

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

February 2021

<http://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by TinaLyn Sell, GBF President



Hello Members,

It is time to start thinking about a new and exciting year full of opportunities. How about a drift boat rowing clinic with **Mike Bean**, or a backpacking fishout in the Mammoth Lakes area? Better yet, what about a fishout at French Meadows? Or, you can choose to go with a couple of ol' time favorites, Manzanita Lake and Virginia Lake. Personally, I am doing them all. Last time I checked, mother nature's Covid test was negative. It is time to make a commitment to visit her and breathe in some fresh air. It is time for some happy in our lives. What can I do to help you get motivated?

Time Extensions Granted for Annual State Park Passes

The California State Parks Department has granted a 3-month time extension for park passes that expire between March 2020 and April 2021. For example, a Golden Poppy pass purchased in December 2019 would ordinarily expire December 31, 2020. But, the extension will push back the expiration date by 3 months; hence, this pass now expires the last day of March 2021. The time extension was granted because park facilities were shut down between March and June of 2020 due to Covid-19 concerns.

This extension applies to these annual passes:

- California Explorer Vehicle Pass
- Golden Poppy Vehicle Pass
- Tahoe Regional Day Use Pass
- Historian Passport Day Pass
- Boat Use Annual Pass
- Oversized Vehicle Pass
- Off Highway Vehicle Day Use Pass
- Limited Use Golden Bear State Pass

GBF Education Update

by Ron Davidson, Education Director

After taking December off, **Fly Tying Jam** with **Jim Holmes** will be back at it again via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month. Check out the "Message Board" for details.

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F E B R U A R Y 2021						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1.	2.	3. Fly Tying Jam via ZOOM	4.	5.	6.
7.	8.	9. Board of Directors Meeting via ZOOM	10.	11. Monthly Meeting via ZOOM	12.	13.
14.	15.	16.	17. Let's talk Fishing via ZOOM	18.	19.	20.
21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.
28.						

GBF Education Update - Continued from page 1

Look for **Lets Talk Fishing**, with **Gene Goss** via Zoom on Wednesdays. Gene lines up a new and interesting topic each week, and often includes films and/or guest speakers.

A new clinic for GBF, **Drift Boat Rowing**, with **Mike Bean** will be heading down the river in February. Check out the article in the January issue of *The Leader* and the Club Message Board. As of this printing, seven members have signed up for sessions. Contact Mike and get on the list for this great new opportunity.

Jim Degnan led two **Knot Tying Clinics** in January. If you missed them, watch for announcements, as more clinics will follow.

Victor Maiello has put together a number of avenues to get Fly Tying, Knot Tying, Fly Casting, and Literature signed remotely on your quest to meet **Golden Trout** requirements. Check out Victor's updates in *The Leader* and on the Message Board.

Look for updates on all clinics in *The Leader*, on the Website Calendar, and the Message Board.

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.

Good Reading – Something a Little Different

by Ron Davidson, Education Director

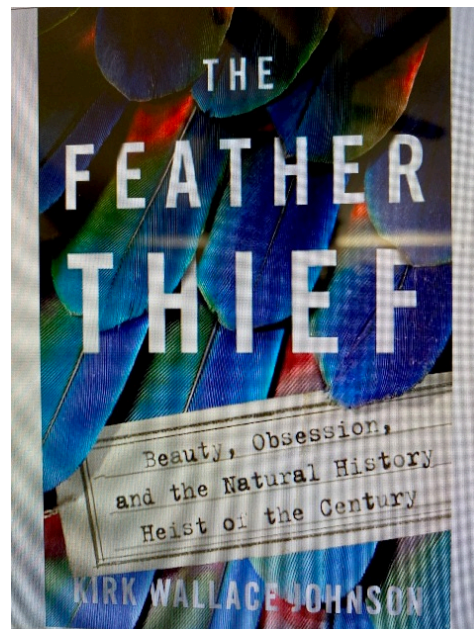
I am a pretty avid reader, and since isolating at home has created a lot more down time, I appreciate a good book, or books, more than ever. So, I thought I'd pass along a couple of titles that have captured my interest, and happen to be related to our sport of Fly Fishing.

THE FEATHER THIEF: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century

by Kirk Wallace Johnson

Although a true story, "The Feather Thief" reads like a good mystery novel. A young man, an accomplished concert flautist by the name of Edwin Rist, breaks into a branch of the British Natural History Museum in the town of Tring, and successfully steals a priceless collection of rare and exotic bird pelts. He plans to use these beautiful skins himself to tie flies, and to sell them on the open market to fly tyers of exotic show flies.

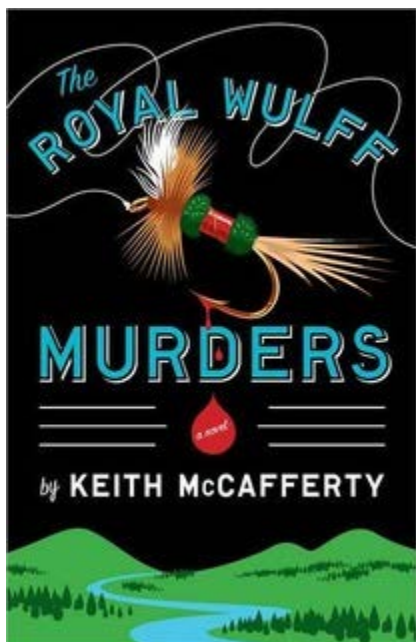
A salmon fisherman in the United States hears of the heist, and becomes obsessed with tracking down the culprit. As the story progresses, you learn about these gorgeous birds, mostly from Indonesia, and of the scientists that discover and classify them. The reader is also taken through the unsavory world of exotic fly tiers, going to no end to get their hands on the beautiful feathers, endangered species or not. These tyers are not fishermen! It is my belief that our fellow fly fishermen are among the world's most environmentally conscious sportsmen, something I take pride in.



THE ROYAL WULFF MYSTERY SERIES

by Keith McCafferty

I was never a fan of mystery novels, but I discovered this fly-fishing themed series by Keith McCafferty, a Bozeman, MT resident, and I was "hooked." I read all seven of them, and now I'm a bonafied mystery lover. The series begins with "The Royal Wulff Murders," and ends with "A Death in Eden."



This purely escapist series follows the exploits of Sean Stranahan, a sometimes artist, private eye, and fishing guide. Stranahan manages to get himself involved in some very convoluted murder cases, then endeavors to unwind them with the help of a small group of friends, including a Native American officer in the Montana Game and Fish Department, the local Sheriff, Martha Ettinger, and his rough and tumble best friend, river guide Rainbow Sam—a crew you become very familiar with as you read the entire series. If you have traveled and/or fished in Montana, you will appreciate how the history, geography, and fly fishing in the Madison Valley are intertwined into the plots. This point really resonated with me. Three years ago, Michelle and I, along with some close friends, had an opportunity to take a four-day float/camp trip on Montana's pristine Smith River. Upon returning home, I picked up "A Death in Eden," and to my surprise, the entire story was centered on a mysterious murder that took place as a group floated the Smith!

All of these selections are readily available online; I downloaded them via kindle onto my I-pad. Enjoy!!!!

Tight Lines, Good Times, and Bragging Rights

by Kim Lloyd

It's been said that one picture is worth a thousand words. Got a good one? Then let's see it! Each month a couple of photos will be shared at the Club's Zoom meeting, and then published in *The Leader*. The criteria for submitting a photo? It must be related to tight lines, good times or braggin' rights. Here's a couple of the photos that were shared at the January meeting:



Cyndi Whitecar, Crowley Lake, April 2020



*Dunsmuir June, 2020
Photo by Dale Spear*



American River 2019, Photo by Eric Palmer

Photos can be emailed to Chris Kight (kightboy@aol.com). Be sure to include your name, the location and the date of the photo.

Finding Fish - South Fork of the American

by Chris Kight

As with many of you that I've spoken with, I've driven past the South Fork of the American along Highway 50 many times and wondered, "It LOOKS fishy, I wonder if it is?"

Now, if you'll look at google earth maps of the South Fork of the American from White Hall down to the confluence below Auburn, you'll see that it runs through a lot of steep canyons with very poor access to the water.

But, this section parallels Highway 50 between the turn off to Crystal Basin Recreation area, through White Hall and to Kyburz. It's only about a 7-mile stretch, and there are a few pullouts alongside the road. I've seen many people parked there, and they always seem to be walking their dogs or ogling the beautiful river as it flows through the canyon and stretching their legs on the drive up to Tahoe.

But, are there fish to be caught?

So, last August I drove up on a Saturday. My thought as I anticipated the fishing while driving past White Hall is that, because it's only a 55-minute drive from Roseville, if it's GOOD, it'll be the closest small water in the Sierra that I know of. (Most of the 20 or so places that I fished last summer were more like an hour-and-a-half to two hours from Roseville, from Rubicon River to Hope Valley.)

Across the highway from the Crystal Basin turnoff there is an area big enough for parking and trailer camping. I usually see cars parked there, and just past White Hall there are a couple of spots where small bridges pass over the river on the right that look like easy access, but I reasoned that places that were easy-access would get greater pressure and, thus, have fewer fish.

Continued on Page 6

WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT FLY TYING...

OUR FLY TYING STAFF

BRETT DRURY
Fly Tying Instructor
Renowned Fly Tyer, Sacramento Area

RICK ANDERSON
Contract Fly Tyer
Montana Fly Company

RON SPERONI
Contract Fly Tyer
Pacific Fly Group

MORGAN THALKEN
Contract Fly Tyer
Umpqua Feather Merchants

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...COME IN AND SEE FOR YOURSELF - IF YOU NEED IT, WE HAVE IT!

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

Finding Fish - South Fork of the American - Continued from page 5

The first place I tried was a large turnout about a mile upstream from White Hall. There were a few cars parked there, but all were walking their dogs or peering over the edge to watch the water with their kids.

I'll note here that I'm more prone to boonie-crashing in difficult access places than I should be at 70, but that's just the way it is. I'm trying to learn caution, but the water calls to me. (Ask my wife and you might find out that I'm a slow learner, and not quite bright sometimes.)

Parking at the turnout, and walking over to the edge of the roadway, I discovered that the State Highway division had dumped boulders the size of small cars that completely cover the 40 or 50 yards of bank that leads down to the water. This was for erosion-control, but it didn't make it easy to just stroll to the water and fish. "GOOD, more fish for me if I can get down there!" I thought.

I donned my waders and took my Tenkara gear and spent about 15 minutes clambering down the boulders, sometimes on my belly, feet first, to reach the next one, and got to the water. There was a nice little pool right where I arrived, and on my 4th cast—hookup! Nice size for small water too, and I sez to myself, "Self, it's gonna be a great day."

I was able to get up and downstream a bit without having to go out too deep, or having to climb back up the boulders, and caught 5 or 6 more in the next hour-and-a-half, or so.



The water was deep enough that there was no way to cross—5 to 8 feet deep in the middle—so looking for another access point, I spotted something that looked do-able, and climbed back up the boulders to the parking area. After walking about 300 yards up along the highway, I found an area that, although it was higher up from the water, was not completely covered by boulders.

A nice productive pool

Trying that, after about 4 steps down the hill, I quickly discovered it was super loose gravel, and my foot went out from under me, despite my walking/wading staff (we've all experienced that, right?), and because I had been too lazy to collapse and store my Tenkara rod before hiking, I landed on it with my knee and snapped it at the 3rd section. (I may have used a "bad" word at that moment, just saying.)



First catch

Continued on Page 7

Finding Fish - South Fork of the American - Continued from page 6



Challenging access

is pull in your line—all good. (I'm the only one this has ever happened to, right?)

But, with a Tenkara rod, if you lose a section or two while casting (because of a crappy "repair" of a broken rod), you lose the line too because it's attached to the rod tip! Fortunately, the line was floating a bit, and it drifted back down to me, and I was able to grab it before it travelled all the way downstream to Folsom Lake.

With a now unusable rod, I climbed back up the steep hill (carefully, carefully), and walked back to the car to look for something to make a temporary fix with. "Let's see, no tape in the car, no string, I could pull some



of the strings out of the middle of some paracord, hmmm, maybe boot laces? Wait....Dental floss! I had some waxed dental floss. (I don't normally carry dental floss in the car, but I had my teeth cleaned two weeks prior, and they always give you that miniature container of free dental floss, right?) I was able to insert the upper half of the broken section into the slightly wider section below it, and wrap it tightly with the floss and "Bob's your uncle"—back in business. It still cast okay, and held tight for the rest of the day, too!

Now, I was at about 10 fish caught for two hours of fishing (not a bad day, right?), but I was having too much fun to leave, so I walked back up the highway to that slippery-slope area, worked my way (carefully, carefully) back down to the water, and caught 3 or 4 more in another hour of fishing.

So—conclusion—that stretch of the SF American is a darned fine place to fish, provided you're careful getting down to the water.

Fortunately, Luong Tam, the owner of Tanuki Tenkara

But...

"Never say die," right?

I jammed the two broken sections together, worked my way down to the water, and caught 3 or 4 more rainbows before the jammed sections failed to hold, and when I cast, the top three sections of the rod flew a few feet upriver and landed, plop, into a beautiful seam. (I may have used yet another "bad" word at THAT moment.) I will note here that, when appropriate, those words never really seem "bad" to me.

Now, if you're fishing with a traditional fly rod and a section of the rod comes apart and slips off during a cast, the line is still going through all of the rod guides, and all you have to do

Streamside repair saved the day!

Continued on Page 8

Finding Fish - South Fork of the American - Continued from page 7



Many more like this

to a busy highway. I'll continue to go there.

So far, I have fished Tenkara every time but, having learned a bit about tight-line nymphing at Dunsmuir, this river behaves and looks very similarly to the Upper Sac, and I think it'd be great for nymphing.

A final note: I went up just after New Year's Day to try it in the winter, and the water was very low, with ice formations at the shore and slippery icy rocks, and but nary a fish to be caught (which is not too unusual for winter fishing I'm told). So, I'll wait until spring and go again. This water, being part of the American River system, is part of the California Fish and Wildlife catch-and-release, barbless, artificial-lure-only regulation zone, and can be fished year-round.

Golden Trout Remote Approval

by Vic Maiello, Golden Trout Organizer

In order to support members during this changing and challenging time, we came up with options to qualify for the Golden Trout Program. The guides that lead fly tying and knot tying (required) have agreed to review your accomplishments remotely. **See documents on pages 9-12.** As we move forward, the remote process can change, and categories may be added. If you have any feedback or ideas, please let us know through my email at victor.maiello@gmail.com.

Also, successful completion of the Fly Fishers International (FFI) Bronze criteria for fly casting will fulfill the Golden Trout casting criteria. Candidates will demonstrate a competency/proficiency in each of the techniques required to fulfill the Bronze criteria from Fly Fishers International (FFI) FLY CASTING: Fly casting skills challenge program.

Rod company, was able to sell me replacements for the top 3 sections of the rod for about \$25, so now the rod is good as new.

I also purchased an extra tip section AND a second rod so, in the event of another minor catastrophe, I'll still be in business.

Since then, I've been up there three more times through October, and caught fish every time.

I did manage to find a MUCH easier section for parking and access, and have never seen another fisherman there, and only spotted a few footprints. There are plenty of deer prints though.

Once you get down to the water, the musical water sound completely masks all but the loudest highway noises, so you don't have the perception of being close



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Purpose:

To allow Golden Trout members to qualify for fly tying criteria remotely. If the member is unable to meet with the guide to present the flies tied, he or she can send the flies tied to the guide via mail.

Process:

- Send sample of the flies listed below to the guide listed in handbook.
- The guide will judge the Flies and provide a signed certificate of completion if the member passes the criteria. If the flies do not pass the criteria the guide will supply feedback for improvement.
- The guide will mail or e-mail a copy of the signed certificate to the Golden Trout coordinator, the education lead, and the member.
- The Certificate will be stored on the GBFC cloud.

Hook size: listed in fly pattern.

Required flies to complete the fly-tying category.

Parachute Adams	Tropical Punch
Stimulator	Fatal Attraction
Olive Bird's	Deer Hair Popper
South First Special	Cork Popper





Purpose:

To allow Golden Trout members to qualify for knot tying criteria remotely. If the member is unable to meet with the guide to present the knots tied, he or she can send their knots they tied to the guide via mail.

Those who took the in-person knot clinics are eligible for approval. Contact the clinic leader (Jim Degnan for 1999 and 2000 clinics) for confirmation and a certificate

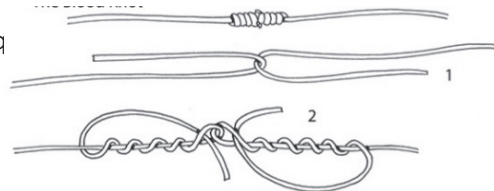
Process:

- **Contact the guide to discuss the procedure and knots to be tied.**
- Download and read the first section of the GBF Knot Manual up to the knot diagrams to understand how knots are constructed and how knot strength is gauged. Use the Manual or other resources to construct the knots.
- Send sample of the Knots listed below to the guide listed in the back of the handbook. Note 1: Your knots will not be returned.
- The guide will judge the knot and provide a signed certificate of completion if the member passes the criteria. If the knots do not pass the criteria the guide will supply feedback for improvement.
- **Criteria:** wrap knots must be tight with no overlapping turns. Loop knots must be less than .75" and all turns tight. Knots will be stress tested against guide knots but not measured for actual strength. **Knots should be tied in lengths of material not less than 24". Provide a sample of the material with no knots to establish a baseline for the material being used.**
- The guide will mail or e-mail a copy of the signed certificate to the Golden Trout coordinator or the education lead and the member.
- The Certificate will be stored on the GBFC cloud.

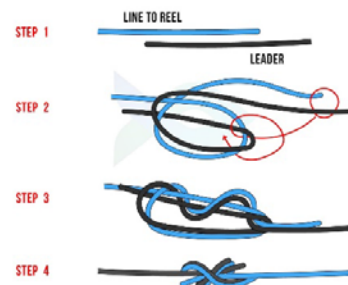
Material size: Nylon/Mono: .011" diameter or less. State the brand and type.

Improved Clinch Knot	Surgeon's Knot
Uni-Knot	Perfection Loop
Orvis Knot	Non-Slip Mono
Blood Knot	

Req



SURGEON'S KNOT



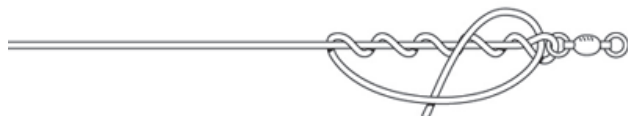
Nail Knot

The Nail Knot is generally used to attach fly line to fly line backing. This knot can also be used to attach a leader to the line. This makes a strong smooth knot that rolls out when casting. The nail knot is good for attaching two lines of different diameters.



1. Hold nail or needle, tip of fly line and backing material between thumb and forefinger. Wrap backing 6 or 7 turns. Wind carefully for a tight, smooth knot. Stick end of backing between nail and fly line.
2. Remove nail. Holding coils carefully between thumb and forefinger, alternately pull both ends of backing with free hand to tighten.
3. Snip off excess backing and end of fly line.

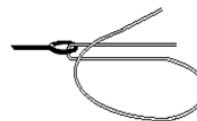
First Edition



The Uni-Knot

1. Run line through eye of hook, swivel or lure at least six inches and fold to make two parallel lines. Bring end of line back in a circle toward hook or lure.

2. Make six turns with tag end around the double line and through the circle. Hold double line at point where it passes through eye and pull tag end to snug up turns.



3. Now pull standing line to slide knot up against eye.

4. Continue pulling until knot is tight. Trim tag end flush with closest coil of knot. Uni-Knot will not slip.





Golden Trout Certificate of Completion



This certificate is presented to

members full name

For successfully completing criteria for category

category

I certify the above Granite Bay Fly Caster member meets all the requirements for Golden Trout category listed above.

Guide approval signature: _____

Date approved: _____

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

Fly Patterns - Hacklestacker Midge



Hacklestacker Midge

Materials:

Hook:	Tiemco 2487 or similar hook, sizes 20 to 16
Thread:	Black 8/0 (70 denier)
Abdomen:	Tying thread
Ribbing:	Fine silver wire
Hackle post:	5x monofilament
Hackle:	Dry fly quality grizzly rooster neck hackle
Thorax:	Black dry fly dubbing (such as "Fine and Dry" by Spirit River)

Description

Winter trout fishing can be an exercise in mind-bending frustration if you fail to adjust your strategies and your mental vision of what the fish are up to during this time of cold, clear, low water. Contrary to some misconceptions out there, winter does not automatically mean high water—this year being a prime case in point. Last year—well, that's a fish of a different color.

During periods of cold, clear, low flows fish still must eat to survive. Yes, their metabolism slows down as a defense mechanism to deal with the cold and the paucity of available food; and no, they will not move far for a bug or fly. *Reality:* they are hunkered down at the bottom of deeper holes and runs and you have to practically hit them on the nose with your fly. But there are exceptions—a warm, sunny day presents a situation for one of those exceptions, because on such days the water surface may warm just enough to create a short time window when a hatch of tiny baetis may occur, or midges may become active. If that happens, fish may move up in the water column and feed more actively.

Typically, however, we are forced to dredge with midge larva patterns because they form the biggest portion of a fish's diet during winter conditions. But let's assume that conditions are right, and there is a midge hatch with adults on the surface. Should we automatically switch to a small "dry" imitation? My approach, while it may seem contrarian to some, is to use an emerger pattern as my first choice. The relatively simple pattern I've chosen for this month's fly resembles a midge that has become stuck in the surface tension, or otherwise failed to complete its hatch cycle (i.e., a "cripple"), haplessly adrift and easy prey for hungry, predacious trout. Only the hackle shows above the water, while the abdomen is presented sub-surface in a realistic, enticing manner. This pattern was taken from a recent article in *Fly Tyer* magazine; because there were no tying instructions in the article to go with the fly, and because it's such an elegant little bug, I felt that it would be appropriate to use it for this article.



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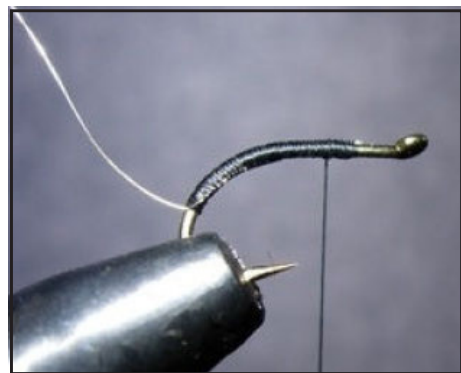
Continued on Page 14

Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from page 13

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. Beginning at a point about 2 eye widths behind the hook eye, carefully cover the shank with even thread wraps; stop halfway down the hook bend..
2. At that point tie in a short piece of fine silver wire, and carefully wind the thread forward to form a smooth abdomen. Stop the wraps where the thread was originally tied on.



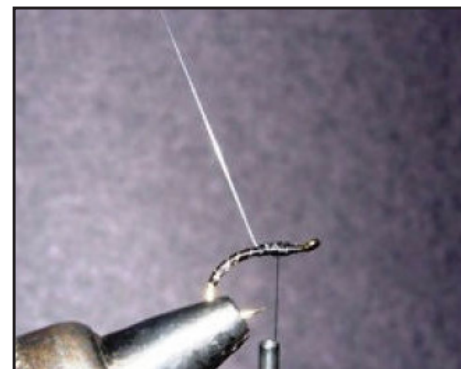
Steps 1 & 2



Step 3

3. Rib the abdomen with evenly spaced turns of wire and tie the wire off at the front of the abdomen.

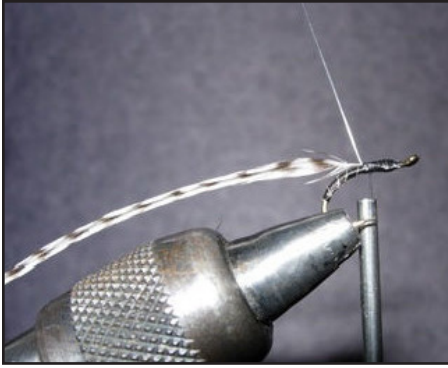
4. Tie in a 7" piece of 5x monofilament at the front of the abdomen and wrap it down in a rearward direction from that point to about the halfway mark on the shank. Place the other end of the monofilament in the jaws of a gallows tool, or a jury-rigged clip attached to your light. When you are done with this step, the monofilament should be tightly stretched.



Step 4

Continued on Page 15

Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from page 14



Steps 5 & 6

5. At the base of the monofilament, tie in a properly sized grizzly rooster hackle after cleaning the fuzz off the butt of the stem.
6. Wrap 3 turns of the hackle clockwise up the monofilament, and then wrap the hackle in tight turns down to the shank. Tie it off there and clip the monofilament, leaving enough of it to form a "handle."

7. Dub a slender thorax with fine dry fly dubbing, leaving one eye-width open behind the hook eye.



Step 7



Steps 8 & 9

8. Grab the tip of the monofilament and pull it forward so that it is tight over the top of the thorax; tie the monofilament down just behind the eye. If this step is done properly, all of the hackle will be stacked on top of the shank.
9. Wrap a nice, small thread head, whip finish, and trim the thread. Apply a tiny drop of superglue to the head with your bodkin.

Tying Tips

You're done. Don't apply floatant to the abdomen, because we want that part of the fly to sink. Do apply floatant to the pulled-over hackle.

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

Please notify if address change

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

President - TinaLyn Sell
916-765-9265 gbf-president@gbflycasters.org
VP Membership - Mike Bean
208-244-1153 gbf-membership@gbflycasters.org
VP Conservation - Ed Lloyd
949-939-0540 gbf-conservation@gbflycasters.org
Secretary - Dave Fujiyama
949-212-8545 gbf-secretary@gbflycasters.org
Treasurer - Jerry Furlong
916-208-2671 gbf-treasurer@gbflycasters.org

Directors:

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Through June, 2023 - Joey Nizuk
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Through June, 2022 - Victor Maiello
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Through June, 2022 - Kim Lloyd
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Through June, 2021 - Drake Johnson
916-791-1039
Through June, 2021 - Ron Davidson
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Director at Large, 1 year term - Chris Kight
916-813-8008
Director at Large, 1 year term - Brett McKague
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Committees:

Annual Dinner
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Annual Picnic
Curtis Frank 916-622-0904
Casting Instruction
John Hogg 916-709-7340
Rick Radoff 916-870-9637
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Frank Stolten 916-725-6894
Education
Ron Davidson 530-320-3598
Fishmasters
Tony Jelinek - streams 916-751-9249
Doug Kytonen - stillwater 916-772-6654
Fly Tying
Jim Holmes 916-967-6709
Golden Trout Program
Victor Maiello 916-276-9010
Leader Editor
Frank Stolten 916-725-6894
Leader Layout
Vivian Mevorah 916-531-5865
Librarian
Kim Lloyd 916-988-3828
Merchandising
Victor Maiello 916-276-9010
Monthly Programs
Ed Lloyd 916-939-0540
Webmaster
Eric Palmer 916-987-1359
Kent Ripley 916-797-6940
Don Whitecar 916-804-5384

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