

June 2020

http://gbflycasters.org

Leader's Line

by TinaLyn Sell, GBF President



Hello Members,

The park has opened, however, we have not been given the "all clear" to resume our meetings. As for now, the June Board of Directors and Club meetings will be held via Zoom. We will keep you up-to-date as we get information.

I often wonder how everyone is doing? The age range in this club varies so much, from those who have young children at home to those who, at heart, are still those young children. But, who would have ever thought this is the path their life would be on. With the opening of more businesses, please take the necessary precautions to continue to protect yourself and your loved ones.

And again, if you need to talk or need assistance, myself and other club members are here for you.

Be safe and fish on...

Virginia Lakes Fishout July 14 - 19, 2020

Flycasters, it is time for the annual Virginia Lakes trip (hopefully, the virus will continue to subside). We are looking at the 14th to the 19th. There will be a communal dinner on Saturday the 18th (possibly chili; sorry, but tacos are a little too much touching) for all who attend.

For those of you unfamiliar with Virginia Lakes, they are on the eastern slope of the Sierra, just south of Bridgeport off of Hwy 395, just 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 online, but unless there are cancelations, they will be gone. Only 2/3 of the sites are reservable, so 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, right next to a stream, and are free, but have no water and very limited bathrooms. There is very limited cell service in the entire area.

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

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Virginia Lakes Fishout - Continued from page 1

multiple lakes just 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 (not at all sure about whether it will be open) 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, including tubes and fins. 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 chili.

Michael Kaul <u>mikedkaul@gmail.com</u> (530) 677-8022 or cell (916) 337-5468



Annual Elections

The annual election of officers and directors takes place at the June general meeting. Below is a list of the positions to be voted on and the members who have been nominated.

<u>Nominated</u>
TinaLyn Sell
Eric Palmer
Ed Lloyd
Dave Fujiyama
Jerry Furlong
Bruce Emard
Joey Nizuk
Chris Kight
Brett McKague

Casting Challenges Completed

Over the past three weeks, **Rick Radoff** and **John Hogg**, GBF's casting co-chairs, have conducted several clinics introducing the Casting Challenge Program of the International Flyfishing Federation. (FFI)

There are 3 Challenges: Bronze, Silver, and Gold - each demanding a higher skill level of the fly caster, and including challenges of accuracy, distance, roll casting, shooting line, and several specialty casts.

We are very pleased to announce the Challenge accomplishments of members who have completed one or more challenge:

Michelle Davidson - Bronze

Terry Eggleston – Bronze and Silver

Paul Estridge - Bronze

Tom Ross - Bronze.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!!

The challenges are a pathway to improve your casting skills. If you are interested in finding out more about the program, please send an email to johnhogg03@gmail.com.



The Sparkle Dun

by Ron Davidson, Education Director

In an earlier article, I talked about how we are so lucky, as a club, to have a wonderful Fly Tying Education Program developed and led by **Jim Holmes**, and assisted by **John Peterson**. With the current issues surrounding the Covid-19 Pandemic, we have, temporarily, lost Fly Tying Jam, Fly Fishing 101, and the Fly Tying Class offerings. They will be back! In the meantime, there are some other excellent sources of tying guidance.

Earlier, I mentioned the YouTube offerings from Blue Ribbon Flies and The Slide Inn. Michelle and I have a trip to the Yellowstone area planned for this July (fingers crossed). For now, I have focused on one of my favorite tiers from that region, Craig Mathews of <u>Blue Ribbon Flies</u>.

I want to talk about one Particular Mathews fly, "The Sparkle Dun." The reasons:

- 1. It's a proven fish catcher
- 2. It's versatile
- 3. It uses minimal materials
- 4. Once you master a couple little steps, an easy tie.

The fly is tied in "Comparadun" style, with a half-moon shaped hair wing, and dry fly dubbing. Matthews made a couple subtle modifications that made the fly even more versatile. By using zelon to mimic a nymphal shuck, and provide a little sparkle backing to the wing, it can represent a struggling emerger as well as a dun. Another great attraction of the fly, for me, is that once you get the hang of the tie, all you have to do is change the color scheme and the hook size, and you can represent many different species, from a tiny #24 Blue Winged Olive, to a #10 Gray Drake with the same tying style. An added attraction is the fact that most of these flies are very effective fish catchers on our local rivers. Pale Morning Duns, Blue Winged Olives, Mahogany Duns, Green Drakes and many others can be represented by a Sparkle Dun, and are found in our local rivers like the Little and Big Truckee, Yuba, and American River Systems.



Mahogany Dun, Green Drake, Blue Winged Olive, Pale Morning Dun — all tied in "Sparkle Dun" style

So, pull out your vice, fire up the computer/phone/I-pad, go to YouTube and type <u>Craig Mathews/Sparkle Dun</u> in the search box and enjoy. You will find Craig's instruction clearly presented, easy to follow, and most videos are very short. You will need some good deer hair, zelon (antron works as well), and your favorite dry fly dubbing. Also, scroll through the YouTube offerings and you will find instructions on other Sparkle Duns. This is a great fly for those just starting out, and one experienced tiers can fill a box with in no time at all.

In another session, I hope to talk about another of my favorites, Kelly Galloup at The Slide Inn on the Madison River.

Until I get to see you at a meeting or on the water, stay healthy and safe.

The Wiggle Tail Fly

by Eric Palmer

In This article originally ran in the March 2017 issue of *The Leader*, but after some recent success with the fly on Rancho Seco, and with many new members who may not be familiar with such a simple concept, it's time to run it again.

Many of us find the Wiggle Tail a fascinating fly due to an utter simplicity that belies its deadly effectiveness on most of the lakes we frequent in Northern California, and I'm sure it will work on moving water too. One design of several available is typified by a recipe conjured up by master still water flyman and long-time GBF member, **Gene Goss**, after being exposed to the original and more substantial Wiggle Tail created by the late **Jay Fair** many years ago; more on that fly in a minute.



A Gene Goss Wiggle Tail

To say that Gene is a minimalist with his flies is a gross understatement, but he bases all his designs on many days, if not weeks, of experimentation and trial and error, and Gene has substantial dried fish stink on his net to prove his point. When honing a new idea, Gene fills a fish tank with water and repeatedly "swims" his new creation in the tank until he gets just the swimming action he seeks from both the tail and the body fibers. Gene told me he has discarded countless flies before he gets it just right. Previously, restricted to the "Secret

Flies" password protected area of the GBF website message board, Gene's Wiggle Tail recipe can now be revealed, thanks to the *Freedom of Information Act*. It goes like this:

Hook: TMC 2499 SP-BL Size 10, straight eye, 2x heavy, 3x wide.

Thread: 8/0 black.

Tail: Strung Marabou in black, olive, orange, or other color as desired. Use only the tips of the feather to keep the tail very thin.

Body: Blend black Seal Sub Dubbing and Peacock black Ice Dub together. Pick-out the dubbing for a "buggy" look, then trim it back some to make a small tight body.

UV: Ice Dub Shimmer Fringe in the color UV Pearl (Hareline Dubbin). Use a very small amount trimmed to 1/2 in. long at the base of the tail as a UV "hot spot."

An alternative to dubbing for Gene's fly is to use one of various forms of short shuck or chenille, and this

is not limited to the dark black/olive or peacock tones, but also effective is bright rust with tail to match, or mix up the colors. In fact, I had success a couple years ago on Rancho Seco with an all bright red Wiggle Tail with dubbed body of red "Lite-Bright" and black hackle collar, so go-figure. It all depends on the fish, and there's no telling what they'll be in the mood for on any given day, although there are some still water experts in our midst who staunchly maintain "any color as long as it's black," and they are consistently successful following their mantra.



A Classic Jay Fair Wiggle Tail

Gene tells us his inspiration for his ultrasparse, yet deadly fish catcher, was in fact the original Wiggle Tail fly introduced by **Jay Fair** in the 1980s, as typified by the photo. This one is with

Jay Fair short shuck, an early Jay Fair innovation. Gene was impressed with

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The Wiggle Tail Fly - Continued from page 5

its long and very "swimmy" tail, the Jay fair hallmark, which led him to further experimentation, mostly on Lake Davis where Gene fishes his designs with regular success.

I recently learned from Jay's son, Glenn, that the Jay Fair Wiggle Tail evolved from Jay's original "Wiggle Nymph" developed in 1976. This fly had a chenille Wooly Worm body with a short stubby 5/8 inch tail and palmered hackle. As Jay developed his now well-known "shuck" material (to mimic an emerging nymph "shucking" its case), the fly progressed through the 1980s to a shuck body with the inch-and-a-half wispy tail that we know today. The first national recognition attributing this fly to Jay Fair was in "Fly Fisher Magazine" in 1983 and again in 1988.



Translucent Swimming Hackle in size long

Over time, Jay would go on to develop other innovative tying materials, and in 2009 he introduced his **Translucent Swimming Hackle** at local fly shops. During the retrieve, the fine synthetic threads of this material create a natural swimming action that fish can't resist any more than a cat can resist a dangled string.

As I learned during a recent long phone conversation with Glenn Fair, the inspiration for this material followed Jay's 2009 chance encounter in a clothing store window with some fringe string material designed as embellishment for women's apparel. Jay tracked down the material source to a factory in the garment district in Milan, Italy. He obtained a small sample, and tied it to the shank of a hook. Swishing it around

in a large glass coffee pot full of water to test its swimming action, Jay found exactly what he'd expected, and was immediately convinced that he had a winner. Jay then purchased all remaining close-out remnants in several one-hundred pound bales. What color did it come in? Just one; pale blue. The Fair's immediately got busy with the same dying techniques they had mastered over the many years of dying their famous

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The Wiggle Tail Fly - Continued from page 6

marabou and hackle feathers to achieve the colors we see in this material today, with "buggy olive" being Glenn's clear favorite (olive with a hint of brown).

The Swimming Hackle comes in three sizes or thread lengths, micro (1/8"), medium (1/4"), and long (5/8"). The long size is typically used for a collar, and were anyone wanting to replicate Gene Goss's spartan Wiggle Tail using this material, the compact micro size would fit the bill. I'd also suggest watching this <u>Youtube video</u> for the proper way to tie in the swimming hackle, and in turn, how to tie his complete Wiggle Tail fly. It's not complicated. You can see in the photo above that there's a "set" to the threads, and it's made crystal clear in the video which end is up (or down).



Jav Fair "Kick Back and Cast"

This is Jay's "Kick Back and Cast" Wiggle Tail in full living color, and employs the medium size material on the body, with the long size as a collar. If you "swim" this fly on a length of tippet beside you as you sit in your float tube, the appeal of the fly as fish food is immediately apparent, with every thread and fiber "flapping in the breeze" like crazy. Jay also recommends picking out the material with Velcro, as you would standard dubbing, to further thin out the thread fibers to create yet more moving parts.

So, how do you fish Wiggle Tails? Most will use either an intermediate sinking line ($1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 ips), or a hover line (1 ips), depending on the lake and water depth, and of course, where you think the fish are holding in the water column. You make a cast of reasonable distance, if not as far as you possibly can, then either troll with a slow kick, or while stationary do a retrieve of varying length and speed. This is where experimentation and trial and error comes in until you find what the fish will respond to. It might be very slow 12-inch pulls followed by a several second pause for the fly to sink, or short and jerky movements, then pause, or something in between the two extremes. A method that



Mixing two colors can be effective. Here, olive and fiery brown wrapped side-by-side.

often works for many is to allow the rocking motion of the float tube and the warm sun on your face to lull you into a stupor such that your retrieve all but stops. You'll immediately know when it's "fish on" when the adrenalin snaps you to attention as you begin fumbling for line to regain control. Alternatively, pause your kicking and retrieve just long enough to chat with your float tubing partner over whether or not it's time for a lunch break. This has been known to work well too, but can take some practice, so be patient with yourself.

So there you have it, the full story of the humble Wiggle Tail. When you hit some still water this spring and summer, and should you have that OMG moment we've all had where you suddenly realize you've left all your flies on the table in the garage, just ask your partner, "Please ---, do you have a Wiggle Tail I can borrow?" It's likely the only fly you'll need.

The FFI Casting Challenges

The International Flyfishing Federation has created a series of Bronze, Silver, and Gold casting challenges. Each challenge consists of about 7 tasks that test accuracy, distance, off-shoulder casting, and several specialty casts.

Your Casting Co-chairs, **Rick Radoff**, and **John Hogg**, have implemented the program at club level, and we have already had some Challenges completed and awarded by members.

Our experience with the program so far, is that participation is far and away one of the most effective tools available for self-evaluation and improvement of one's casting skills. For casters who are self-taught, a little coaching may be needed to channel that experience into completing these challenges. But that is what Rick and John are here for.

The FFI Casting Challenges - Continued from page 7

Here is a summary of the Bronze Challenge:

- 1. Do a pickup/laydown cast with 40 feet of line extended.
- 2. False cast from a vertical to horizontal position, and deliver the fly at 40 feet.
- 3. Execute a 40 foot roll cast.
- 4. Execute an off-shoulder 40 foot roll cast.
- 5. Do a pickup/laydown cast and shoot to 45 feet.
- 6. Cast accurately to 4 foot targets placed at 20', 30', and 40'.
- 7. Complete a distance cast of 50'.

Please contact us at johnhogg03@gmail.com, if you would like to get involved.

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Eric Palmer, 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.

Jeff Tewksbury

Steelhead Trout Release

by Catherine Mueller, Green Valley Elementary School

Thursday, March 18, 2020 was a sunny day with a cool wind. At Sailor Bar Park, people were walking and fishing while responsibly practicing social distancing. Ducks and geese were calling to their partners, and song birds were singing as well. The cool water of the American River flowed gently past the gravel bar release site. My helpers for the release were my sons, Walden and Alex, since the school was closed and my students, who had studied and watched them develop from eggs to fry for the last 5 weeks, could not participate. Upstream of the release site, we could see the Nimbus hatchery fish ladder. As we approached the river, a goose flew up to a hole in the cliff on the opposite side of the river. He was talking loudly. Maybe his mate was using that hole as a nesting site?

I put my hand in the river. It felt cold, just like the water in our classroom aquarium. Earlier, we had transferred every small fish from the aquarium to a bucket for transport. We carefully searched through the gravel and under the filter mat. We found 28 healthy and lively trout.

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

Steelhead Trout Release - Continued from page 8



Transporting fry to the river

sad that I did not get to share this experience with all of you, but the fish are all safe in their new home.

Challenge: If you have access to a map of California, trace the journey of the little steelhead trout from the Nimbus fish hatchery (Hazel Ave) all the way to the Pacific Ocean and back. On their way back upstream, how many times must they choose the correct river to make it back to the Nimbus fish hatchery? Google Earth would be a great way to visualize their journey.

With clear plastic cups, we scooped up the little fry, wished them well and gently poured them into the American River. They looked tiny, but strong, swimming easily upstream to hold their place in the river rocks. They will slowly disperse to nearby hiding places and live here for one or two years, eating and growing. Once large enough, they will swim downstream and enter the Pacific Ocean. They will swim and eat in the ocean for up to three years, and then return to this same spot to lay their eggs, or enter the fish hatchery ladder and complete their life cycle.

Note to students:

I hope this description will help those of you that were concerned about the release of the fish. I am



Fry almost in their new home



Above: Steelhead eggs at time of delivery to our classroom. Note the 2 eyes in every egg.



Above: Alevin. First stage after hatching

Left: Fry swimming free in the river rocks.

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

Fly Patterns - Partridge and Orange Soft Hackle



Partridge and Orange soft Hackle

Materials:

Hook: TMC 3761BL or similar hook, #10, 12 **Thread:** Orange flat waxed, smallest size available **Body:** Orange flat waxed, smallest size available

Rib: Extra-fine copper or gold Wire

Thorax: Peacock Herl **Hackle:** Brown partridge

Head: Thread

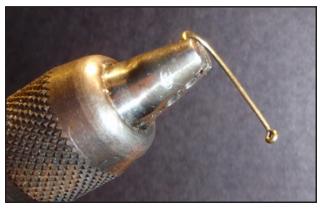
Description

"Old" flies—ones that have survived the test of time—tend to be simple, starkly sparse, and spot on when it comes to hooking up. The Partridge and Orange Soft Hackle ("POSH") is a perfect example of that paradigm. Handed down to us by our brethren across the pond, it has been attached to leaders here for many years. It is a consistent producer, ultra-simple to tie, and sleekly sparse in appearance. The history of this fly, and some tying information, can be found at the following link: http://flyanglersonline.com/features/oldflies/part374.php

I always have soft hackle flies in my working fly boxes, and the POSH occupies a prominent place among them. There are similar patterns out there, but the true original was constructed of just two materials (other than the hook): thread, and partridge hackle. Variants include a ribbed model, and one with a dubbed or wound thorax. The purpose of ribbing is, in my view, to give a segmented look to the body; the purpose of a thorax is to keep the hackle from flattening itself against the body while the fly is in the drift. There are other modifications out there, but for our purposes we'll just add the ribbing and the thorax, to keep things simple and sparse. Oh, and one more thing—we'll add some floss or silk for the body, instead of just using thread.

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.



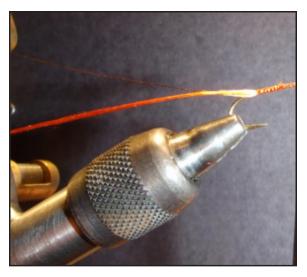
1. Smash the hook barb (unless you're using the barbless version of the 3761).

Step 1 Continued on Page 11

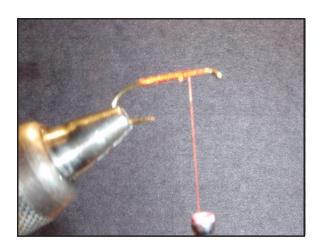
Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from page 10

2. Cover the shank with thread, leaving it at the rear of the hook, just above the hook point (note that this is different than where we'd normally stop; i.e., the normal stop point is the back of the barb).

- 3. Tie in a piece of fine gold or copper wire.
- 4. Tie in a 4" piece of orange floss or silk at the same point, and move the thread forward to the eye of the hook.



Steps 2, 3, & 4



Step 5

5. Carefully wrap the floss or silk forward to the front third point on the hook shank. Tie it off there and trim the excess. Rib the fly, using 4 or 5 wraps; tie off the wire at the same point and trim the excess. This completes the body. Leave the thread at the front third point.

6. a. For the thorax, tie in another piece of wire at the same point, along with two pieces of fine peacock herl (here it is important to use the extra-fine wire; otherwise, the herl will be overpowered). Twist the wire and herl together in a counter-clockwise direction, until you have a nice, tight herl chenille.



Step 6 a.

Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from page 11

6. b. Wrap the herl chenille around the shank, building up a nice thorax; leave plenty of room between the thorax and the hook eye for the hackle. Tie off the herl chenille and trim the excess.

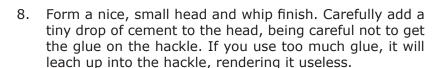


Step 6 b.



Step 7

7. At the front of the thorax, tie in a properly sized brownish partridge feather by its tip (see below under "tips" for feather preparation hints). Using your hackle pliers to grip the stem of the feather, take two turns of the hackle, tie it off, and trim the excess.





Step 8

- 1. To prepare the hackle, remove the fuzz at the base of the stem (don't cut the stem off). Then, using your tweezers, grab the tip of the feather and smooth back the barbules. It helps to moisten the feather a bit during this process. That exposes the tip for ease of tying it onto the hook.
- 2. When tying in the ribbing and the floss, tie them in at the front one third point on the hook and then wrap them down to the hook point. This will help in maintaining a nice flat, smooth body. Use as little thread as possible, and try not to overlap thread wraps.

Crank out a bunch if these puppies and fish them through riffles, run, and pocket water, and....

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



Granite Bay Flycasters 8757 Auburn Folsom Road, #2842 Granite Bay, CA 95746-9998

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 a \$12 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.

President - TinaLyn Sell

916-791-2752

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Please notify if address change

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

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