

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

January 2021

<http://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by TinaLyn Sell, GBF President



Hello Members,

Happy New Year!!! It is time to put 2020 in the rearview and start looking ahead with nothing but positive thoughts. Our fishout leaders are contemplating where and when to go, the annual dinner committee is working diligently planning the festivities, some clinic leaders are booking Zoom time, while others are keeping fingers crossed they can offer up some face-to-face dates.

Read through *The Leader* for what other members have been up to and maybe you will be inspired. Or, take a time-out and work on your Golden Trout pin—I will be.

We need to remain hopeful and positive, while remembering the great outdoors is there for us to visit. The powers that be cannot shut down Mother Nature. It is a new year full of numerous opportunities, start planning now...fish on...

GBF Education Update

by Ron Davidson, Education Director

With a surge in the spread of the Corona Virus, most of our face-to-face gatherings will be on hold until further notice. Obviously, this has an impact on our class and clinic offerings. I wanted to provide an update of what the club currently has available for our members.

Casting

Thanks to the guidance of **John Hogg** and **Rick Radoff** and their staff of instructors, this is one offering from the club that has been very busy! With the ability to meet out-of-doors and in small groups, the program has thrived. Not only a variety of clinics, but the Casting Skills Challenge has been, and will continue to be offered. Check your e-mail and announcements on the Club Message Board. Also, note the posting just below to see just how active this program has been!

Casting Program Events Completed Year-to-Date November 20, 2020 **Prepared by John Hogg**

Shown below is a recap of the 18 casting clinics that the Casting Committee has put on this year. The average length of time of each clinic was about 3 hours.

The clinics included 3 Ladies Only Clinics, 2 Introduction to Fly Casting Clinics, and 13 Casting Skills Challenge clinics. Since the implementation of the Casting Challenges program in April of this year, 18 members have completed the Bronze Challenge, an additional 10 members have completed the Silver Challenge, and two members have completed the Gold Challenge.

Continued on Page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Calendar of Events	2
Classified Ads	3
Drift Boat Rowing Clinic	4
Fly Tyer's Corner	7 - 9
GBF Education Update	1 - 4
Leader's Line	1
Officers	10
Welcome to OUR Newest Members	5
Winter Fishing on the Merced	5 - 7

J A N U A R Y 2021						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1.	2.
3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
10.	11.	12. Board of Directors Meeting via ZOOM	13.	14. Monthly Meeting via ZOOM	15.	16.
17.	18.	19. Fly Tying Jam via ZOOM	20. Let's talk Fishing via ZOOM Knot Clinic 1 via ZOOM	21.	22.	23.
24. /	31. 25.	26.	27. Knot Clinic 2 via ZOOM	28.	29.	30.

GBF Education Update - Continued from page 1

In addition to the organization and lead of the clinics by Committee Chairpersons, Rick Radoff and John Hogg, coaches **Tom Ross, John Peterson,** and **Sturmer White** contributed many hours of assistance and support to casters attending the clinics.

18. Saturday	November 14, 2020	Silvers only -prep for Gold
17. Saturday	October 31, 2020	Casting Skills Challenge
16. Saturday	October 17, 2020	Casting Skills Challenge
15. Saturday	October 3, 2020	Casting Skills Challenge
14. Thursday	October 1, 2020	Casting Skills Challenge
13. Saturday	August 15, 2020	Ladies Only
12. Thursday	August 13, 2020	Ladies Only
11. Saturday	August 8, 2020	Introduction to Fly casting
10. Thursday	August 6, 2020	Introduction to Fly casting
9. Saturday	August 1, 2020	Casting Skills Challenge
8. Saturday	July 11, 2020	Casting Skills Challenge
7. Saturday	June 13, 2020	Casting Skills Challenge
6. Wednesday	May 20, 2020	Casting Skills Challenge
5. Friday	May 15, 2020	Casting Skills Challenge
4. Friday	May 8, 2020	Casting Skills Challenge
3. Friday	May 1, 2020	Casting Skills Challenge
2. Thursday	April 23, 2020	Casting Skills Challenge
1. Saturday	March 7, 2020	Ladies Only

Continued on Page 3

GBF Education Update - Continued from page 2

Fly Tying

Jim Holmes has done a great job of formatting the **Fly Tying Jams** into "Zoom" presentations. You can catch the "Jams" on Zoom the third Tuesday of Each month. Check e-mail announcements and the Fly Tying Message Board for updates and Pattern Recipes/Materials. Participation is unlimited.

NOTE: Fly Tying Jam did take a December Christmas Break, but is back on the third Tuesday of this month. Be sure to check out the Message Board for information.

"Let's Talk Fishing" Zoom with Gene Goss

Gene's weekly Discussion via Zoom has been a wonderful spark to our Club Offerings. Each week, Gene will guide the group through a variety of topic discussions, along with some film and guest speakers. Recently, **John Pellegrin** was a guest, speaking on *Fly Fishing with Tenkara*. You can also catch John's article based on that session entitled, "Tenkara Survey 2000," on the message board; and, on the December 9th program, when **Jim Degnan** presented a **Knot Tying Session** with Gene, that was intended to be a prototype for future instructional sessions. Jim has it set up so you can see the hand movements while manipulating the various knots. Watch for future announcements.

Golden Trout

Quite a lot is going on in the **"GT Program,"** as **Victor Maiello** has helped coordinate ways to get various skills such as knot tying and fly tying signed off via e-mail. Check out that Golden Trout Manual, practice your skills, and contact Victor on how to get signed off. If you are interested in beginning **Golden Trout**, or are in need of added information and/or materials, contact Victor through the club Website.

Net Building- Art Hawkins and Michael Kaul

Rod Building-Larry Lee

Novelty Flies-Michael Gervais

Non Slip Wader Soles-Barry Norman

These great clinics require an indoor setting and fairly close contact, where social distancing is not very realistic, so they will be on hold until things become a little more settled. A couple of the Net Building classes, had to be cancelled mid-session, but these will be completed as soon as is safe!

Keep an eye out for e-mail announcements and notes on the Website and *The Leader* for information regarding the resumption of clinics.

New Rowing Clinic Offered

We have an exciting, new addition to our Clinic/Class menu. New member, and Board Member, Mike Bean will be offering a Drift Boat Rowing Class, with hands on, on the water instruction. The format will include two days of Rowing Practice/Instruction, on one of our local rivers each month.

Continued on Page 4

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.

GBF Education Update - Continued from page 3

The sessions will include two Club members and Mike. Since each session is limited to two members, it is very likely that a lottery drawing will be used to determine each month's participants. Sessions are planned to begin in February—watch *The Leader* and the Message Board for additional information.

Website

A reminder to all that while we are disadvantaged as far as meeting for many of our club offerings, there is a wealth of information on the Club Website. From forum discussions, articles on almost any topic related to fly fishing, to a huge catalogue of fly tying instructions, information on fishouts, and updates on clinics and activities, it's there!!!!

We'll be meeting on Zoom for our General Meetings and other sessions, and sometime in the future, we'll see you in person.

Drift Boat Rowing Clinic

by Ron Davidson, Education Director

We are excited to introduce a new clinic, Drift Boat Rowing, offered by **Mike Bean**, who has also taken over from **Eric Palmer** as our Club's Membership Director. In the summer, Mike guides on the South Fork of the Snake River in Idaho, and is a two-time winner of the prestigious Jackson Hole One Fly Contest. In the winter, Mike and his wife, Melissa, reside in Rocklin with their two children. Melissa works for UC Davis, while Mike is guiding our local rivers.

The clinic will be offered to two members at a time in a 4-to-6-hour session, and be held over a two day period. Instruction will include: boat safety, boat set up, rowing techniques, how to read the water and different currents, how to hold a bank, boat etiquette, and how to correctly back boat and trailer into the water. Mike will supply the boat and all onboard gear. Members will provide their own lunches, and transportation.

Mike plans to offer the clinic once each month, with the first session scheduled for February of 2021. Although only two people at a time can take the class, over a period of time, quite a few members will enjoy the opportunity. If you are interested in the clinic, contact Mike at his e-mail below and share all of your contact information. If you can only participate during a certain month, make sure to make a note of that. If there are a number of sign-ups at any given time, two members will be picked by lottery. Please plan to get your name on the list at least one month prior to the sessions. If you have any questions, just contact Mike. Note that all Health Safety Protocols will be followed, and participants are asked to wear masks and practice social distancing. Scheduling of all clinics will be driven by the safety requirements dictated by the pandemic.

C o n t a c t :
mikebeanfishing@gmail.com



Welcome to Our Newest Members!

by Mike Bean, 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.

Bobby Bean
Jason Spotts

Robert Love
Michael Zacharia

Mike Mizinski

Winter Fishing on the Merced

(Reprinted from the February 1987 Issue of *The Leader*)

by Jack L. Parker

After the fourth jump, the trout gained the rapids and plunged, full speed, over a three foot waterfall. I could just hear the screech of my reel over the river's roar.

"Well, what do you think of the Merced's trout?" laughingly, asked guide, Bob Boyer, as I released the fish. "I've never had a 12-inch rainbow fight any harder," I answered matter of factly.

It was late November, and myself and Bob Boyer were fishing the Merced River at El Portal. Yosemite National Park was just a few miles up the road.

In the floor of the Valley of the Yosemite, the crystal clear Merced is a gentle flowing, dry fly fisherman's dream. Further downstream its character changes. It becomes a roaring, crashing river full of huge granite boulders. Here, it is a river that must be respected.

Unknown to many, the Merced is open to winter trout fishing. Believe it or not, November through March are the best months of the year to fish.

Springtime means snow run-off time. The river can become a raging torrent. Summer is tourist time and the crowds can become unbelievable. Reflected rays of the summer sun off the many granite cliffs in the narrow canyon at El Portal, can make one think they were in a giant broiler oven.

Our first days fishing were done under a warm blue sky. With the able guidance of Bob, a number of fish fell for our flies. They were well formed and in tip-top condition. Rainbows outnumbered the Browns about 5 to 1. In the Park the reverse is true. While we were unable to hook any bragging size fish, the trout we caught fought exceptionally well.

I asked Bob what he thought his most memorable day on the river had been. "Well," he slowly began, "it was probably a day in January. I was about to quit for lunch, but decided to give a favorite pool a try first. It was the right decision. In half an hour I caught three fish of 19, 18 and 17 inches."

"I can understand why that stands out in your memory," I enviously replied. "What fly patterns were you using?"

He looked at me out of the corner of his eye and chuckled a bit before answering. "You won't find this pattern in any of the books, but it's my favorite for the Merced. I tie it on a number 16 dry fly hook. Take three stiff hackles, two light brown and one white. Start at the eye of the hook, wrap them palmer fashion to the bend, and then tie them off using the hackle tips for the tail. Not very fancy, but the pattern works well."

Continued on Page 6

Winter Fishing on the Merced - Continued from page 5

The next morning was a wet one. Clouds hung low down the canyon and it was raining a cold drizzle. When Bob picked us up at our motel, I asked if we could expect muddy water conditions if the rain got any worse. He explained there was no need for worry, because the Merced remains clear even during wet weather.

I watched, with my camera ready, as Clint, dwarfed by larger boulders, drifted a weighted nymph. Suddenly, he struck. For an instant there was a deep arc in his rod, then nothing. The tippet broke. It had been a heavy fish.

After replacing the nymph, he moved to the next pool and resumed casting. Just as the nymph reached the end of a drift, he had a strike. This time Clint landed an 11-inch rainbow. In the next hour or so, before he had to leave, four more fish fell for his nymph.

I was hooked on the Merced as a fine river for winter fishing. Wanting more information about the Merced, I contacted California State Fisheries Biologist, Phil Bartholomew. My first question was his opinion of the Merced as a winter trout stream. Phil feels that the Merced should be ranked with the better trout streams of the state.

"It would be hard to find a better trout stream for winter fishing," he stated. "It is located at an altitude that receives very little snowfall, no fog and more than an abundance of warm winter sun."

A few years ago, Phil did a trout count of the Merced in the Park. Here is an example of a 3-mile stretch. From Sentinel Bridge downstream to El Capitan Bridge, he counted 678 brown and 126 rainbows. He judged that the largest fish, a brown, would go an easy 6 pounds. Enough trout in the 18-inch category were seen to please any fly fisher.

Some years ago, a 12-pound brown was found dead in Park waters, proof that the river can grow'em big.

Continued on Page 7

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

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

Winter Fishing on the Merced - Continued from page 6

The trip that I described in the first part of this piece happened way back in 1975. Since that time, I have fished the Merced several times during the winter. Usually, it was good to me. However, I was not able to make a trip for the last several winters. Hopefully, if all goes well, I will be making at least one this winter. How well the fishing has held up, I can't say, but there is only one way to find out!

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

Fly Patterns - Little Green Stonefly



Little Green Stonefly

Materials:

Hook:	Umpqua 2302, sizes 14, 16
Thread:	8/0 olive
Ribbing:	Ultra-fine copper wire
Hackle:	Dry fly quality dun rooster hackle
Body:	Fine olive dubbing mixed with pearl UV material
Under-wing:	Extra fine pearl Crystal Flash
Wing:	Fine light olive deer hair

Description

Before I launch into a discussion of this month's creature, I have a couple of things I want to mention regarding our newsletter, The Leader. First, I've read a lot of club newsletters; some are OK, some are good, and a few are excellent. Count the Leader among the latter group, and in fact it is probably the best of all of them. GBF has been given awards for excellence in this regard, notably from the NCCFFF. Second, publication of this fine document doesn't happen automatically—no way is it on autopilot. Each month, our editor and publisher, Frank Stolten, spends hours generating articles by hounding the "usual suspects," putting it all together, and getting it to our formatting person. Frank deserves a huge round of applause for his excellence. Third, I am beginning to think that the Leader is read more by the general fly fishing community than by our membership. A recent example of this is an email message sent to President Dennis Baker by an individual in Maryland, regarding one of the Fly Tyers Corner articles. I seem to get questions all the time about matters that are covered in the Leader. If you are one of those who just glance at it (or worse, don't even bother), you are missing a lot of the benefit of belonging to GBF. Communication is the lifeblood of a fly club. So, here it is (and I get to say what I want because I'm old)... shame on you. There, I've done it. Thanks for listening and, hopefully, for reading the Leader cover to cover.

This month's fly carries an interesting story. Most of us are familiar with the term "Little Yellow Sally"—right? It's a small, very common stonefly species that predictably flies around in the afternoon. Its body is yellow—sometimes

Continued on Page 8



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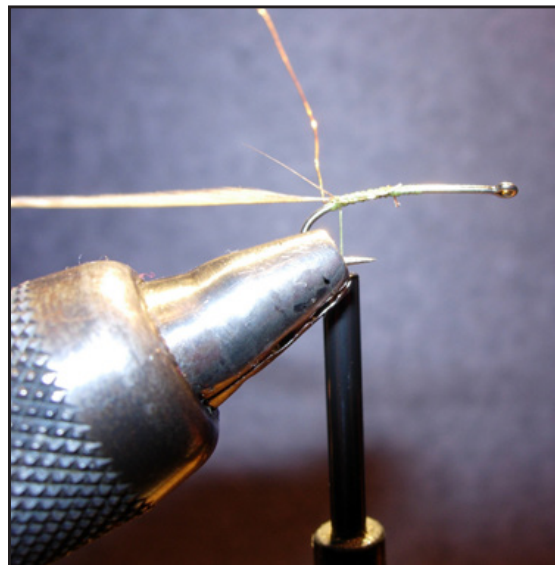
Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from page 7

bright, sometimes pale (see January and February, 2011 tying articles, available on GBF's Web site). A perhaps little known fact: Sometimes they are a bright, insect green. The green variety is sometimes found in the winter months, on sunny, warm afternoons. So, on those same afternoons, if you are brave enough to get out and fish, have a couple of Little Green Stonefly patterns in your quiver. It's easy to tie and floats well.

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 and cover the shank with even thread wraps; stop at the back of the barb.
2. At that point tie in a 3" piece of ultra-fine copper wire, and a long dun hackle with barbuless that are no longer than the hook gape.



Steps 1 & 2



Steps 3 & 4

3. Dub the body, ending about 1/16" behind the hook eye.
4. Rib the fly in close wraps, and then palmer the hackle to the front of the body and tie it off there. Rotate the vise and carefully trim the hackle from the underside of the body. The best way to do this is to use the very point of your scissors and work backward to the hook bend.

Continued on Page 9

Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from page 8

5. Cut, clean, and stack a small clump of fine light olive deer hair and tie it in at the same spot as the under wing was tied in. Apply a tiny drop of super glue to this spot with your bodkin.



Step 5



Step 6

6. With the hook back in the normal position, tie in about 6 or 7 strands of extra fine pearl Crystal Flash at the front of the body; trim them so that they extend just past the hook bend. This will be the under wing. Be sure not to allow the strands to roll off to the far side of the hook; keep them directly on top.

7. Pluck a smaller hackle from the neck or saddle, and tie it in where the wing and under wing were tied in. Apply a miniscule amount of the olive dubbing to the thread and leave the thread just behind the hook eye.
8. Wrap the hackle forward and tie it off, leaving room for a small thread head.
9. Whip finish, trim the thread, and apply a tiny drop of super glue to the head with your bodkin.



Steps 7, 8, & 9

Tying Tips

You're done. I like to dunk all my freshly minted dries into a bottle of silicone sealant, and let them dry for 24 hours before putting them in my dry fly box.

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

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Through June, 2021 - Ron Davidson
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Director at Large, 1 year term - Brett McKague
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Annual Picnic	Curtis Frank	916-622-0904
Casting Instruction	John Hogg	916-709-7340
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