

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

October 2021

<http://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by TinaLyn Sell, GBF President



Hello Members,

Please note, the club house is not available for our October general meeting, so it will be held via Zoom. A Zoom link will be emailed to the membership one week prior to the meeting, then again two days before the meeting.

The world is still a bit off its axis, and it is getting harder and harder to make sense of what is going on around us. So many opinions and suggestions on what we should be doing to take care of ourselves. It is important you do your own research and make the decisions that are right for you and your family. Stay strong in your thoughts and beliefs...

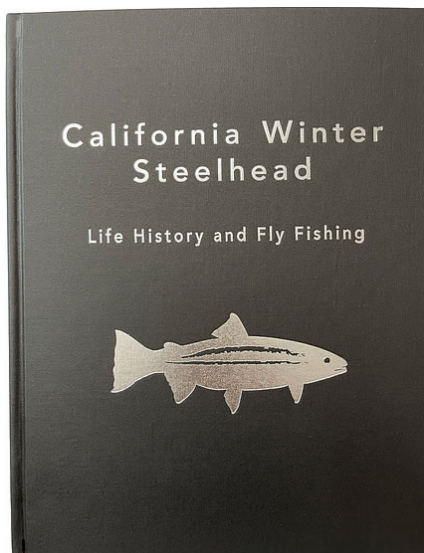
The Board and clinic leaders are trying hard to keep things as upbeat as possible. Many members have been staying active with exciting clinics and events. Keep an eye on your email inbox and the website calendar for up-to-date information.

Mother Nature is bringing fall our way, which means some cooler temperatures and, fingers crossed, some rain. Although the fires are under control, wildlife is still displaced. Leave some water out for them and give them a little extra room to pass through peacefully in areas you are in. They could use a helping hand from us while they find new homes.

There will not be a "Leave No Trace" article this month; time got away from me while preparing for our trip to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. I promise we will be practicing our "Leave No Trace principles." Look for the next article, "Dispose of Waste Properly," in November's *Leader*.

Monthly Program

by Ed Lloyd, Program Chair



On Thursday, October 14th, **Dennis Lee** will be our speaker at the General Meeting, which now has been scheduled as a Zoom meeting. Dennis Lee is a name familiar to any angler who loves fishing for Steelhead. His topic will be discussing his latest book: "California Winter Steelhead," which at last check has already Sold Out.

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OCTOBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1.	2.
3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9. Little Truckee River Fishout
10.	11.	12. Board of Directors Meeting	13.	14. Monthly Meeting (ZOOM)	15.	16.
17.	18.	19. Fly Tying Jam	20.	21.	22.	23. GBF Picnic (See Website)
24. /	31. 25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.

Golden Trout at (smoke free) 10,000 Feet

by Chris Kight

At the beginning of 2021, **John Pellegrin** and I planned a Tenkara trip to the top of the Sierra in search of Golden Trout at the end of August. There are plenty of great Tenkara waters in our area, but just the idea of going after something so exotic seemed worthwhile.

We favor smaller waters because we mostly fish with Tenkara equipment (Tenkara is the ancient and traditional Japanese method of fly-fishing—google it for lots more information, or call John, he's our club's main teacher and advocate for Tenkara).

Bishop, CA was to be our base, and we secured hotel reservations early in the year. We hoped that the Covid menace would be over by later in the year, and that there would be enough water in the streams to support fish. We certainly didn't anticipate the summer fires and all the smoke (that would be great to escape for a few days).

The Golden Trout wilderness south of Sequoia National Forest is large, but has very little access to its waters. Few roads penetrate this forested area that is 304,000 acres in an area known as the Kern Plateau at the southern end of the Sierra Nevada. Hiking deep into this area would give the best access to trout-rich waters, and one of the main trailheads is Horseshoe Meadows at 10,400 feet above Lone Pine East of the Sierras.

Having said that, our backpacking days are largely behind us, at 70+ years of age, but studying the maps, I could see that the road to Horseshoe Meadows Trailhead came reasonably close to Cottonwood Creek, which is the water that drains Cottonwood Lakes—a popular spot for pursuing Golden Trout—as it's a 9-mile hike (or horse pack trip) to the lakes.

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Golden Trout at (smoke free) 10,000 Feet - Continued from Page 2

If we weren't up for an extensive hike, it began to look like the only reasonable attempt for Goldens would be this creek. If there are trout in the lakes, there must be trout in this small stream. I could only find vague anecdotal evidence of any actual fish being caught there, but we reckoned it would be worth a try.

We left 100+ degree temps and extremely thick smoke at home, and because of the many large fires burning in the Tahoe Sierra, had to head far south before crossing over the Sierra to avoid the road closures. By the time we reached the Hwy 108 Summit at Sonora Pass, we were in clear air, and our stop for lunch by Leavitt Creek was refreshing. We were encouraged that it was still flowing and cold.

Hoteling in Bishop worked well, and we were surprised to find a great Japanese restaurant for dinner. An early breakfast and one-hour drive to Lone Pine put us on Whitney Portal Road, and then Horseshoe Meadows road (which only took 25 minutes to drive from 3700 feet in Lone Pine to 10,000 feet in the high Sierra). This was a fun and memorable drive in my Subaru, and the paved road is in very good condition. We celebrated as we drove out of the 100+ degree heat and got up above the smoke that hung in the valley.

Above 8500 feet the air was crisp and clear and clean, which was a great relief after all the summertime fires and smoke at home.



High desert landscape, but the temps were in the low 70s.

After poking around a bit we found the creek, and access was pretty easy, although parts of it were inaccessible because of heavy willow. A bit of walking and bushwhacking found some parts that were fishable, especially with Tenkara gear. Water was low (as expected) but nice and cold and held plenty of small and fishable pools with little spills flowing into them. We talked about how stealth would be important, as fish get spooky when water gets lower.

I'm glad we were fishing Tenkara, as it gave us easy access to these pools and made it pretty easy to sneak up on 'em.



Small water, small fish—most were around 6 inches.

John went downstream, I went up, and we agreed to meet for lunch. I spent some time thrashing through willow and brush to get to the water, and then found some more open access a short hike upstream, and began testing the pools. Within the first 5 casts I hooked up and quickly landed a 6" Golden!

Honestly, it took my breath away. I've seen pictures, but holding that beauty in my hand was a...moment. I'm a fan of Brook Trout, as they are so beautiful, but this fish was an entirely new range of beauty.

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Golden Trout at (smoke free) 10,000 Feet - Continued from Page 3

I released it after a fast photo, and had to sit down for a minute to just savor the moment. I could have gone home right then—such was the satisfaction. But lunch was a couple hours away, and the stream went on and on up the mountain. I caught two more out of a single pool, had a few strikes that missed, and fished quite a lot of water. Called John on the walkie and we met back at the car. We were both stoked as we sat on a log for lunch. (Basic food is always so much more delicious in the wilderness.) We each had 3 fish to hand, and a few more hours planned on the water.

We changed-up after lunch—I went downstream, and John went up after sharing with each other the best access points that we had found. We met with more success, using mostly size 16 Kebari flies for the small fish. We each ended up with many bumps and strikes, and 6 or 7 fish to hand.



The pool underneath these roots was about 3 feet deep, and I caught two from here.

As we met back at the car later in the afternoon, we couldn't stop jabbering about each pool and little waterfall, and how pretty the fish were, and how much great dog-gone FUN we were having. You really can't have a better fishing companion than my Tenkara Sensei (Teacher), John Pellegrin.

This was one for the memory books, and I was able to take a few decent photos.

Enjoy the pictures—great scenery, and the prettiest fish I have ever seen. Small fish can be extremely rewarding in small waters, especially goldens in their high mountain environment.

I will seek these fish again one day, and will confess that, every time I revisit these photos or show them to someone, I get that thrill of success and wonder that I don't really need to describe in detail to the readers of this little adventure because you've all experienced it.

Train Derailments: A Constant Threat to Our rivers

by Mel Odemar

A recent derailment on the UP tracks along the Upper Sacramento river brought back memories of a similar event almost exactly 30 years ago that resulted in the most devastating single event chemical spill in California's history known as the Cantara Spill. Thankfully, this time no railcars dumped into the river, and there was no spill. I am sure that this is due in large part to the lessons learned in the past 30 years, and the operational and track improvements that were made since the Cantara Spill.

I wrote an article for the July 2016 Leader describing the Cantara Spill and the steps that were taken to mitigate the injuries caused by the spill. As stated in the article, train derailments are not rare events, and in November, 2014 a derailment in the Feather River canyon caused by a broken rail sent 12 corn filled cars into the Feather River. Luckily, no hazardous materials were spilled. Another concern has been the prospect

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Train Derailments - Continued from Page 4

of 100-plus oil tanker trains carrying Bakken Crude, transiting the major rail lines into California along the Sacramento, Feather, and Truckee Rivers. The derailed train carrying Nebraska corn that spilled into the Feather River could have been hauling Bakken Crude from the same region. There was some legislative interest in addressing the threat posed by oil trains, but, to my knowledge, nothing has been done in that regard. Hopefully, efforts to reduce our dependence on oil to fuel our economy will lessen the prospect of such massive importation of crude oil by rail. In any event, there will always be the transportation of hazardous materials over our rail lines, posing a constant threat of future spills.

It was suggested that the article I wrote for The Leader in July, 2016 be reprinted to acquaint new members to the events surrounding the Cantara Spill, and to give them a better appreciation of what we now enjoy in the Upper Sac. All in all, the Cantara Spill mitigation efforts have resulted in producing one of the premier wild trout fisheries in the country, and California has gained some valuable insights on how to respond to future spills.



November 2014 Derailment into Feather River

Conservation Corner

July 2016 issue of *The Leader*
by Mel Odemar, VP Conservation

CANTARA SPILL

In June of this year, we had a club fishout on the upper Sacramento River, one of our favorite fishing sites. The Upper Sac, as it is commonly referred to, is a 41-mile stretch of high quality trout habitat consisting of pools, runs, riffles, cascades, and pocket water. The River is known for its wild native trout population and an abundance of invertebrate life that supports it. However, this was all temporarily destroyed by a single catastrophic event.

Twenty-five years ago, on the night of July 14, 1991, a 97-car train climbing out of the Sacramento River Canyon derailed, spilling several cars, including a chemical tanker, into the Upper Sacramento River at a sharp bend of track known as the Cantara Loop. The tanker ruptured, spilling more than 19,000 gallons of metam sodium, a soil fumigant intended for agricultural use that kills nematodes, fungi and weeds. As the metam sodium came into contact with oxygen in the water, the toxins began killing all aquatic life. Every living creature in the river downstream from the spill died. Some of the toxins volatilized into the air, creating a toxic cloud above the river as the chemical plume moved downstream. Traveling at just under one mile per hour, the plume entered Shasta Lake on the morning of July 17, 1991.

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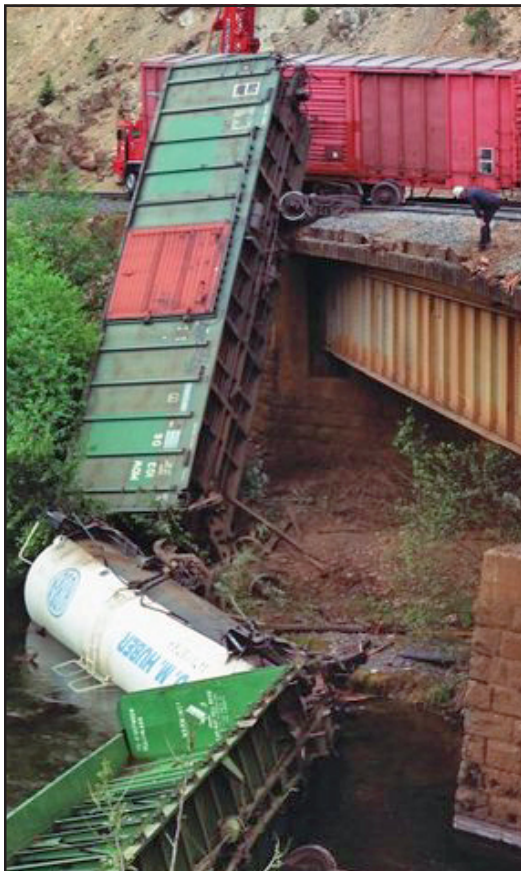
Train Derailments - Continued from Page 5

Wildlife dependent on the river's ecosystem either starved, or were forced to move because their food sources were no longer available. Over a million fish, tens of thousands of amphibians and crayfish, and millions of aquatic invertebrates and aquatic plants were destroyed. This destruction also involved alders and cottonwoods. The chemical plume left a 41-mile wake of destruction from the spill site to the entry point of the river into Shasta Lake. Occurring approximately 2.3 miles below Box Canyon Dam, the Cantara spill affected nearly the entire river ecosystem.

The Department of Fish and Game, as lead Trustee for a contingent of state and federal trustee agencies, initiated a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process under federal law to identify the injured resource, and estimate the type and extent of injuries. In 1994, an out-of-court settlement was settled against Southern Pacific Railroad. The plaintiffs received \$38 million in damages, of which \$14 million was deposited in an interest-bearing account to be used for various programs intended to restore the system and mitigate for the injuries. The account earned over \$3 million in interest.

A 12 year restoration program managed by the Cantara Trustee Council (CTC) was initiated to direct the restoration program. The CTC funded numerous projects, including restoration activities, land acquisition and protection, research, and public use restoration. The decision was to let the river mostly heal itself, waiting four years until resuming trout introduction. The system had to grow from the bottom up before the trout could again take hold. To do otherwise would release trout into an ecosystem that would not support them.

As catastrophic as this spill was, some good has come from it. Since 1938 until the spill, about 25 miles of the upper Sacramento River were regularly stocked with hatchery fish. Although hatchery programs are very popular and provide more fish for the angling public, wild native trout are becoming more valued by a segment of the fishing public, especially by fly fishers, and there is concern that the genetic qualities of trout are being compromised through hatchery inbreeding. A genetic study of Sacramento River trout, funded by the Trustee Council, established that Upper Sacramento River wild trout were genetically different from Mount Shasta Hatchery trout. Results of the study were instrumental in the development of angling regulations that insured that wild trout were re-established before fish harvesting was permitted. These regulations remain today, and have resulted in a premier wild trout fishery.



July 14, 1991 Chemical spill, upper Sacramento River.

Other projects that directly benefit the fishing public are the Pollard Gulch River Access Project, Prospect Avenue Fishing Access Project, Tauhindauli Park and Trail, Cantara Loop land acquisition, and Dunsmuir Park land acquisition.

It is said that the Cantara Spill was an accident waiting to happen. With the newly buttressed Cantara Bridge, it is unlikely that this accident will repeat. However, all of us who have fished the upper Sacramento know firsthand how precarious the rail line is, as it hugs the banks of the river on a narrow twisting roadbed.

Train derailments are not rare events. Chemicals such as metam sodium and other highly toxic materials are shipped by rail in large quantities. A new threat is 100-plus car oil trains carrying highly volatile and flammable Bakken oil from the fracked shale fields of North Dakota and Montana, and heavy crude from the oil tar sands of Alberta, Canada. Whereas the metam sodium is water soluble and non-explosive, spilled crude is persistent and flammable, and much more difficult to remove and remediate. The oil train routes will take them along the banks of the Upper Sacramento, Feather River, and Truckee River. We can only hope that the necessary steps will be taken by government and the railroads to minimize the probability of future spills. Next time, we might not be able to recover as well as has been done with the Cantara Spill.

How Spey Rods & Lines are Developed

by John Peterson

I've been asked a number of times, "How are modern spey rods & lines developed?" I've had an opportunity to work with Gary Anderson ([ACR](#)), Steve Godshall (Speywerks) & Bob Meiser ([Meiser Rods](#)) over the years. These three rod builders are a small group of well-known custom spey rod & line craftsman in Medford, Oregon. The following is my answer to, "How are rods & lines developed?" and "What determines or defines the specific grain weight & type of line for that rod?"

I suggest going to YouTube & view: "[How it's made – TFO Fly Rods](#)." This video provides a basic understanding of how rod blanks are manufactured; unfortunately, what you will not find is how they are conceived, perform and what constitutes a "standard rod specification." Take a Batson 1307-4 Rainshadow spey rod blank for example.

This rod blank was designed, tested and built to original specifications developed by Gary & Steve (a series of rods developed for Batson). By the way, Gary is an Industrial Engineering graduate from the Bay Area,

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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.

How Spey Rods and Lines are Developed - Continued from Page 7

and Steve is the line guru/blue printing expert. The ultimate rod design combines standards, empirical and engineering techniques in order to determine a spey rod's casting behavior. Empirical in that the concept for rod action, testing, correction and overall performance is based on the unique skills (interpretation) of its designers (and a group of casters who critique that performance and provide feedback to both Gary & Steve). The engineering aspect deals with blue printing the rod's overall action, section by section performance, measuring against standards and knowledge of rod construction materials (i.e. modulus, flag materials, resins, scroll methods, mandrel tapers, etc.) But, probably the most unique skill is their ability to put it all together and communicate their design parameters and tweaks to the rod fabricator who, in turn, rolls the blank.

As I said, there are a lot of "specifics" left out of this discussion because they are proprietary, the following being a somewhat generic example: 1307-4 stands for a 13'-0" long, 7weight, 4 equal piece rod, Rainshadow is the product name, usually indicative of action and materials. Fundamentally, this rod is constructed from a graphite (flag) material and resin (producing a modulus of elasticity that is proprietary to the rod builder). This rod is of medium action (slow action rod = bends into the cork handle, medium action rod = bending 2/3 the length of the rod, and fast action rod = bending the top 1/3 of the rod). In simple terms, it takes about 435 grains to load a "7weight" rod, at 415 grains loading (deflects mostly the rod tip = faster action). Conversely, 500 grains loads (deflects the rod tip deeply = slower action) without breaking down the tip section. Blue printing a rod is graphing the entire rod flex/loading pattern (paying particular attention to how each section of the rod bends in sequence, again proprietary). Color, handle length/material, reel seat are vendors' choices. Eye spacing is usually standard, as not to interfere with rod joints.

A spey rod's performance with Skagit, Scandi, medium or long belly lines falls into how one perceives matching a rod's performance characteristics to various lines and grain weights. That is the reason why spey rods list a range of loading grain weights, ranges say from 415 grains to 500 grains, instead of "7 weight," which in turn, accommodates a variety of casting styles! In general, Scandi lines load the rod based on line speed (lowest grain weight = fastest action). Skagit lines load the rod more deeply = slows the action of the rod, often referred to as "loading into the cork" (heaviest grain weight). Medium and long lines also load the

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

How Spey Rods and Lines are Developed - Continued from Page 8

rod more deeply and require a more "sweeping" casting style to generate the larger "D" loop needed for a longer line. Skagit is the easiest, most "forgiving" casting system where medium/long lines are much more "critical" and exacting in tracing rod movement.

For those interested in other aspects of Spey rods, lines & casting styles, I suggest, "[Demystifying Spey Casting](#)," which can be found online under Articles-GB Flycasters.

Conservation Report

by Ed Lloyd, VP Conservation

Next scheduled Conservation Meeting is Monday, November 15th, tentatively at Round Table Pizza off Sierra College Blvd. Time is 6:00PM. The location might be subject to change, depending on what is recommended by Placer County CDC. A topic of discussion will be centered on access to the Truckee River, specifically in the Hirschdale area. At present, some of the access has a gate blocking access to the Truckee River, located near the railroad tracks. This has sparked some heated discussions, currently being monitored by Trout Unlimited and Truckee Tahoe Fly Fishers. More details will follow.

Fishing with My Granddad

by Gail D'Arcy

The Pond
The bobber – red and white
The hook
"Got to put your own worm on the hook"
Fishing with my Granddad.

Toss out the bobber
attached to your pole.
Fishing pole that is
When a fish goes for the worm,
the bobber bobs, you pull up the pole, the fishing line.
Hopefully the catfish is still attached.
Granddad removes the hook from the fish's mouth.
Puts the fish in a basket.
Take it home.
Grandmother fixes it – guts it, takes off the fins and fry's.
We eat.

Much has changed
Fly fishing; such a skill.

Catch and release
such a right thing to do.
Wise, as well as preserving our natural blessings.
Once it was essential to eat.
Now it's essential to preserve,
maintain respect for our natural environment.
Be a part of what we enjoy naturally.

Now we have time to play.

Upper Sac Time is Here!

by Tony Jelinek, Fishout Leader

The 28th annual fall Upper Sac Fishout will be taking place from **November 4 to November 7** (Thur-Sun). The Upper Sac boasts 30 miles of river access with the center being the town of Dunsmuir.

Due to abundant pocket water, short-line nymphing is the method of choice on this stream. If new to the river, or new to fly fishing, you will be partnered with someone who knows the ropes, and everyone who signs up will receive information on lodging, an agenda, and directions for river access points. If you are new to short-line nymphing, you will be shown how to tie the leader and obtain instruction on the technique. In the evening, we all gather for dinner at a local restaurant to appease our hunger, and tell tales of the day. We are also planning on having a barbecue tri-tip dinner for about \$10 per person on Friday evening. Plan on joining us for 4 days, or as many days as you can make it for fun, fishing, great camaraderie, and a chance to get to know this beautiful fishing water.

More details on this event are posted [here](#) on the GBF website. If you are interested in participating in the fish-out, or have any questions, please contact me at jelinea@me.com, or phone 916-751-9249.

Fly Fishing Britain's Chalk Streams Today Part Three of Three Parts

by Eric Palmer with Mike Beauchamp¹

Now let's see what changes the 21st century has brought as English angler, Mike Beauchamp, continues from last month describing fly fishing on his southern chalk streams today:

As you will have read in the previous chapter, I live in Hampshire England and fish all three Chalk streams of our county, the rivers **Avon**, **Itchen** and **Test**, perhaps three of the most famous chalk streams on our island.

If you're not a riparian landowner, there are only two ways to fish these iconic rivers. The first is to be a member of an exclusive club or "syndicate." The second is to pay for a day, week or a season rod. A rod is the name for a trout or salmon fly angler, and not used for other forms of fishing. To obtain such fishing you go through a fly shop, or arrange a fly fishing holiday through an outfitter. On some fisheries, an angler or group can rent the fishing for a complete day.

Before I go any further, I should mention that all our rivers have full-time river keepers (a practice dating to the early 19th century, and akin to having a private game warden on each piece of water), the majority of these individuals being ex-professional soldiers from the British Army. The use of ex-military personnel was established many years ago, as they fit the requirements of the job superbly, being polite, hardworking and highly adaptable to the flexible working hours the job requires. They are also well presented, knowledgeable and extremely good at ensuring that the fishery rules are followed.

The river keeper will meet new anglers when they arrive and show them the beat they will be fishing, advice will be given, questions answered, and the keeper will drop by several times during your day when specific questions can be answered, and he will even assist in spotting feeding fish, should this prove a challenge to the angler.



A lodge where you begin your day with tea with the river keeper. A nice spot for lunch or a group BBQ.

¹ See Mike Beauchamp's bio. at the bottom of the article.

Fly Fishing Britain's Chalk Streams of Today - Continued from Page 10

All fishing is undertaken on numbered beats, which often have names that date back a hundred years or more. The keeper will decide the beats to be fished for the exclusive use of each angler for the entire day. Groups often share beats, and the fewer anglers on the river, the more beats the keeper may permit the angler(s) to fish. The unwritten rule is that once you are on "his" river, the keeper effectively becomes your manager, even though your fee pays his salary. Tipping is not obligatory, but always welcomed, providing it is polite and discreet. It is not advisable to upset someone who was previously a Sargent Major in the British Army.

All beats have benches, close mown grass bankside footpaths, weather shelters, with a central fishing lodge, rod racks, and BBQ grill, toilet facilities and a car park. Access to all fisheries has a high level of security.

All three Hampshire rivers hold a stock of native Brown Trout (2-8lb.), migratory Sea Trout (2-20lb+) and Atlantic Salmon (5-30lb+). Salmon are protected and must be returned unharmed. The River Itchen, from source to the sea, is maintained exclusively as a native Brown Trout river, any Rainbow Trout being removed, (killed) should they appear.

Trout are subject to bag and size limits, but many anglers never take a fish. It's the solitude and the wildlife of the river we love; the fishing is purely secondary, e.g. recently, I walked and watched from 1-4 PM before I cast a line, leaving at 7 PM. I doubt I made 80 casts throughout.

The River Test is stocked with Rainbow trout specifically to accommodate those who simply must take a fish home.

All the Hampshire Rivers are in private ownership, the exceptions being free fishing for all within Winchester City boundaries, for the Itchen in Winchester (the location of King Arthur's round table), and the Avon in Salisbury. The origin of the free fishing concession for local people is lost in antiquity, but probably pre-dates Henry VIII's reign when the monasteries harvested the fish to feed the monks.

On the upper reaches of the Itchen, just above Winchester, lies the famous **Barton Carrier**, which is owned outright by the Hampshire; and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, which is not a fishing club but a wildlife charity. The Trust recently won a prestigious conservation award for restoring this, the very cathedral of fly fishing, to the former glory of the great angling writers and for its furtherance of fly fishing.



A fishing hut for lunch, or to sit out the occasional summer shower.



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The **River Test** is a different river to the Itchen, i.e. wider, deeper and often carrying more water, and essentially a victim of its world-wide popularity. Most of the river is heavily stocked with Rainbow Trout with some Browns. It also has a run of Atlantic Salmon and Sea Trout. Many sections of the Test are open to day rods, which explains the heavy stocking of non-native trout...rods who don't fish very often seem to want something to show for their money.

A few sections of the River Test are highly exclusive. The very highest amongst these being the waters of the Houghton Club, founded in 1822, it is the oldest fly fishing club in the world. The names of members are kept totally secret, with even our Royal family only fishing as guests. The Club has been benefactor to many projects, from local to international, with the first Brown Trout sent to New Zealand coming from its waters.

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Fly Fishing Britain's Chalk Streams of Today - Continued from Page 11

Obviously, it would be sacrilege to fish anything other than upstream dry fly on the waters of the River Test. What happens elsewhere is up to the river keepers, and there is no doubt all (fly) techniques—even nymph fishing—is sometimes permitted in order to satisfy the fee paying rod.

The **River Avon** is very sparsely stocked with Brown Trout. Mainly, it's an Atlantic Salmon and Migratory Trout river, but also England's premier "coarse" fish river. With such a low stock, the trout fishing does not attract the attention of many anglers, with much of the fishing held by clubs or private syndicates offering fishing along sections of the river for an annual fee. I am the only syndicate rod who fishes for Brown Trout on 8 miles of a private estate (think Downton Abbey), whereas there are 85 Rods (C&R) fishing for Salmon. Like the Itchen, any Rainbows caught are removed on the majority of Avon waters. The Rainbow trout are escapees (aka vermin) from upstream facilities which produce fish for the table.

Lastly, a little about our salmon fishing:

All English Atlantic Salmon are protected by Law, and must be returned immediately following capture. Scotland has its own laws where some fish can be taken.

In England, the owner of a fishery/section of river must follow the National Regulations, but our antiquated legal system permits an owner to add extra rules of their own. Thus, you can find yourself being permitted to only fish a fly on one section of river, but could also use a spinner or spoon if you cross a boundary fence to fish the same river from the bank/land owned by another landowner.



Groomed fishing access. Wading is not always permitted.

Some Angling Clubs do lease Trout and Salmon fishing, but memberships are restricted and normally limited to residents within the local area.

In recent years, we have seen the rise of private syndicates, normally formed by a landowner or a group of anglers who rent the fishing on a long-term basis. Members being invitees following an expression of interest (an "I wish to join" letter). Membership is often restricted to those who fish for the purity of the sport. I am a member of two such syndicates; one has 100 members who fish 11 miles of Salmon and Trout fishing on a large and very private country estate. This may seem a large number of anglers, but many only fish a few times a year—some joining for when they retire, some being older and less active.

Wading is permitted in some rivers, but not on others. The times and days when fishing is permitted also vary between landowners, often to allow for formal shooting days or management operations by the river keepers.

A day's Salmon fishing on an English river can cost between \$200 and \$450, with a season rod fishing weekly up to \$4,500. Some fisheries also offer a combination rod, meaning you can fish for Salmon and Trout, six days of each for \$2,350. All season rods have the option of inviting a guest to fish with them. On many fisheries, Trout fishing takes precedence over Salmon, with the best beats being exclusively managed for Trout angling, and where no other forms of angling takes place.



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Fly Fishing Britain's Chalk Streams of Today - Continued from Page 12

It is rare indeed to find more than 5-6 anglers on the whole river on any day; usually, its 2-3 at the most. Often, I have the whole river to myself. My other syndicate has just 14 members, with 4 miles of trout and coarse fishing. Syndicate fees are not discussed.

Now, lest it appear that all on the chalk streams is pristine and idyllic as in the days of Halford and Skues, I will finish with some harsh realities. All our rivers are managed by a government agency whose first priority is to ensure sufficient water is available for domestic and commercial use, a demand that is rising each year. However, the resource being natural, replenishment is only from rainfall, and with our (ever) changing climate, nothing is assured. This can mean a summer river high and clear with a glorious fly hatch and fish rising everywhere, or a river low and slow and all the pools stuffed with dour disinterested fish.

At the very moment, we have good flows and levels, Salmon and Trout aplenty but the water temperature is high. Salmon dislike it with a vengeance, nipping at flies but not enough to be hooked, but conditions the Trout absolutely adore. Was it ever thus?

So, there you have it. Fly fishing in modern Britain, land of venerated traditions, has made a few modern accommodations, but in most quarters has changed little, if at all, since the times of Halford and Skues. While nymphing is certainly fully embraced in America and Europe, it would seem still merely tolerated on the high rivers of England, unlike elsewhere in the country, in spite of G.E.M.—Skues' best efforts to the contrary. See the GBF message board for more photos and discussion on British fly fishing, including background on the origin of this article collaboration.

About Mike Beauchamp:

Mike is a retired Ranger, an ardent multi-species angler, an award winning conservationist and published in the IGFA International Angler, he recently guided a US businessman to an "Itchen Slam" who in return insisted on taking Mike's first ever selfie!

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

Fly Patterns - Bill's Orange Treat



Bill's Orange Treat

Materials:

Hook:	Daiichi 1260 size 8
Thread:	70 denier flat nylon, burnt orange, and Black "Sheer" 14/0
Bead:	Black
Tail:	2 or 3 wisps of UV pearl dubbing
Body base:	Burnt orange dubbing
Over-Body:	Dark olive or black spiky dubbing
Ribbing:	Fine gold wire
Legs:	None
Wingpads:	Ginger hen hackle
Thorax:	Fine black ostrich herl
Hackle:	Furnace hen
Weight:	5 wraps of lead free weight, behind bead
Head:	Thread

Description

October Caddis hatch time is upon us, fly anglers. Years ago I created a five-fly series for the life stages of the October Caddis ("Dicosmoecus"), which is the largest of the many species of caddis. Unlike the

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 13

Rhyacophila which is the insect that was the inspiration for last month's pattern, the "Greenie," the October Caddis is a "cased" caddis as opposed to a free-living caddis. For more information about the life stages of this insect and its habits, I highly recommend reading the article named simply, "October Caddis" written by Phil Rowley, which you will find at: <http://www.flycraftangling.com/index.asp?p=129>.

The Orange Treat is an October Caddis emerger pattern, tied in a soft-hackle style. I decided to add it to my quintuplet of October Caddis flies, and make it a sextuplet. The fly is tied in much the same style as last month's fly, the Greenie. For the Orange Treat, the abdomen is made with burnt orange colored dubbing that is overwrapped with a transparent layer of dark touch-dubbed material. It is important that the abdomen color show through the dark dubbing that is applied over it—but not so much that it predominates. Here's an apropros quote from last month's article: "The method I use to accomplish this result is to change the tying thread to black at the right step in the tying process and employ the "touch dubbing" technique that Gary LaFontaine (rest his soul) advocated in his books on tying caddis patterns. This technique creates translucency and an impression of life, unlike what would result if the fly's abdomen was just an ordinary opaque dubbed body. The "shine through" technique, incidentally, is not new; it has been used for wet fly patterns (traditional winged wets, wingless wets, flymphs, soft hackles, and nymphs) for a very long time."

I tie this fly on a Daiichi 1260 hook because I like its curved shank and large gape. I also add a "tail" of a few strands (and I do mean few) strands of UV pearl dubbing—not the flashabou type of strands. The tail is barely visible to the eye but does catch light in the water.

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. Crimp the hook barb and mount the bead. Wrap 5 turns of weight wire behind the bead. Cover the hook shank and weight with a flat layer of the black thread; stop immediately above the hook point and leave the bobbin there.
2. From the package remove 3 or 4 wisps of UV pearl dubbing; roll them between your fingers and tie them in at that point.



Steps 1 & 2



Step 3

3. Cut a short piece of fine gold wire and tie it in at that same point. For now, just let the black thread bobbin hang there. Start the burnt orange thread behind the bead, and wrap it rearward in tight turns. Stop at the hook point, apply orange dubbing to the thread, and then wrap the dubbing noodle forward to the back of the bead, laying down a nice smooth layer as you work forward. Whip finish the burnt orange thread there.

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4. Using tacky dubbing wax, wax a 2 inch piece of the black thread; be sure to get the wax right up to the hook shank. Take a pinch of dark olive or black dubbing between your thumb and forefinger, and brush it along the length of the waxed thread, back and forth several times. This will result in some of the dubbing fibers sticking to the wax. Move the thread forward using relatively tightly spaced turns, ending just behind the bead. Although the burnt orange color doesn't show through much at this point, when it gets in the water there will be a significant difference.

*Steps 4 & 5**Steps 6, 7 & 8*

6. Tie in three barbules of fine black ostrich herl by their tips. It is good to snip off a bit of the tips before tying the barbules in, in order to obtain a stronger stem section. Wrap rearward over the herl tips to a point about 3 hook eye lengths behind the bead. The butts should now be pointing rearward.
7. Prepare a pair of ginger hen hackles by stripping all of the hackle from the bottom of the feather, leaving just enough to make a wing pad that extends from the back of the bead to the bend of the hook. Tie one of these on each side of the hook so that they rest alongside the body. Trim the excess.
8. Prepare a hen furnace hackle feather from the neck portion of the skin, as if you were preparing a soft hackle. See the July column for the method for accomplishing this. Tie the prepared feather in by its tip, concave side up, with the stem butt pointing forward. The feather should be tied in directly behind the bead.
9. Grab the 3 herls with your hackle plier and twist them counter-clockwise until they form a thin, uniform "rope." Wrap the rope forward to the back of the bead, using about 4 turns, and tie it off there.
10. Grab the stem of the furnace hackle feather with your hackle pliers and take two full wraps behind the bead, making sure that the convex side of the feather is up. Tie the feather off with a couple of tight turns behind the bead and clip the excess. Sweep the barbules rearward and whip finish behind the bead. Don't be tempted to wrap over the barbules because that will make them lie flat against the abdomen, which is not a desirable result because it inhibits their movement while drifting.

*Steps 9 & 10*

Now, go crank one of these bugs and fish it. I live by that simple philosophy.

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.

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