

February 2022

http://gbflycasters.org

Leader's Line

by TinaLyn Sell, GBF President

Hello Members,



We have the first month of this year under our belts. My fingers are crossed you all have been able to push through any issues with Omicron, the newest Covid-19 variant, and have been able to start your new year off in a positive way.

We have many things on the club calendar to look forward to: fly tying each month, the annual dinner, and several fishout dates on the calendar, including Manzanita Lake, just to mention one of my favorites.

Covid does not seem to be going away, which means the great outdoors is our best course of treatment. Mother Nature has remained Covid-free and

has been doing a fabulous job of providing us with some much-needed rain and sunny days. She is setting up the spring season quite nicely. Get out and look for the flowers starting to poke though the soil. It always brings me such positive feelings. A new beginning is just around the corner. Stay strong...

Monthly Program

Our February speaker is **Ryan Williams**, a full-time guide & fly tier centered in Oroville. With 9 years of guiding experience, he now focuses on the Feather and Sac rivers for trout, steelhead, and stripers; Lake Oroville and Berryessa for Bass; and Clear Lake for both bass and crappie. Ryan is best known for his rediscovering of the "Float n' Fly" with the fly rod, and its application for stillwater bass during the winter. He's also been a major proponent of top-water fly fishing on California's public reservoirs, and is the current Costa Bass n' Fly Champion along with Brian Pultz.

Ryan will be doing his presentation on fishing for bass and steelhead.



Ryan Williams

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F E B R U A R Y ²⁰²²								
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.		
6.	7.	8. Board of Directors Meeting	9. <u></u>	Monthly Meeting	11.	12.		
13.	14.	15. Fly Tying Jam	16.	17.	18.	19.		
20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.		
27.	28.							

Our Famous Annual Dinner is Coming Next Month!

The Granite Bay Flycasters Annual Dinner is always the biggest and best fly-fishing party around—and we're inviting everyone to join us for this wonderful and important evening! Whether you can attend or not, please consider donating something, fishing-related or otherwise, to help support the raffle…and your club… on this very special night.

Here's everything you need to know about attending (and contributing to) this event...

- **Who:** Club members, friends, families, co-workers, neighbors...anyone who's interested in having a great time, winning great prizes, and supporting a great cause.
- **What:** Fantastic dinner, massive raffle, outstanding auctions, plus the chance to break bread with other club members and their families in a COVID-conscious venue.
- **When:** Saturday, March 19, 2022. The festivities get underway by 4:00pm (bar opens at 4:00; dinner begins at 6:00), and the closing remarks are planned for 8:30pm(ish).
- **Where:** This event takes place once again at the Rocklin Event Center, 2650 Sunset Boulevard in Rocklin. It's easy to find, and there's plenty of free parking!
- **Why:** Because you want an evening of fun, fellowship, and fishing stories—along with the chance to win thousands of dollars in fishing gear, trips, and other prizes.

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Our Famous Annual Dinner - Continued from Page 2

• **How:** Buy your dinner tickets at the next club meeting, or just visit our website (<u>www.gbflycasters.org</u>) to buy tickets securely online. Tickets are just \$50 each!

Lastly...if you can make a donation for the raffle or auction, just contact **Brett McKague**. He can be reached at Brett@mckaguerosasco.com. Your contribution in this way can make a BIG difference!

Leave No Trace - Leave What You Find

by TinaLyn Sell

Imagine if over a one-year period of a heavily visited stream bank, each visitor decided to pick up a rock, twig, or other item. How long do you think it would take for the environment and habitat in the area to start changing? Allow others to discover and have the same experience as you.

Flowers are a great example of "Leave what you find." Many of us think, "A few flowers will not hurt anything." Well, it does! Take a picture, it will last forever, unlike the flower.

Petrified wood or colored rocks have been my downfall in the past. But they make up the ambience of the area and should also be left behind. You do not want to be the one who has been stripped of your "wow" moment.

It is not necessary to dig trenches for tents, lean-tos, or chairs. It might be necessary to clear an area of rocks, twigs, or pine cones, but be sure to replace them before you leave. Most importantly, look for previously used fire pits before you decide to create a new one. This will help avoid an additional impact to the area. Remember, good campsites are found, not created. Leave the creating to Mother Nature, she has years of experience.

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Leave No Trace- Continued from Page 3

So many people feel the need to hammer nails into trees for hanging things, or my favorite (not), carve their initials or a symbol into a tree. WHY? How would you feel if someone did this to you? Carry an extra strap and tie it around the tree, avoid rope, if possible, it can girdle the tree. The tree and Mother Nature will thank you.

If you start with "Planning Ahead," you can avoid damaging nature.

2022 Wet Fly Award

The Board has begun accepting nominations for the club's infamous Wet Fly Award. This annual recognition is bestowed on the club member that has demonstrated the highest level of 'oneness' with the waters we fish... who has taken that fateful extra step leading to an intimate bonding with the environment of our quarry... who has gone above and beyond the limit of mere waders to immerse him/herself in the world of our noble nemesis...who, in other words, has fallen in the water while fishing!

Who do you know who's slipped, tripped, stumbled, fallen, crashed, capsized, or otherwise gotten soaked while fishing—and won't mind having the story recounted aloud at our Anniversary Dinner on March 19th? If you have someone in mind, just contact any Board member to relay the deserving story. And remember... think wet!

Free Flies Anyone?

Many fly tiers have a few special patterns that they tend to tie more than others—or they tie almost exclusively. Not surprisingly, these are probably the patterns they tie the best, fish the most, or both!

These are also the patterns that they're happy—even proud—to share with others when the opportunity arises. Giving flies away is a wonderful, personal way to help someone else enjoy our sport a little more.

<u>The opportunity is here!</u> We need club members who tie flies to share their passion and patterns with other club members by donating a box of their favorite flies for the Annual Dinner Silent Auction.

If you can tie up some of your favorite patterns and put them in a new fly box for the club, you will be sharing your skill and experience with someone who really wants it (and is willing to pay for it)!

Helping the club raise funds this way also helps fellow anglers catch fish—and that's a win-win! If you can help your club and club members in this way, please contact **Brett McKague** at <u>Brett@mckaguerosasco.com</u>.

Great Rafle Prizes

At each year's Annual Dinner, club-member contributions make a huge difference—whether it's donated merchandise or services, or just pitching in some extra funds to help the raffle committee buy more prizes (at various wholesale and other discounted prices).

<u>Please consider donating something for our Annual Dinner in March</u>. Our success at collecting raffle and auction items is directly related to our success at funding the club's operations, activities, and events for another year. Contribute now and benefit all year!

Here are some of the kinds of things that club members have donated in years past:

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Great Raffle Prizes - Continued from Page 4

- New, unused merchandise fishing-related or otherwise.
- Flies you tied (favorite or specialty pattern?) in a flybox.
- Other flies (in a flybox) grouped by style, species, etc.
- Handcrafted goods fishing-related or otherwise.
- Professional services in gift certificate or coupon form.
- Funds specifically designated for the purchase of prizes.

As well, we can always use your old fly-fishing gear (good-condition rods, reels, flies in a flybox, etc) either at the dinner, or for our famous annual GBF Swap Meet. So...let us know what you have, and we'll figure out how to convert it into club-sustaining funds!

Getting any ideas? If you can help, please contact Brett McKague at Brett@mckaguerosasco.com. Any contribution is appreciated, and all are acknowledged at the dinner. Thank you in advance for helping your club in this personal way!

The Wiggle Tail Fly

(Installment No. 3 on the "Essential Flies," as first appeared in the March 2017 Leader)

by Eric Palmer

Many of us find the Wiggle Tail a fascinating fly due to its utter simplicity that belies its deadly effectiveness on the NorCal lakes we frequent. One design of several available is typified by a recipe conjured up by master stillwater flyman, and long-time GBF member Gene Goss after being exposed to the original and more substantial Wiggle Tail created by the late **Jay Fair** many years ago; more on that fly in a minute.



A Gene Goss Wiggle Tail

To say that Gene is a minimalist with his flies is a gross understatement, but he bases all his designs on many days, if not weeks of experimentation and trial and error, and Gene has substantial dried fish stink on his net to prove his point. When honing a new idea, Gene fills a fish tank with water and repeatedly "swims" his new creation in the tank until he gets just the swimming action he's looking for. Gene told me he has discarded countless flies before he gets it just right. Previously restricted to the "Secret Flies" password protected area of the

GBF website, Gene's Wiggle Tail recipe can now be revealed.



Hook: TMC 2499 SP-BL Size 10, straight eye, 2x heavy, 3x

wide.

Thread: 8/0 black.

Tail: Strung Marabou in black, olive, orange, or other color as desired. Use only the tips of the feather to keep the

tail very thin.

Body: Blend black Seal Sub Dubbing and Peacock black Ice

Dub together. Pick-out the dubbing for a "buggy" look,

then trim it back some to make a small tight body.

UV: Ice Dub Shimmer Fringe in the color UV Pearl (Hareline

Dubbin). Use a very small amount trimmed to 1/2 in. long at the base of the tail as a UV "hot spot."

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The Wiggle Tail Fly - Continued from Page 5

An alternative to dubbing for Gene's fly is to use one of various forms of short shuck or chenille, and this is not limited to the dark black/olive or peacock tones, but also effective is bright rust or burnt orange with tail to match, or mix and match colors to find what works. In fact, I had success a couple years ago on Rancho Seco with an all bright red Wiggle Tail with dubbed body of red "Lite-Bright" and black hackle collar, so go-figure. It all depends on the fish, and there's no telling what they'll be in the mood for on any given day, although there are some still water experts in our midst who staunchly maintain "any color as long as it's black" and they are consistently successful following that mantra.



A classic Jay Fair Wiggle Tail

Gene tells us his inspiration for the ultra-sparse yet deadly fish catcher was in fact the original Wiggle Tail introduced by Jay Fair in the 1980s, as typified by the photo. This one with Jay Fair short shuck, is an early **Jay Fair** innovation. Gene was impressed with its long and very "swimmy" tail, the Jay fair hallmark, which led Gene to further experimentation with great results on all his favorite lakes.

Some years ago, I learned from Jay's son, Glenn, that the Jay Fair Wiggle Tail evolved from Jay's original "Wiggle Nymph" developed in 1976. This fly had a chenille Wooly Worm body with a short stubby 5/8 inch tail and palmered hackle. As Jay developed his now well-known "shuck" material (to mimic an emerging nymph "shucking" its case), the fly progressed through the 1980s to a shuck body with the inch-and-a-half wispy tail that we know today. The first national recognition attributing this fly to Jay Fair was in "Fly Fisher Magazine" in 1983, and again in 1988.

Over time, Jay would go on to develop other innovative tying materials, and in 2009 he introduced his *Translucent Swimming Hackle*, still found at local fly shops. During the retrieve, the fine synthetic threads of this material create a natural swimming action that fish can't resist any more than a cat can resist a dangled string.

As I learned during a long phone conversation with Glenn Fair, the inspiration for this material followed Jay's 2009 chance encounter in a clothing store window with some fringe string material designed as embellishment for women's apparel. Jay tracked down the material source to a factory in the garment district in Milan Italy, obtained a small sample and tied it to the shank of a hook. Swishing it around in a



Translucent Swimming Hackle in size long

large glass coffee pot of water to test its swimming action, Jay found exactly what he had expected, and was immediately convinced that he had a winner. Jay then purchased all remaining close-out remnants in several one-hundred pound bales. What color did it come in? Just one; pale blue. The Fair's immediately got busy with the same dying techniques they had mastered over the many years of dying their famous marabou and hackle feathers to achieve the many colors we see in fly shops today, with "buggy olive" being Glenn's clear favorite (olive with a hint of brown)

The Swimming Hackle comes in three sizes or thread lengths, micro (1/8"), medium (1/4"), and long (5/8"). The long size is typically used for a collar, and were anyone wanting to replicate Gene Goss's spartan Wiggle Tail using this material, the compact micro size would fit the bill. I'd also suggest watching this <u>Youtube video</u>



where Glenn explains the proper way to tie in the swimming hackle, and in turn how to tie the complete Wiggle Tail fly. It's not complicated. You can see in the photo above that there's a "set" to the threads, and it's made crystal clear in the video which end is up (or down).

This is Jay's "Kick Back and Cast" Wiggle Tail in full living color, and employs the medium size material on the body with the long size as a collar.

Jay Fair "Kick Back and Cast"

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The Wiggle Tail Fly - Continued from Page 6

If you "swim" this fly on a length of tippet beside you as you sit in your float tube, the appeal of the fly as fish food is immediately apparent, with every thread and fiber "flapping in the breeze" like crazy. Jay also recommends picking out the material with Velcro as you would standard dubbing to further thin out the thread fibers to create yet more moving parts.

regular twitch, or while stationary do a retrieve of varying length and speed.



Mixing two colors can be effective. Here, olive and fiery brown wrapped side-by-side.

So, how do you fish Wiggle Tails? Most will use either an intermediate sinking line or tip $(1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 ips) or a hover line (1 ips) depending on the lake and water depth and time of year, and of course where you think the fish are holding in the water column. You make a cast of reasonable distance, if not as far as you possibly can, then either troll with a slow kick while giving the line a



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This is where experimentation and trial and error comes in play until you find what the fish will respond to. It might be very slow 12-inch pulls followed by a several second pause for the fly to sink, or short and jerky movements, then pause, or something in between. A method that often works for some is to allow the rocking motion of the float tube and the warm sun on your face to lull you into a stupor such that your retrieve and kicking all but stop. You'll immediately know it's "fish on!" when the adrenalin snaps you to attention as you begin fumbling for line to regain control. Alternatively, pause your kicking and retrieve just long enough to chat with your float tubing partner over when to take a lunch break. This has been known to work well too, but may take some practice to get it right.

So there you have it, the full story of the humble Wiggle Tail. When you hit some stillwater during the cool winter/spring trout season, and later for bass too, and should you have that OMG moment we've all had where you suddenly realize you've left all your flies on a table in the garage, just ask your partner, "Hey...do you have a Wiggle Tail I can borrow?" It's likely the only fly you'll need.

> Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner (Taken from the Article Written in February 2013)

Fly Patterns - Skwala Stonefly Adult



Skwala Stonefly Adult

Materials:

Hook: Daiichi 1260, size 8-12 Thread: Olive 8/0 or similar thread Tail: Moose body hair (dark) **Body:** Pale yellow dubbing Ribbing: Black V-rib, midge size

Egg Sac: Black dubbing **Underwing:** Black crystal flash Same as tail Wina:

Post: Calf body hair or white synthetic material

Hackle: Grizzly saddle dyed brown

Legs: Black stretch floss (aka flex-floss)

Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 7

Description

Skwala stoneflies begin to emerge soon after the first of the year—sometimes as early as January, depending on weather conditions. Locally, they can be found on the Lower Yuba River, above and below the Highway 20 bridge, where trout and steelhead feast on them. The nymphs have an olive brown to dark brown coloration with a lighter pale yellow underside. As is the case for all stoneflies, they require clean, swift moving water, and won't generally be found in slow moving areas or in spring creeks. Water temperatures need to reach 45 to 47 degrees to commence emergence. The nymphs will travel along the bottom and ascend onto vegetation or rocks.

Because trout concentrate their attention on the shallow, faster-moving water, don't immediately step into the water before beginning to fish—in other words, fish the edges. Mating will proceed along the banks and the females will hover along the water surface to deposit eggs. The male adults are unable to fly, as they do not have fully formed wings.

Nymphs are generally tied in sizes #10-12, and the adults are tied in sizes #8-12. Yellow Stimulators will work if the wings are darkened with a black Sharpie pen, but I prefer this rather simple pattern that has been effective for me. It has its origin in a fly tied by one of our long-time members and angler extraordinaire, Jim Coleman. I have modified it somewhat, but the credit goes mostly to Jim on this one.

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 unless you are using a barbless hook. Apply a thin layer of Flexament on the hook shank and cover the shank with thread.
- 2. Just above the back of the barb tie on a small clump cleaned (don't stack it) moose body hair. The tail should be short, as in the case of a stimulator.



Steps 1 & 2



Steps 3, 4 & 5

- 3. At the same point, dub a small but prominent ball of black dubbing to imitate the egg sac.
- 4. At the same point, tie in a piece of black midge-size V-rib and pull it back out of the way.
- 5. Dub a medium sized body of pale yellowish dubbing. I like to mix in a little olive dubbing with the yellow before starting to apply the dubbing. The body should extend to near the front of the hook, about 1/3 shank length behind the eye. When dubbing is complete, use an olive Sharpie to carefully color the top of the body, which on the natural insect is olive in color.

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 8

6. Stretch the V-rib so that it is ultra-thin, and rib the body in evenly spaced turns; tie off the rib in front of the body.

7. Tie in about 8 strands of black crystal flash at the front of the body for an underwing. Cut and clean a small bunch of moose body hair (don't stack it) and tie it in at the same point. The wing should extend rearward to the end of the tail.



Steps 6 & 7



Steps 8, 9, & 10

- 8. At the base of the wing, tie in a clump of cleaned calf body or a small bunch of synthetic white material. Cut the tied-in hair down to about 3/8"in height. This will be the post for the brown hackle. See tying tips below for hints on how to tie this in.
- 9. Cut a single strand of flex floss and double it over. Place it over the post and down onto the shank. Tie it down in front of the shank with 3 loose turns of thread, cut the loop, and pull one strand down on each side of the hook so that the legs form an "X" shape. Now wrap tightly and apply a tiny drop of superglue to the bottom of the post. This will hold everything together.
- 10. Tie in a dry fly quality saddle hackle at the base of the post and apply a bit of dubbing to cover up the tie-in area. Wind the hackle up and back down the post. Tie it off behind the eye of the hook, form a nice small thread head, and whip finish.

Tying Tips

- 1. In order to properly create the post and parachute hackle there must be adequate room left at the front of the shank. This means that the body must be ended at least 1/3 shank length behind the eye because the underwing, the wing itself, and the post must be tied in ahead of the body.
- 2. To tie in the post, point the tips of the material out over the eye and tie in the butts close against the base of the wing. Once the butts are secured, lift the material up and take a few winds around its base to "gather" the material. On the fourth wind, pull up and to the rear, catching the thread in the butts. This will hold the post vertical. Place a few insurance winds in front of the post.

Fish this bad boy close in to the bank, either upstream or down. You don't need to get into the water—just cast close in and let it drift. I will sometimes raise and shake the tip of the rod to make the fly skitter a bit—a technique use to imitate the "motorboat caddis." Go rip a few lips, and....

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 8757 Auburn Folsom Road, #2842 Granite Bay, CA 95746-9998

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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