

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

September 2021

<http://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by TinaLyn Sell, GBF President



Hello Members,

We have another successful general meeting in the net, and at the time of writing this, the plan is for another meeting in September—fingers crossed. We had a large number of guests at the meeting, all of whom were very impressed with the educational opportunities our club has to offer. This club is about more than just fishouts, we take the time to teach, educate, and help our members grow.

Not only are we dealing with a new variant of Covid, but low water and high temperatures as well. If you are like me, you are wondering when it will end. While we are waiting, one thing we can do is listen to Mother Nature. She is currently struggling keeping nature balanced, so when you visit the great outdoors, stay aware of the environment around you and think about what you can do to help. Be sure to read the "Hoot Owl" guidelines from California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Hopefully, all of you read last month's "Leave No Trace, Plan Ahead" article. Look for this month's article, "Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces" in this issue. As nature lovers, it is up to us to help protect the flora and fauna of the areas we visit. Mother Nature will appreciate your efforts.

Keep yourself and families safe, but do not forget to live.

The One Fly Contest, a Long Standing GBF Tradition

by Jim Degnan, Contest Leader

The **One Fly Contest** will be held at Rancho Seco Park, Saturday, September 18. It will start at 8:00 AM and end at 12:00 Noon. We will meet at Group Picnic Area 2B. This is a great spot right on accessible water, with a dock nearby and plenty of parking. It is a short kick from the south launch area. You can also launch from the north side and someone will be there to sign you in.

This is a time to bring your "A Game" using only one fly during the entire contest period. The lake has lots of different species to catch and allows for a wide repertoire of skills. There is a dock you can fish from with room for casting. You can also rent a boat, but they only rent after 10:00 AM, which puts the contestants at some disadvantage, but at least they get to join in the fun.

The Contest works as follows: The Park opens at 7:00 AM. Contestants will check in with fishout team member, preferably well before 8:00 AM. There is a fee of \$10.00 to cover the cost of the picnic site, food, drinks, and prizes. The contestant will present his or her chosen fly,

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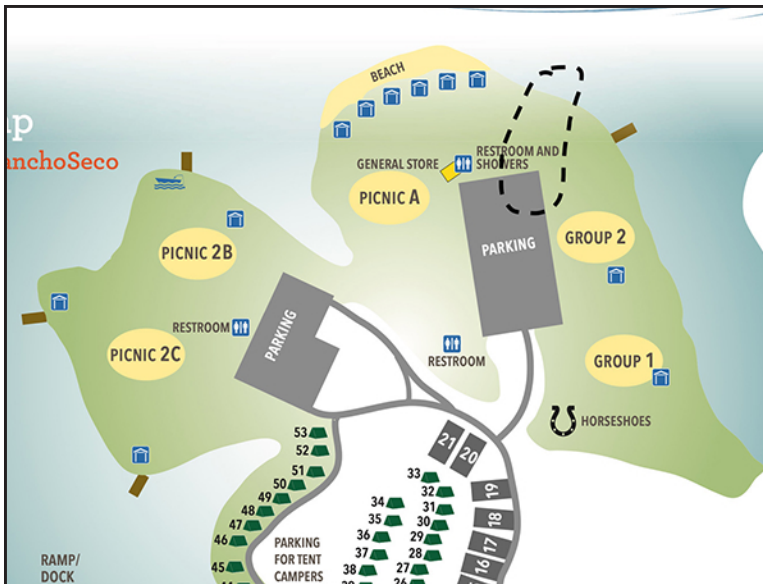
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SEPTEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1. Knot Tying Clinic	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7. Board of Directors Meeting	8.	9. Monthly Meeting	10.	11.
12.	13. Conservation Committee Meeting	14.	15.	16.	17.	18. One Fly Contest
19.	20.	21. Fly Tying Jam	22.	23.	24.	25. Truckee River Fishout
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.		

The One Fly Contest - Continued from Page 1



Map of Rancho Seco Park

pay the fee and sign in to get their name on the "Leader Board." Contestants must have a walkie talkie, or a buddy with one, and have it set to channel 6.0. When a contestant catches a fish, they call in to the leader and report their catch. The leader will record the catch on the "Leader Board." At 12 Noon the contest will be declared closed, contestants will show their fly to the leader and members of the team, and verify their catch. The leader will summarize the "Leader Board" and announce the winners.

One Fly means one fly. If you break off or lose the fly, the contest ends for you. Contestants will call in immediately after breaking off or losing their fly. All fish recorded before the breakoff or loss, will count. You can continue to fish for the fun of it. That's probably when you will get into a pod and catch more fish than the ultimate winner. That's fishing for you.

Prizes will be awarded for: Most Fish, Second Most fish and Third Most fish. In case of a tie, a prize will be awarded to both members. There will be a consolation prize for "No Fish."

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The One Fly Contest - Continued from Page 2

At this point, lunch will be served! We are looking forward to **Jack Ramos'** famous Sausage and Peppers. Please sign up early so we will know how much food to prepare. Sign up deadline is 6:00 PM Saturday, September 11th. Given the present infestation of the Delta Virus, if the Board deems the risk too high for serving food, we will offer cold drinks and water only. Dang.

For more information, full details, and to sign up, go to the GBF Message Board ["Topics/Fishouts/One Fly Contest."](#) Once you are signed up, you will receive emails regarding this contest as the situation requires. You can also check the GBF Message Board for updates, but the emails will have more information.

Saturday night is a full moon, and the water is warm. Fishing will be tough. Denny Rickards in his book ["Stillwater Presentation"](#) (p 34) states that he avoids fishing the day before, the day of and the day after a full moon. But then, after reviewing all his parameters such as barometric pressure, lake turnover, temperature swings, level fluctuations, etc., you should flyfish only about 5 days a year and then only in the in the early morning and late evening. Let's prove to him that we can catch a bunch of fish on a day of a full moon.



Getting ready for lunch.

Conservation Report Trout Unlimited - River time - General Health

by Ed Lloyd, VP Conservation

Normally, at this time of the month it's time for me to think about what I will add for Conservation, as I begin my last year as Conservation VP. That will indeed be the case here, except now there are other concerns that are being addressed, such as Trout Unlimited, time on the river of your choice, and far more important than anything else, your overall Health.

As of this writing, Trout Unlimited had a scheduled River Cleanup detail scheduled for Saturday, August 14th at 9:00AM-12:00PM. Many members of GBF were scheduled to attend, yet uncertainty arose because of health concerns related to the emerging Delta Variance Strand. In addition to that, many areas around California have encouraged anglers to get out of the water by 12:00 noon because of the water temperature approaching 68 degrees, or higher. Not only that, the river flows are low, which jeopardizes the health of the trout. And just when you think you've been overwhelmed, now there is the current danger of fires, and that danger currently is spreading.

Finally, the most important thing to consider here, and rightly so, is the overall health of our entire membership. I know that everyone, especially me right now, wants to get out on the river and enjoy the many benefits of wading, hooking trout, being engrossed in nature, and just plain breathe good clean air.

Now, all of this is currently on hold, because absolutely the most important thing to consider here is everyone's health, our members and their families, and especially the loved ones we all return home to. The fishouts I've scheduled for August were cancelled because of the above issues, yet the September and October fishouts are still on schedule. However, stay tuned as that could change.

Next Scheduled Conservation Meeting is Monday, September 13th, 6:00PM, at Round Table Pizza off Sierra College Blvd.

A Reflection of Time

by Duncan Stillwater

There is a place I know where the ruins of an ancient volcano cast their reflection on to the water of a crystal-clear lake. The road to this lake is lined with red and black cinder boulders, some the size of cars, exploded from the top of this volcano eons ago. I seek out this lake, usually with friends from my flyfishing club, to find solace from the day-to-day routine of a mundane life. My friends have their own reasons.

On a June day, I was with my friends, suspended on a pane of watery glass, admiring the volcano's reflection, when a splash disturbed the image. A fish had risen to the surface to eat a bug. I was reminded of the excuse I used to justify the expense and effort to be there—to catch trout—big ones! I remembered the advice I received earlier that day from a club member who claimed to have caught and released eleven trout the prior afternoon, "The fish are eating callibaetis emergers." I unzipped and pulled from a pocket in my float tube a plastic box where I kept an assortment of flies. Nothing looked like a callibaetis. Of course, I had no idea what a callibaetis looked like, much more an emerger. What was I to tie on the end of my tippet? As I pondered the situation, I noticed a blue damsel fly alit and shimmering on the tip of my fly rod. I broadened my gaze and saw hundreds of sparkling blue bodies hovering over the water. I was in the middle of a damsel fly hatch!

Not having anything blue in my fly box, I tied on my old go-to fly, a number 12 Royal Coachman, and smeared on a dab of Gink to keep it afloat. Then, with a few false casts to extend the length, I lay the line, tippet, and fly on the water in a relatively effortless cast. Nevertheless, a ripple spread across the water blurring the volcano's reflection. With no breeze in the air, the water soon calmed and I watched the Royal Coachman sit lazily in the reflection of the volcano. Nothing happened, and my mind soon wandered, as it often does when I'm fishing on a lake, and an image of my father appeared in the reflection. I saw his strong supple fingers tie a clinch knot on a salmon egg hook. I saw him tie the same knot to attach a swivel and lead

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A Reflection of Time - Continued from Page 4

sinker. I heard his gentle voice explain the process. I felt his steady hand on my shoulder as I attempted to tie the knot. A gentle breeze swept across the water and the image of my father disappeared in the ripples.

Other images appeared to me that lazy June afternoon in the reflection of the volcano, most of which I've now forgotten. What I do remember is that while I didn't catch any trout that glorious afternoon, when I waded from the water near dusk, I felt calm and my spirit renewed.

Leave No Trace Travel on Durable Surfaces

by TinaLyn Sell

When you are out enjoying nature, do you ever stop to think about the path you are taking or what natural areas you may be going through? Or, better yet, when you go into a stream to cool off or to get to the other side, do you think about the many organisms living in the water? Every step you take has an impact on the flora and fauna of the area you are in. As soon as you blaze a trail, others will follow, until the area is trampled beyond recovery.

This is why it is so important to travel on constructed and identifiable trails laid out and maintained by land management agencies. Having identifiable trails can help reduce the scar left on nature.

When traveling in groups, be respectful of other hikers. A common rule of thumb is, those furthest from any hillside, move aside. Make room for others to pass. When taking breaks, do not do it on the trail, find a nice spot off trail, and most important, avoid shouting to each other. Wildlife do not come to your home and yell, so why do it in theirs.

Durability is key. Rock, sand, and gravel are natural surfaces that can handle tremendous traffic. The durability of vegetation, on the other hand, differs. This is why knowing the area you will be traveling in is important. Dry grass tends to be resistant, where wet meadows are fragile. Know before you go.

The same rules apply when camping. Be sure you know what is in the area you are considering using; the type and amount of vegetation, and the possible disturbance to wildlife. Distance from water and trails is something else to think about. A good rule of thumb is 200 feet, or 70 adult steps, from both. Keeping away from the water's edge will allow access for wildlife.

This is the way Planning Ahead will allow you to travel properly and help protect nature.

Be sure to read next month's article, "Dispose Waste Properly."

Fly Fishing the Chalkstreams of England - Then and Now

*Chalkstreams and the Private Angling Clubs Who Fish Them
~ Part Two of Three Parts ~*

by Eric Palmer with Mike Beauchamp¹

The question some American fly anglers may have, (given the many modern advancements in technology and methods, not to mention the great passing of time) is to what extent are the classic and strict fly fishing traditions of late 19th and early 20th century Britain still followed? Further, what's a day in the life of

¹About Mike Beauchamp: *Mike is a retired forest 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!*

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Fly Fishing the Chalkstreams of England - Continued from Page 5

a typical British fly angler like, as he or she plies the largely private—and expensive—waters of their storied chalkstreams, which if they could speak, would tell fascinating tales reaching back to the Roman occupation.

And, while we're at it, what is a "chalkstream" anyway, and why are they only accessible at considerable expense on the private land of the grand old country estates, a la "Downton Abby?" The answers to these questions, and more, will soon be revealed through collaboration with bonafide long-time British fly angler and retired Forest Ranger, **Mike Beauchamp**, who, through good fortune, calls the County Hampshire home within just a short drive of some of the most cherished fly fishing waters in England.

The Chalkstream

Mike explains that the most famous chalkstreams of England are the **River Test**, the **River Avon** and the **River Itchen**, and all lie in the county of Hampshire whose border begins 30 miles south of London, and extends to the sea on the South Coast. These Chalkstreams originate as perpetually flowing springs emerging from under and through naturally formed chalk hills, and subsequently flow through chalk bedrock toward the sea.

Chalk is a highly porous, soft permeable rock that is highly alkaline (pH of +7.5), allowing the abundant rains of the ever-changing English weather to slowly percolate into the aquifers and feed into the rivers. You can understand why chalkstreams rise and fall slowly, remain within the banks most of the year, and provide ideal conditions for angling.

The slightly acidic rain dissolves some of the chalk, which combines with dissolved calcium and carbonate ions creating a mineral rich and slightly alkaline flow highly conducive to abundant bug (invertebrate) life. This explains why the chalkstreams of England and the few in Normandy, France have the highest protection status, and as the only true chalkstreams in the world, are of global importance.

The above means chalkstreams are typically free of the silt and other suspended detritus that's often the bane of the American angler, remain at a relatively stable 50 degrees year-round, and run gin clear for most of the year.

By now, there should be little confusion about the mystique surrounding Britain's prized and storied chalkstreams; truly a Shangri-La for the Brown Trout, Sea Run Trout, Atlantic Salmon, and Grayling stalked by British anglers for centuries.

Private Property – No Free Fishing!

Now, what's the deal with most of these highly prized English fisheries being private, and thereby usually very expensive to access?

Mike explains:

"It has much to do with the fact that these streams, for the most part, exist on the large private estates whose history of ownership can sometimes be traced back many, many centuries to the Norman Conquest and William the Conqueror's defeat of King Harold at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

So, how and why?

How: Because before William's reign, all the land in England



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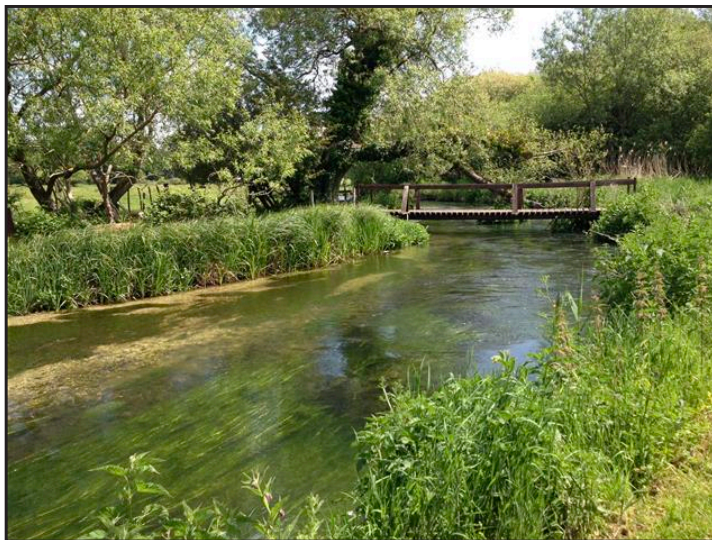
Fly Fishing the Chalkstreams of England - Continued from Page 6

was freely used with little claim to ownership, and as King William simply claimed all the land of England for himself.

Why: Because after William claimed the land, he rewarded many of those who fought for him with large estates, which included the rivers that flowed through them.

There are small sections of rivers where the fishing is free to anyone, but the river and its banks are owned and controlled by someone.

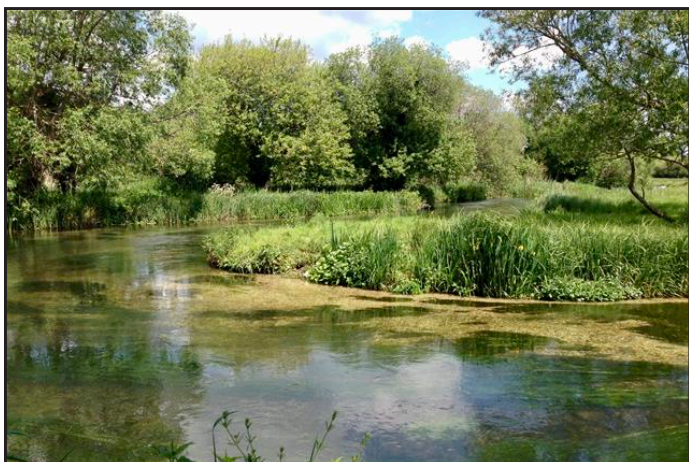
Through the centuries that followed, many of the big estates were broken up and sold to smaller and better farmers, more thrifty owners and more recently big companies. Yes, the Downton Abbey's of the TV series still exist, but an Earl, Duke or Marquis of today prefer to be less conspicuous than the sword carrying landowners of old."



The Private Angling Clubs of Today Are Born

Mike continues...

"Now, estate owners owned all the fish, so kept the best for themselves, then rented out the remaining fish and fishing rights that he didn't require to peasants or tenants, and this eventually evolved into the private angling clubs we have on the majority of our waters to this day.



Unlike in the U.S., in Britain we have very few waters where the general public can fish without payment to the landowner. The fish in our rivers are divided by 'class,' meaning that 'Game Fish' are Trout, Salmon, Sea Trout and Grayling. These species are all covered by different rules and regulations, and the price per day to catch them can be as much as \$735US early or late in the season, or as high as \$1,070 during the mayfly hatch. This is just for daily access. Add in a guide for \$315, which includes tackle.

An annual Syndicate membership for \$10,750 will allow 17 days of fishing fortnightly for 3 rods on a given beat (fish

one day, wait 14 days, fish another day, times 17 for the year). Then add the cost of a license (payable to the government) which is correspondingly higher for 'Game' fish, plus the VAT tax. Obviously, 'Game' tackle is higher priced as well (since its fly fishing gear). For a normal blue collar worker, these prices are impossible on a regular basis; thus, the regular 'Game' anglers tend to be more highly compensated 'Professionals,' if not the land owners themselves. 'Coarse Fish' are non-game species (catfish, suckers, bass, and other less desirable bony species), and these are fished for by those who cannot afford the price of admission to the prime waters, not to mention the expensive fishing tackle required to fish with."

So, now that we understand how fishing conditions evolved in England over the millennia, how do modern British fly anglers, or visitors from other lands, fish the cherished chalkstreams for game fish? Stay tuned for the conclusion to this three-part saga in next month's *Leader*.



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

Fly Patterns - Bill's Greenie



Bill's Greenie

Materials:

Hook:	Any standard nymph hook, #14-18
Thread:	70 denier flat nylon, fluorescent green, and Black "Sheer" 14/0
Beads:	Black, to suit hook size
Tail:	2 or 3 wisps of UV pearl dubbing
Body base:	Tying thread (very thin)
Body:	Dark olive spiky dubbing
Ribbing:	Fine gold wire
Legs:	None
Wing:	None
Thorax:	Fine black ostrich herl
Hackle:	Starling
Weight:	None
Head:	Thread

Description

Sometime when you are fishing a stream like the Upper Sacramento River, or the McCloud River, turn over a few rocks, or better yet grab a submersed branch or piece of wood and have a look at what lives in that part of the stream. You will undoubtedly find little dark green worms that have a black head—and they will likely be the most populous insect on the rock or stick. Then, during mid-to-late afternoon, use a seine net to see if you can find out what's in the drift. Again, you will likely find the same little green worms wriggling around on the screen. What are these little critters? They are caddis larvae; their taxonomic name is *Rhyacophila*; they and the *Hydropsyche* are the two most populous types of caddis. *Rhyacophila* are a "free-living," meaning that they do not build a case like other types of caddis do. They are predatory by nature, and seek their food by wandering around on the rocks. In a very few situations, they can differ in color ranging to tan; but by and large, the insect is normally a deep olive color. Why would they be found on the screen of the seine? The reason is that one of this bug's characteristics is that it engages in what entomologists call "behavioural drift," which means that for some reason during the afternoon, these little guys will launch themselves *en masse* into the drift; there seems to be general agreement that this behavior is our Mother's way of ensuring that the entire stream is populated with this species. Here is a picture of the bug:



Rhyacophila favor riffle water; when they engage in behavioral drift a larva pattern will work if worked through the riffle near the bottom. In other words it is a perfect situation for short-line nymphing—or, if you are inclined to use bobbers, be sure that you are drifting your flies near the bottom (I don't recommend that technique, by the way). *Rhyacophila* hatch in the afternoon from late spring through August; pupa patterns are effective during a hatch. Hatched adults will return to the water during late afternoon and evening, and trout will sometimes take them as the bugs alight on the surface. A very interesting fact regarding the adults' behavior is that when they hit the water they dive beneath the surface to deposit their eggs on the rocks at the bottom; unlike mayflies, their eggs are not deposited on the surface. Does this suggest anything to you regarding fly patterns to imitate the diving behavior? A good source of information on this interesting characteristic is Ralph Cutter's "*Trout Food*;" another is Dave Hughes book titled "*Wet Flies*." More on this subject in later articles.

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 8

I developed this pattern over a relatively long period of time; it has undergone a few changes over the years, but it is basically the same as when I first tied one up. The most important characteristic of this fly, at least in my opinion, is the manner in which the abdomen is constructed. In the materials list you will note that I specify fluorescent green 70 denier tying thread for the underbody; it is important that the thread color show through the dubbing that is applied—but not so much that it predominates. 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 variety of hooks but as indicated in the materials list an ordinary standard wire 1x long nymph hook will work fine. The other hooks I use are the Daiichi 1260 because I like its curved shank and large gape, and scud hooks because...well, because I can. 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. Cover the hook shank with a single, 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 green thread behind the bead, and wrap it rearward in tight turns. Stop at the hook point, and then wrap it forward to the back of the bead, laying a nice smooth layer as you work forward. Remember: the body needs to be very thin. Whip finish the green thread there.

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from page 9

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 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 fluorescent green doesn't show through much at this point, when it gets in the water there will be a significant difference. Rib the fly with the gold wire, making 5 turns, and tie the wire off at the front of the body.
5. Rib the fly with the gold wire, making 5 turns, and tie the wire off at the front of the body.

*Steps 4 & 5**Steps 6 & 7*

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 starling 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

8. 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.
9. Grab the stem of the starling 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 8 & 9*

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 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.

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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