

# The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

August 2021

<http://gbflycasters.org>

## Leader's Line

by TinaLyn Sell, GBF President



Hello Members,

Our first in-person general meeting was a huge success. We had approximately 48 members in attendance and 16 members on Zoom. Your new Board of Directors were voted in, names and position are listed below. The Board has been busy scheduling club functions, including a Fall Picnic on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>—time TBD—and Annual Swap Meet, December 4<sup>th</sup>—time TBD. We are looking for a lead and volunteers for both functions. Drop me a line if you are interested in helping out.

With summer in full swelter, Mother Nature is having to work overtime to keep the water flowing for wildlife. We can do our part to help her out. Take time to refill bird baths or even a small bucket of water each day for the birds, squirrels and other little critters scampering about. I have several morning doves waiting on me each morning while I fill the bird bath in my front yard. It is a good feeling knowing I can help them have a better day.

Has anyone figured out what their new post-Covid "normal" is? We are all trying to adjust to the new "normal" of life. Please take the time to respect others and remember, each of us has had our lives turned upside down, some in more ways than others. Let's all try to be a caring human being in society. The next

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## Monthly Program

by Ed Lloyd, Program Chair

**Lance Gray** will be our speaker this month, and will give a presentation on "Fishing Valley Rivers."

Per Lance, "This presentation outlines what, when and how to fish Northern California Valley Rivers. The Lower Sac, Yuba and the Feather River are the best trout and steelhead fishing throughout the year, with fall and spring being the best months. I spend tons of time guiding and fishing all three of these rivers, and what you see during the presentation is what we are doing every day on the rivers. The presentation will cover flies, equipment and rigging."



Lance Gray

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| AUGUST 2021 |        |                                      |   |                             |        |                                |
|-------------|--------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| SUNDAY      | MONDAY | TUESDAY                              | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY                    | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                       |
| 1.          | 2.     | 3.                                   | 4.  | 5.                          | 6.     | 7.<br>Truckee River<br>Fishout |
| 8.          | 9.     | 10.<br>Board of<br>Directors Meeting | 11.   | 12.<br>Monthly<br>Meeting   | 13.    | 14.                            |
| 15.         | 16.    | 17.<br>Fly Tying Jam                 | 18.<br>Little Truckee<br>Fishout<br>Weber Lake<br>Fishout | 19.                         | 20.    | 21.                            |
| 22.         | 23.    | 24.                                  | 25.   | 26.<br>Knot Tying<br>Clinic | 27.    | 28.                            |
| 29.         | 30.    | 31.                                  |   |                             |        |                                |

*Leader's Line - Continued from page 1*

time you are out and about, give a smile or small head nod to another person, it might just help them get through their day, or they may pay it forward. Either way it is a win, and Karma will remember your thoughtful gesture and bring it back to you when you may need it.

My platform for this term is, *Leave No Trace*. It is a set of seven principles to help you minimize your impact on the outdoors. The principal I have written about is, "Plan Ahead." I bet you can guess why that would be important. Please give it a read, there will be a quiz at the next general meeting...

That is all for now. Stay cool and fish on...

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## North Yuba Fishout Report

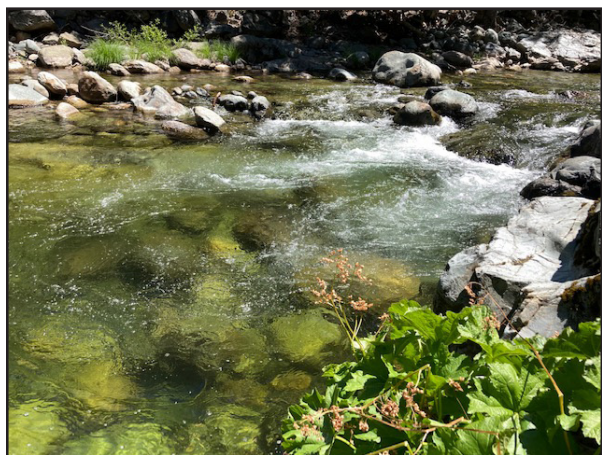
*by Eric Palmer*

Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, eight intrepid GBF members plied the waters of the North Yuba below Sierra City. Some of us made a weekend of it and fished Friday and Sunday, too. Some camped; some bunked in the hotel in Sierra City. This is a GBF annual summer event normally led by **Kim Lloyd**, who was forced to drop out on short notice, and I was able to fill in for him. Our club has conducted an annual outing up there dating back to the Bill Carnazzo's nymphing clinics in the early 2000s.

When someone speaks of fishing the North Yuba, it can mean many things. But, for us on our annual event, we focus on the official Wild Trout designated section just below Sierra City along Hwy. 49.



*Typical North Yuba picket water.*



*Wonderful pocket water everywhere.*

"Wild Trout" regulations here mean

artificials only with single hooks, no barbs, and a two-bag limit over 10 inches—otherwise, C&R. Of course, we're always catch and release. It also means no fishing pressure beyond your partners. I can't recall the last time I saw another angler up there, weekends included. The Wild Trout section runs an approximate five miles downstream in a steep canyon littered with ample cobbles and boulders ranging from soccer balls to Mini Coopers in size, with an occasional downed tree in the mix. This forces the river into exquisite displays of white froth and bubbling pocket water that just screams "Short-Line Nymphing." For me, the North Yuba's breathtaking beauty makes hooking a fish icing on the cake.

So, what about results you may ask? You generally do not fish this water for a 10-fish day (unless you're 25 and cover a great deal of water over a long day). And, the fish you do get will be small, typically under 10 inches, but 12 inches to low teens is not unheard of.

I fished with **Don Harris**, and I'd forgotten the deal we apparently made at the outset. He'd get his fish in the AM, while I settled for humiliation and self-doubt until lunch. But then, after lunch, to keep the universe in equilibrium, we'd rotate and I'd get the fish and Don would be content with hits and misses. And, of course, just to keep things interesting, we'd both periodically lose rigs to the bottom, followed by a timeout perched on a suitable rock re-rigging while absorbing the exquisite scenery through peripheral vision. I can think of worse ways to spend a day.

**Andy Jacobson** partnered up with **Rick Wiesner**, reported three-to-four investigative nibbles with one eye-to-eye fish in hand, as Andy described it. This was typical for all; bumps, grabs, a fish on for a few seconds, then slack. However, a few of us were rewarded with fish slime on our hands or net.



*Don's short-line lob to a target seam.*

**Vic** and spouse **Donna** teamed up with **Mike Kryss** and his spouse, **Elma**, to fish the excellent water below our usual lunch spot opposite Kokanee Cabins. Vic had an interesting story to tell from down there that goes like this: "After fishing the large pool, I observed that I was kicking up cased caddis larva on the bottom of

*Continued on page 4*

*North Yuba Fishout Report - Continued from page 3**Vic and Donna*

Yuba provides numerous examples this time of year. All you had to do was look for submerged rocks covered with casings, pick a casing up and this little fellow comes crawling out. The North Yuba can provide an exceptional day of first-hand entomology.

the pool. They floated downriver into the pocket water below the pool tail-out. It came to me that there must be fish down there feeding on these cased caddis larva. Combined with a big Elk Hair Caddis on top (dry-dropper style), I tied on my own bead-headed version of the bug as a point fly. After 3 long casts to finally get into the pocket, a 10 in. Rainbow was on my line. Bringing the trout up through the fast water was exciting and challenging, but I managed to bring him in. Upon tying on the fly, I notice that I had blood on my fingers from the hook. Maybe that was the magic potion that attracted the fish."

For those who have never seen a caddis larva hatching or venturing out of his little house, the North

*Add a bead head for Vic's cased caddis.*

Among the flies that worked, the cased caddis, a simple yarn imitation of the little fellow in the case in any shade of green to cream; Red Copper Johns; olive Gold Ribbed Hares Ear; and... "Bill's Hotwire Peatridge," as featured by Frank in the July *Leader*. That fly worked great till I lost it. Likely, any #14 or smaller nymphy-looking fly could have produced at least a grab or two. It's more about being where the fish are and presentation.

*The true meat of the matter.*

Along with the fishing and exquisite scenery on the river, camaraderie and becoming better acquainted with other members is always part of the deal on GBF outings. We make a point of a formal mid-day lunch break at a comfortable spot with no rush, as we compare notes and swap stories before heading out again for the afternoon.

Since a few of us were spending a couple nights, we reconvened later for leisurely late evening meals Friday and Saturday in Sierra City to continue the story telling.

Be sure to check the website fishout schedule next spring as 2022 dates start to firm up, and plan to join us for an excellent day or two on one of the most beautiful freestone streams California provides. You'll come away with some great photos and memories to show for it.

## Conservation Report

*by Ed Lloyd, VP Conservation*

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, as it has been quite warm and hot. I want to take a moment to review last month's article on Water Conservation, and just finish with a quick addition for this month. To begin with, it is indeed very warm down here in the Sacramento Valley, with few of us out fishing from say 12:00 noon to say 5:00PM, although I know there are a few of you. So, if you think it's rough down here, consider what is occurring up in the Tahoe area, particularly one of my absolute favorite rivers, the Big Truckee River and the Little Truckee River.

Last Wednesday, three of us were down on the Nevada side of the Truckee River, just down from Cabela's.

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Conservation Report - Continued from page 4

While we were fortunate to catch some trout, although not very big, we were off the river at 12:00 because the water temperature had reached 68 degrees, so we withdrew from fly fishing, at least for the afternoon until evening arrived.

Miles and Scotty, the two awesome young men who operate Trout Creek Outfitters in downtown Truckee, are urging anyone who fishes either the Big Truckee, or the Little Truckee, do get off the rivers the moment the water temp hits 68 degrees.

This concludes this month's article on Conservation. For more information on the two above rivers, here is Trout Creek Outfitters contact information.

Trout Creek Outfitters  
10115 Donner Pass Rd  
Truckee, California 96161  
1-530-563-5119  
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## Manzanita Lake Fishout Report

*by Michael Kaul, Fishout Leader*

It was another fabulous fishout at Manzanita Lake from June 8-13; quickly becoming one of my favorite places. Thirty-three GBF members attended all or part, including seven ladies, much to Sandy's joy. Most camped, but several did one of the cabins, and others got a motel room some distance away. The weather was very consistent (3 for 3) with our past trips to Lassen with snow, hail, rain, cold and thunder—everything except sunshine—but pretty well timed as far as not being too disruptive of daytime activities.

The chili dinner went off without any weather interruption. Special shout outs to **Dave Fujiyama, Steve Anderson** and **Michael Gervais** for their clean up after, and to **Lester/Bill** for making cornbread (which Sandy and I forgot to make). The ladies had a great time out hiking to King's Creek Falls, Mill Creek Falls as well as a few turns around the lake, and a great trip to Burney Falls (an incredible sight). There were a couple of bike rides around the Manzanita area and near Burney Falls. Very beautiful surroundings! Other folks focused on fishing for the beautiful wild browns and rainbows in Manzanita. The fish did not disappoint with their beauty and size. They were broad shouldered, very colorful and most in the 16-20" range. I look forward to next year and doing this again. I hope you can join us.

## Leave No Trace, Plan Ahead

*by TinaLyn Sell*

If I asked you to go on an adventure with me, but refused to tell you where we would be going, what would your reaction be? There is nothing worse than being on a trip and realizing you are unprepared. Whether it is shortage of food or improper clothing, you are putting not only you, but others at risk. Park Rangers have many stories of adventurous humans, who for one reason or another, have decided to go into nature knowing nothing about the area, weather, or the type of equipment they may need. This usually results in miserable humans and damage to nature.

Properly planning your trip will ensure the safety of yourself, others in your group, and those you meet along your trek. Practicing *Leave No Trace* principles will help minimize damage to nature and the surrounding resources. This will allow you to enjoy, learn, and take in the beauty of nature.

There are several elements to consider when planning your trip.

- What are your expectations during the trip?

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*Leave No Trace, Plan Ahead - Continued from page 5*

- What is the skill level and ability needed for the trip, and how do they compare to those in your group?
- What is the average hiking speed of the group, not just you?
- What will you or the group be having for meals and snacks?
- What equipment and clothing will be needed for the trip?
- Are there any water sources along your path?

Be sure to plan activities to match the expectations, skills and abilities of yourself and others with you. Gather as much information about the area you will be in, weather, terrain, and elevation change, just to name a few. Then, decide how many miles the entire trip will be, and how many miles you plan to trek each day. It is important you are consuming enough calories for the journey. When packing your food, use sealable bags to reduce the bulk of commercial packaging. This will also reduce the amount of garbage you will need to pack out. For cooking, two small backpacking stoves will accommodate numerous people, and cooking over a campfire may not be possible in some areas; plus, you want to be practicing *Leave No Trace*. Do not forget the most important item, water, and a water purifying system. It is important to know how much water you will need and the water sources available to you during your trek. Water can be the heaviest item in your pack, so you will want to limit the amount you carry at a time.

These are just some basic things you need to know to be prepared. See if you can think of a few more.

Most importantly, if you are a veteran hiker, but you are taking a friend who has only gone on a few moderate 3–5 mile hikes with no overnight camping, think twice before asking them to go on a 2-day trek, covering 20 miles with a 25 lbs. pack on their back.

Being unprepared puts everyone and everything at risk. It just is not worth it.

Be sure to look for next month's article on, Travel & Camp on Durable Surface.



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## Lower Sacramento River with Guide, Mike Bean

*by Chris Kight*

I love learning new things. I'm still fairly new to fly fishing, and it's clear to me that this is a sport (lifestyle) that is a never-ending learning experience.

After getting to know GBF member and driftboat River Guide, **Mike Bean**, I decided that my first-ever guided trip would be with him.



Mike guides in Northern California in the winter/spring, and in Idaho in the summer/fall.

He has a great variety of clients: famous personalities, government leaders and more pedestrian fellows like me. It's my experience that he treats them all the same—100% great service, friendly companionship and instructing/teaching/mentoring/guiding when needed.

We arranged a float trip from downtown Redding, downstream through two sections of the Lower Sac on 26 May.

After a 2 ½ hour drive, and because I was a bit early, I walked down to the river. I saw a couple of small trout jump and an osprey. It was a beautiful morning on the river.

We left my car at the put-in, and trailered the boat upriver to launch at the Aoki Way Boat Ramp, just upstream from the

famous Sundial Bridge.

After launch, we bypassed the spawning area that was closed to fishing, and Mike "parked" under the Highway 44 Bridge in the shade and rigged up. He prepped 3 rods so that, if I got a bad tangle, he could just hand me another rod, keep fishing, and handle the tangle later on.

I have only a small amount of experience with nymphing or fishing dry flies, and when I saw him rigging the line with an indicator, some split shot and then a fat nymph and then TWO additional small nymphs below that, honestly, all I could see was tangles in my future. I had no idea how to get this gear cast to the right spots. First instruction, "Don't worry about it, most of our fishing today won't be far from the boat, and I'll put us in the right locations," and accompanying that, some basic casting instructions and some practice. Right away he had me casting far enough to be effective.

We drifted the juicy looking edges and runs and such, and he kept up a flow of information about the various parts of the river and why they would be good spots to produce fish. We didn't fish a single part of the river without some valuable chat about why that particular place could be successfully fished.

He helped me learn how to cast to the right spots and get the right drift. This was a great tutorial on mending as well. When I got it right, "That's perfect, now let it ride," or "Now do a big mend and let it drift." He knew my inexperience and kept ahead of my learning curve for this kind of fishing without making me feel inept (thanks Mike).

I soon hooked-up and easily landed a very pretty 11-inch trout. I was happy with this beginning, and Mike looked at the little thing kind of disdainfully, looked up at me and said, "That will definitely be the smallest fish we catch today."

I had, of course, read about and heard about large fish in this part of the Lower Sac, but well, you know, "fish stories," right?

Er...NOT just fish stories—there are monsters there.

*Continued on page 8*

*Lower Sacramento River with Guide, Mike Bean - Continued from page 7*

Soon, I **HOOKED UP**. This, to me, was the leviathan of the depths. You grey-beard flyfishers who have been fishing all your lives know what I was experiencing with the first truly large trout I'd ever hooked, but this was all new to me. From what we could see, and the runs this fish was taking, Mike estimated it at about 24 inches. I had never had a fish on a fly that was anywhere NEAR this size!

Mike got excited, I got excited, and was able to play it for a few minutes. But, not having ANY experience with fish of this size, and after it broke the line (3x tippet), we had a talk, and I realized that I had to learn to play the fish and tire it out so it could be landed. But this was a big darned fish, and my heart pounded with excitement.

I also learned that hooking a big fish and landing it are two completely different skills, and I had a lot to learn.

When it broke off, Mike was more disappointed than I was because he REALLY wants his clients to catch every fish they tie into. (Did I mention what a great guide he is?)

After a nice break for lunch, anchored against the eastern shore, feeding bits of bread to a neighborly Mallard, we pushed off for more. There are a great many parts of this large/deep/fast river that are holding areas for fish, and we fished many of them. It was slow fishing, but, after another hour or so, I hooked up again. This one fought well, and I did better at managing its surges and runs and attempts to go deep. It wasn't the size of the "freight train" that I hooked into earlier, but was more manageable for me. I did better, and we landed a 17" rainbow that was my personal best trout (I've only been fly fishing for about 1 1/2 years, and most of my outings have been with Tenkara gear), and I was super excited to have done everything right, as well as having more adrenaline and exhilaration. Man, this is fun!

After a quick photo and a clean release, off we went for more.

Mike is a great guide. If the bite is a little slow, he doggedly pursues all possible opportunities, switches up the fly, the approach, the drift and does everything he can to put you on the fish. He is extremely focused and, while he's friendly and chatty and enjoying the camaraderie, you know that he's always plotting, planning and strategizing to ensure that you have a super great experience and have success on your trip.

With Mike, by the end of the day, you'll have the feeling that you have a new "best friend" (don't tell my best friends: **John Pellegrin**, **John Hessel** or **Dave Fujiyama**, ok?). Of course, he treats all of his clients that way. So, everyone, get to know Mike Bean, the best friend you'll ever have while floating down the river in search of big trout!

I missed a couple of bumps and learned to really focus and USE that indicator and, after a couple of slow hours, I was getting much better at getting a nice drift along some deep sections between large ledges and BAM—big hookup.

After the experience of the first one and, while keeping tension on the rod, I let it take a bit of line and got it onto the reel so the drag would allow some line take without breaking it. I may have let it have too much line, and it swam HARD upstream (with Mike madly rowing to keep up with it) and it found the bottom, got the line wrapped around something, and that was all there was to that. I did get to play it for quite a few minutes, and it was another very large fish. When it broke-off, we both moaned a bit (because that's what we do, right?), but it was lots of fun just to have it on the line and fight it. I was shaking a bit after that excitement, and determined to try again, knowing that sooner or later, I will get to land one of these beasties.

All 4 fish that I hooked took the bottom nymph. Two were on a 3 nymph setup, and one was two nymphs underneath a large dry (that also served as the indicator).

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*Lower Sacramento River with Guide, Mike Bean - Continued from page 8*

We fished for awhile longer and, being about 45 minutes upstream from the takeout, we still had a stretch to travel, and it was time to get off the water and head home.

We were on the water for about 8 hours total. I headed off home and got there at about 9:15 for a 13-hour day, tired but super-stoked-happy from a great adventure with a wonderful and knowledgeable guy.

Mike has a LOT of knowledge and experience; what has worked in the past, what MIGHT work today because the moon is waning, the water is 53 degrees, less than 30% of the sky is covered in clouds, the fisherman has a red colored shirt, had oatmeal for breakfast, has his "golden trout" pin on his hat, is 6 feet tall, parts his hair on the right side, has his lucky rabbit's foot, there are no bananas in the boat and the fish are acting fidgety. You know—fishing science! Or, as close as fly fishing comes to science, anyhow. It seems to me that **experience** is the stock-in-trade of a good guide.

That night as my head hit the pillow for a well-earned sleep, my last thought was recalling the strength and vitality of that huge trout on the 7 weight rod, and wondering how I'm going to be able to meet up with Mike in Idaho and fish some of those famous rivers that have abundant trout.

Thanks Mike.

## Fly Fishing England's Chalk Streams - Then and Now Dry Flies vs. Nymphs ~ Part One of Three Parts

*by Eric Palmer*

American fly fishers should know that the sport of fly fishing, as we know it today, originated in England in the early-to-mid-19<sup>th</sup> century at the hands of a number of innovative fly fishing pioneers. While there were way too many contributors to address here, among the more prominent names were James Ogdan, George Selwyn Marryat, **Fredrick Halford** (1844-1914) and **George Edward McKenzie "G.E.M." Skues** (1858-1949). With little effort, an inquisitive angler will find volumes written about the contributions of these pioneers to the sport. But, for our purposes here, the focus will be on the latter two, Fredrick Halford and G.E.M. Skues, who were, respectively, and quite famously, at opposite ends of the dry fly vs. nymphing continuum.

### **Dry Flies vs. Nymphs – the Developing Schism**

Before we can fully appreciate modern day British fly fishing regulations and practices, we should understand how they got to where they are today. The art form of fishing with both dries and nymphs came to full bloom in England in the 1880s, but with a major divide gradually developing between practitioners of the floating vs. subsurface presentation. The latter being considered abhorrent by **Fredrick Halford** and his growing cadre of devout followers, while **G.E.M Skues** amply and eloquently demonstrated that nymphing sub-surface was not only much more productive, but required considerable, if not more, skill and knowledge than executing an exquisite dry fly presentation. By the turn of the century, both camps were firmly entrenched and immovable from their positions.

In 1886, Halford published his hugely popular *Floating Flies and How to Dress Them*, which dealt with all facets of fly tying, from dying feathers to the various techniques of attaching feathers and hackles to the hook. In his last chapter, however, what would become Halford's "line in the sand" appeared. In the interest of brevity, the quote is substantially reduced, but still conveys his sentiments:

*To define dry fly-fishing, I should describe it as presenting [...] the best possible imitation of the insect [...] in its natural position. [...] It is necessary, firstly, to find a fish feeding on the insect; secondly, to present a good imitation in size and color; thirdly, it is necessary to present him in the natural position, or floating on the surface with wings up, or "cocked"; fourthly, to put the fly lightly on the water, so that it floats accurately over him without drag; and fifthly, to take care that all these conditions have been fulfilled before the fish has seen the angler or the reflection of his rod.*

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*Fly Fishing England's Chalk Streams - Continued from page 9*

In 1889, Halford's second book, *Dry Fly Fishing in Theory and Practice*, would receive even greater acclaim than his earlier work, and contained this statement to further remove any lingering ambiguity on his position:

*The purists among dry-fly fishermen will not under any circumstances cast except over rising fish, and prefer to remain idle the entire day rather than attempt to persuade the wary inhabitants of the stream to rise at an artificial fly, unless they have previously seen a natural one taken in the same position.*

— F.M. Halford - *Dry-Fly Fishing in Theory and Practice*, 1889

Over his remaining years until his death in 1914, Halford would publish another five well-received books while vigorously maintaining his firm position on the superiority of dry fly fishing, all the while acquiring an ever-larger following, in spite of the much lower catch rate compared to wet flies. This was very likely the result of his masterful writing and his compelling arguments which convinced many British fly anglers, if not many Americans too, to follow him to the seemingly moral high ground.

### **Enter G.E.M Skues:**

But, there was dissent in the ranks. Foremost among the dissenters was the equally talented fly fisher, gifted communicator, passionate nymphing advocate and successful attorney, G.E.M Skues.

British fly fishing historian, Dr. Andrew Herd, said the following of Skues:

*G.E.M Skues was, without any doubt, one of the greatest trout fishermen that ever lived. His achievement was the invention of fly fishing with the nymph, a discovery that put a full stop to half a century of stagnation in wet fly fishing for trout, and formed the bedrock for modern sunk fly fishing. Skues' achievement was not without controversy, and provoked what was perhaps the most-bitter dispute in fly fishing history.*

While being an accomplished dry fly angler in his early years, but based on keen observation and experience, Skues became increasingly convinced that there was much greater opportunity for hooking fish sub surface. In the late 1880s, he netted a fish on a dry fly and was surprised to find its mouth full of green insects he would later realize were pre-emergent Drake mayflies. In 1891, he had a chance meeting on the river bank with Halford himself, but was a bit put-off when Halford proceeded to tell him which (dry) flies he should use. Skues continued with his subsurface technique that day and handily out-fished the grand master. This experience gave Skues the self-confidence to further buck the dominant dry fly trend, redoubling his efforts to study bug life under the film, and to develop flies that imitated emergers. He soon concluded that when there were bulging rises but no visible insects, the fish were feasting on emergent nymphs.

In 1910, Skues published his first book, *Minor Tactics of the Chalk Stream*, and it was "game-on" in his philosophical battle with the dry fly master, Halford. His book title was intended tongue-in-cheek, since his nymphing tactics were in fact not "minor" in his view. They represented a major game changer in fly fishing, whether on the mild southern chalk streams or faster waters to the north, and he had set out to prove that his nymphs were, in fact, more effective on Halford's home waters, a concept that Halford and his devotees would find most objectionable.

In 1921, Skues published his second book, *The Way of a Trout with the Fly*, which is considered one of the greatest works on nymph fishing by any author. Here, Skues introduced his new idea of what he called "kick" from the proper implementation of a soft hackle to give the fly life. If you look online at a soft hackle tied in the Skues manner, you will notice that the hackles stand out almost at 90 degrees, rather than tightly swept back, giving them additional room to move as the fly "swims," imparting a more life-like action.

*Continued on page 11*

*Fly Fishing England's Chalk Streams - Continued from page 10*

Although Skues' certainly had attracted many loyal adherents, the dry fly "Halfordian School" of fly fishing would retain a tight grip on fly fishing in Britain over the first third of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond, in spite of Skues' best and highly articulate efforts to turn the tide.

Next month we'll learn the structure of a chalk stream and why they're so special. We'll also learn, with help from an actual British angling expert who calls County Hampshire home (very close to prime water), how nearly all British chalk streams became private and exclusive for anglers seeking what British anglers consider true game fish.

## Knot Clinics

*by Jim Degnan, Knotmaster*

It's been said that "Friendship isn't one big thing, it's a million little things." Thus it is with fly fishing. One of those critical, though little things is the knots you use to tie on flies or join materials. Presentation is everything until you lose a fish because you used a weak, or poorly tied knot; and it was the only fish of a very long day. Goodbye winner, hello skunk. We've all been there.

Granite Bay Flycasters offers a variety of knot clinics, ranging from people just learning to fish, the experienced bait/lure caster, and the flycaster needing a tune-up or wanting to learn the latest and greatest knot.

**"Basic Knots for Beginning Flycasters"** is an introduction to knots used to tie on the fly, join two lines or make some loops. When and where to use the knots is part of the session. Time is set aside for practice sessions.

The clinic is best done in-person. The leader demonstrates the knot, and then the participants copy the leader's moves. Finally, the participant ties the knot on their own with some coaching from other leaders. There is generally a **"Follow-up Clinic"** to reinforce what was learned in the first clinic and allow for guided practice.

**"Tune-up and General Review of Standard Knots"** is geared toward the more experienced fisherperson, whether a bait/lure caster or an experienced long-time flycaster. These people generally have a basic set of knots they use, but would like to increase knot tying speed or learn better knots for different applications. This clinic follows the same format as the "Basic Knots" clinic.

For more details contact me, Jim Degnan ([jd293@comcast.net](mailto:jd293@comcast.net)), or sign up on the GBF Message Board under the Education/"Knots Clinic" topic. Once we have enough participants for either or both clinics, we will schedule meetings.



*Can you tie this fast in 5X and do you really need to? Join a clinic and find out.*

**Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner**  
(Taken from the Article Written in August 2012)

## Description

Last month, while discussing the addition of a soft hackle to my short line rig, I mentioned that the Dark Lord is one of the flies that I use a lot as the dropper fly on the rig. For me it is a "go to" pattern especially when things get tough and the fish seem to have lockjaw. The Dark Lord will often produce results when nothing else works. About 6 weeks ago I was fishing on the Upper McCloud, trying to determine whether or not to take my next day's guide clients there. I fished through the morning with fairly good results using a Golden Stonefly nymph as a point fly, and a Prince Nymph on the dropper, but most of the fish were small resident trout, 8-12" in length. I resisted the urge to change to a dry fly despite the fact that fish were rising sporadically throughout the reach I was fishing—I was doing fine with the nymphs so there was no reason to mess with success. During a drift in a particularly lovely spot, my fly got caught on an Elephant Ear sprout. When I reached down to unfasten it, I noticed that there were small black stonefly nymphs on the stems of many of the Elephant Ear sprouts. Bingo!! I replaced the Prince Nymph with a size 14 Dark Lord, and added a Dark Lord tied soft hackle style as a trailer (3rd fly). For the next two hours I hooked and landed trout on every 2nd or 3rd cast, a good number of which were over 16"—all of them on either the dropper or the soft hackle. I took pictures of the most colorful and largest specimens, and decided to call it good at around 4:00 p.m. On the trail back to the car I met up with two friends from Dunsmuir, who had been fishing downstream of where I was. Their experience was similar to my morning results. When they asked how I'd done, I let the pictures speak for themselves. They immediately recognized the fly stuck in the jaw of some of the fish, and muttered something about wishing they'd thought of that. Just in case, I handed them a couple of extras, and bid them adieu.

There are many lessons buried in that little vignette. A couple of the more obvious ones: First, be very observant when you are on the stream. Things can change as the day progresses; fish eager to take, say, a Red John in the morning may not give it the time of day in the afternoon, or even a few minutes later. Abrupt changes like that are a red flag—something is going on beneath the surface. Look on and under the rocks, watch for surface activity, shake streamside bushes, drag a stick out of the water—in other words, think outside the fly box and don't stick with the "usuals." Practice awareness as a tool and it will, over time, become a ticket to success. Second, be willing to change when you recognize something is going on with the fish—even if you don't know what that something is. Change something—add weight, back off a bit, use a finer tippet, change flies, whatever. Third, even if you see surface activity don't assume that the fish are taking adult insects from the surface. Chances are they are not doing that—rather, they are taking nymphs, emergers or cripples in or just below the surface film. You will generally catch far more fish if you resist the urge to tie on a dry fly, and stick to nymphs and soft hackle flies.

So, let's look at how to tie the Dark Lord. Incidentally, this pattern was originated by Ron Hart, a long-time Upper Sacramento and McCloud River guide, and a practical, inventive tyer. Instead of laying out the list of materials, detailing the tying steps, and taking the tying-step pictures, this month I'm going to simply refer you to an excellent [YouTube video](#) on the [In The Riffle](#) website.

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

## Granite Bay Flycasters Classifieds

*To place a classified ad, you must be a member in good standing of the Granite Bay Flycasters. Classified ads will run for only one issue of The Leader, unless the seller requests it to run longer. Submit your listing to: [editor@gbflycasters.org](mailto:editor@gbflycasters.org). All ads must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the following month's Leader.*

## Granite Bay Flycasters

**Mission:** The organization is dedicated to conservation of fish habitat, advancement of the art of Fly Fishing, and good sportsmanship.

**Meetings:** General club meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Granite Bay Activities Center on the shores of Folsom Lake. For directions, check <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 Mike Bean at 208-244-1153, or visit the website at <http://gbflycasters.org>.

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

Please notify if address change

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