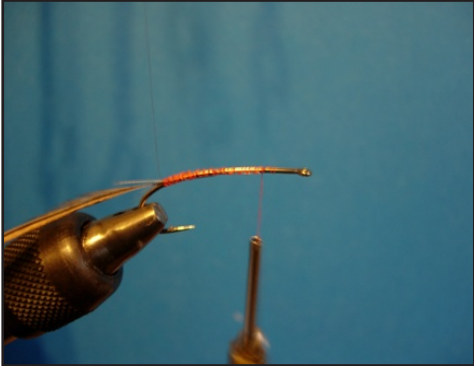
This fly is based on a pattern created by Al Beatty. He calls it the Hackle-Top Hopper. When I read his article in *Trout* magazine, I immediately tied a few and tested them out. My findings were that, tied correctly, the fly floats high, has great appeal to fish, and is very easy to see on the water. It worked well fished by itself, but I really liked it fished as the surface fly in a "hopper-dropper" setup. It can support a couple of flies and 1 or two split shot. I have never liked Stimulators for October Caddis adults (heaven knows I have used them for many years) because of the very unrealistic way that they sit up on the water surface instead of floating flush on the surface film as do October Caddis adults. The name I have given the much-modified fly is "Bill's Big Fish Fly." The reason is contained in the name itself. The fly is not overly difficult to tie, but it does require some intermediate tying skills.

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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.



Steps 1 & 2

1. Debarb the hook, place it in your vise, and cover the shank with thread.
2. Just above the back of the barb tie in a 12" piece of 2x or 3x monofilament. This will become the hackle post; we will wind the hackle around the monofilament. If you have a gallows tool with your vise, use it to hold the monofilament tightly in a vertical position. If you don't have a gallows tool, attach the mono to your light or figure out some other makeshift way.

3. At the same point, tie in a long furnace or brown saddle hackle. Wind it counterclockwise and upward around the mono in widely spaced turns; when you reach the 1" point begin winding downward in very close turns. If done correctly, this method will allow you to achieve 30-40 turns. This helps to provide flotation.
4. When you have reached the shank with the saddle hackle turns, tie off the hackle in front of the post. It helps to let your hackle pliers hang over the shank and release the tension on the mono. You can pull the mono/hackle backward and out of the way while you are tying the hackle down.



Steps 3 & 4



Step 5

5. Cut a 1/8" strip of orange 2mm foam, making a point at one end. Tie the pointed end in just ahead of the hackle post and move your thread forward to the 1/3 point on the shank.



Step 6

6. Wrap the foam strip forward in close, interlocked turns. Don't stretch the foam as it destroys its flotation qualities. Tie the foam off at the 1/3 point. This leaves the front 1/3 of the hook for the rest of the steps.

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7. Apply some Flexament to the top of the body, and then bring the hackle post over the body. Pull it tightly forward, making sure it is directly on top of the body. Tie it off at the 1/3 point.



Step 7



Steps 8 & 9

8. At the same point, tie in a small bunch of orange crystal flash. Trim it so that it extends just slightly beyond the hook bend.
9. Cut a small bunch of burnt orange deer hair, measure it to shank length, and tie it in at the same point, tips facing to the rear. Don't stack the hair.

10. Cut another, slightly larger bunch of the deer hair. Measure it so it equals approximately 1.5 times the length of the shank. Trim the butts even, and tie this bunch in directly behind the hook eye with the tips pointing out over the eye. Keep the hair directly on top of the hook. Wrap rearward, covering up all of the butts. Place a drop of superglue on the tied-down butts



Step 10



Step 11

11. Dub a thorax of creamy orange Buggy Nymph, leaving the thread at the 1/3 point. To achieve this you'll need to dub rearward from the hook eye to the 1/3 point.

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12. Gather up the second bunch of deer hair and pull it directly upward; make sure you have all of the hair, and smooth it out as much as possible. Bring it over the thorax, forming a nice bullet head. Make sure that there is no space left between the front of the bullet head and the hook eye.
13. Tie the hair down at the 1/3 point. As you do this, push the hair down at the tie-down point, in order to make the hair splay outward. Place a tiny drop of superglue at the tie-down point.



Steps 12 & 13



Step 14

14. Double a strand of pumpkin Sili-Leg material. Place it on top of the fly with the middle of its length at the wing tie-down point. Wrap 3 loose turns of thread over the leg material, and then cut the doubled loop. Pull one of the two sections down onto the far side of the hook, and the other onto the close side of the hook. Wrap the legs down tightly.

15. Whip finish between the legs and trim the thread. Apply glossy head cement to the top of the bullet head. This increases durability and provides a nice finish to the fly.



Step 15

Tying & Fishing Tips

1. When making the wing sections on this fly, don't stack the hair—it gives the wing a more natural profile.
2. Make a black stripe on the top of the wing, along the shank axis, using a black Sharpie.
3. Before fishing the Big Fish Fly, apply silicone paste to the entire fly. Use only a small amount. When the fly begins to lose its floatation, immerse it in floatant powder and rub the powder in with your fingers. It will float like a cork after this treatment.
4. I tie this same fly with an amber body to imitate a Golden Stonefly; all black to imitate a cricket; in yellow and olive to imitate a hopper; and with a yellow-olive body and black wing to imitate a Skwala Stonefly.

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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