

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

July 2022

<http://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by Kim Lloyd, GBF President

Thanks to all for selecting me as the next club president. Best efforts will be made to build on the foundation that has been placed by others.

July kicks off a new fiscal year, and along with it comes a new group of Board Officers and Directors. This group, like the previous one, remains committed to achieving the goals identified in the club's bylaws. These goals include:

1. Educating the public on fly fishing, conservation and the improvement of fishery and water resources.
2. Performing studies and make recommendations on public policy regarding government fishing and water resources that affect fly fishing quality and opportunities.
3. Educating anglers about fly fishing.



The club's Conservation Committee is the primary vehicle by which many of these goals are achieved. In fact, this committee—open to all club members—recently identified 5 organizations that will share \$7,200 earmarked by the club for conservation efforts. Each of these organizations (Trout Unlimited, CalTrout, Friends of Auburn Ravine, Save the American River Association and Friends of Inyo) are involved with improving, preserving and conserving our home waters.

Another way to protect our home waters is to use them. Each member is, therefore, encouraged to fish early and often. And, don't forget to take photos that can be shared at the next club meeting; bragging rights are optional.

Monthly Program

by Mike Churchill



Happy fishers who met the California Heritage Trout Challenge

Have you heard of the California Heritage Trout Challenge? Would you like to join an informal group of GBF members seeking to complete the challenge by 2024?

The California DFW recognizes 11 native subspecies of trout (plus Bull Trout, which has been extirpated from the McCloud River, but survives outside California). If you catch any 6 of the

Continued on Page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--|--------|
| Classified Ads | 8 |
| Fly Tyer's Corner | 8 - 10 |
| Leader's Line | 1 |
| Monthly Program | 1 - 2 |
| Monthly Schedule | 2 |
| Officers | 11 |
| Rubicon River Canyon Hike | 4 - 6 |
| The Hook Set | 3 - 4 |
| Theo Bakelaar and the Origin of the Gold Bead Head | 6 - 7 |
| Urgent Need for Volunteers | 10 |
| Virginia Lakes Fishout | 2 - 3 |

| J U L Y 2022 | | | | | | |
|---|--------|---|-----------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | | | | | 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. Tenkara #2 | 9. |
| 10. | 11. | 12. Board of Directors Meeting | 13. | 14. Monthly Meeting | 15. | 16. Truckee River Fishout |
| 17. | 18. | 19. Fly Tying Jam | 20. | 21. | 22. | 23. |
| 24. Virginia Lakes Fishout 7/18-24 | 25. | 26. | 27. | 28. | 29. | 30. |

Monthly Program- Continued from Page 2

11 subspecies from their native watersheds and document them with photos, DFW will award you a beautiful certificate depicting those six subspecies. More details on the program are [here](#) along with "[An Angler's Guide to the California Heritage Trout Challenge](#)" handbook.

Mike will explain the Heritage Trout Challenge, the different subspecies of trout, and where to catch them. In addition, he will discuss the informal group forming to organize and lead club fishouts that will allow as many of us as possible to complete the challenge in the next 2 or 3 years.

Bio:

Mike is a lifelong trout and Bluegill fisherman who has branched out to Stripers, Smallmouth, Largemouth, and Spotted Bass since moving to Sacramento in 2005. Mike took up fly fishing seriously in 1999 when he joined the San Jose Flycasters. After stints with CFFU and the Salinas Valley Flyfishers, he joined GBF in 2019, and was just elected to the Board of Directors.

Virginia Lakes Fishout, July 18-24

Flycasters, it is time for the annual Virginia Lakes trip. For those of you unfamiliar with Virginia Lakes, they are on the eastern slope of the Sierra just south of Bridgeport, off of 395, just before you drop down to Mono Lake. The scenery is "eastern side incredible." We will be staying at Trumble Lake campground at 9,700 feet. If you are concerned about the elevation, you might consider staying a night at Twin Lakes or the Tahoe area on the way. Drink plenty of water on the way up! This is a nice campground with water and exceptionally nice pit toilets. Reservations can be made on line (6 months in advance), but unless there are cancellations they will be gone. Only 2/3 of the sites are reservable, so we usually are able to secure sites

Continued on Page 3

Virginia Lakes Fishout - Continued from Page 2

without them. There is also unimproved camping a short distance down the road by the creek (Road 139). These are also very beautiful, and right next to a stream and are free, but have no water and very limited bathrooms. There is very limited cell service in the entire area.

The two Virginia Lakes are easy walking distance from the campground, which sits right next to Trumble Lake. There is excellent wet and dry fly fishing at all three lakes, as well as in the multiple lakes just up the trail. There are plenty of opportunities for stream and river lovers as well. These include Virginia Creek, Green Creek and the West and East Walker Rivers just down the road. There is a store at Little Virginia with high priced goods, a little restaurant (very nice breakfasts and lunches), and hot showers. They also rent cabins, usually for a week, but will do a weekend at the last minute if they aren't rented: <http://www.virginalakesresort.com>. Bridgeport is a 30-to-45 minute drive, and there are motels if camping is not your thing.

There will be a communal dinner on Friday or Saturday the 22nd or 23rd for all who attend (be sure to check with the host for possible changes). Looks like tacos are back, thanks to vaccines. This is a great family outing, as there are a variety of things to do besides fishing. The hiking is excellent, with relatively short distances between lakes. Just down the road there is horseback riding, and the old gold ghost-town of Bodie is within 45 minutes. The city of Mammoth is less than an hour away, as is the entrance to Yosemite.

The lake fishing is generally float tube with sinking line (intermediate - fast). Catching twenty fish in a day has not been extraordinary; however, last year the hatcheries on the eastern side were hit with a fungus infection, and they had to toss out 1.5 million fish, so who knows. I will be available to help anyone who desires it. Flies will be plentiful, as I will bring my tying stuff, as will others. There will be extra equipment available for anyone to use (newcomers), including tubes and fins. Rods from 3-6 wt. are the norm.

Please call me if you have any questions and let me know if you are planning to come so I can get enough camp sites and bring enough taco fixin's.

Michael Kaul

mikedkaul@gmail.com

(530) 677-8022 or cell (916) 337-5468

The Hook Set

Trevor Segelke

I realize that the hook set, being a critical part of fishing, is not often talked about. So, I thought about it, researched and did a little reading. Then, I realized I often don't do the right hook set for the situation. Only when I miss a strike do I think about it, and then it is too late.



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The best method for setting the hook is situational, but often I fall back to the most common; lifting the rod tip high while pulling the fly line down until everything goes taught against the fish. While the mechanics of the set is not the topic here, the direction or method of creating the sudden pressure to pull the hook into the fish is. I will strive to think on this before a fish takes, instead of after I miss one. Hopefully, it will improve the number of fish to my net.

Different methods of fishing and different types of takes should dictate my reaction to setting the hook. The most common, lifting the rod tip straight up is a good one, and is most common, but isn't always the best method for the situation.

After pondering on this, considering my own experiences, responses from other anglers and extensive online reading, here is my opinion of the most effective sets for different situations.

Continued on Page 4

The Hook Set - Continued from Page 3

Dry Fly Takes/Sip - Set to the side or down river.

The fish does a subtle take and usually has little or no change of direction. Often, immediately lifting the rod tip straight up, can pull the fly forward out of the fish's mouth. A better response is to pause, allowing the fly to get fully in the mouth, then set the hook to the side or downstream.

Swirl and Very Aggressive Takes - Rod tip up.

The fish immediately changes direction when taking the fly. This commonly sets the hook by itself if the line is already tight. No pause needed, and this is a time to set with the rod tip up.

Nymphing Indicator - Rod tip up.

There already is a delay in time from the fly being taken and the slack being taken out to make the indicator move. Thus, the most important thing here is quickness. Set the hook quickly and rod tip up is good.

Euro or Tightline - Down river

Tight line nymphing leads or follows the fly down river with constant tension. So, it is almost intuitive to just set the hook in the same direction. Set the hook continuing to the side and down river.

Streamer Stripping - Strip Set

Takes are often short strikes or swipes that will be felt like nibbles or taps. The fish has not committed yet, or has swiped at it to stun its prey. A full set at this point will pull the fly out of its mouth and be un-natural, and likely to spook the fish. Continue to strip the fly to bring it taught. When you feel the weight of the fish, change the direction of the rod (usually to the side) to set the hook.

Swing

Like the above, the fish may short strike or swipe at the fly first. Also, the fish is chasing the fly, so setting the hook often pulls the fly straight out of the fish's mouth. Give the fish time to take the fly and change directions. Some hold a little extra line off the reel, and after the slack is taken up, they set the hook. Others will set the hook only when they feel the weight of the fish. Tension on the hook should be to the side.

Rubicon River Canyon Hike

by Don Harris

The Rubicon River flows from Hell Hole Dam down a rugged canyon where it joins the Middle Fork of the American River at Oxbow Reservoir. This stretch of the Rubicon is designated a wild trout river. There is limited access to the Rubicon between Hell Hole and Oxbow. One access point is the Nevada Point Trail. This segment of the Rubicon is located in a remote section of El Dorado County. I have read several articles on fly fishing the Rubicon, and wanted to attempt the Nevada Point Trail down to the river to check out the access for fly fishing.

To reach the trail, take SR 193 to Georgetown, then east on Wentworth Springs Road. Approximately four miles from Georgetown, turn left onto Volcanoville Road. Watch for the road sign on the right for Otter Creek Road and Rubicon Road, ~1 mile. Take Rubicon Road for about 1.5 miles. This is a well-maintained dirt road with homes along the road. Once past the homes, there is a downhill grade to a small parking area on the right. A rough road directly across from the parking area heads to the NPT trailhead. The road to the NPT is an easy hike. I would not recommend driving to the trailhead. There are numerous large trees across the road from the October rain storms.

Follow the fire road for about 2 miles and look for the NPT sign on the right above the road, ~40-minute walk from the parking area. The signage is the typical USFS sign, dark brown 4x4 post with yellow lettering. Keep an eye out for the sign or you will blow right by it.

Continued on Page 5

Rubicon River Canyon Hike - Continued from Page 4

The NPT heads uphill for about 75 yards. The trail is wide and climbs to a grassy area. Cross the grassy area and look for the continuation of the trail on the left. There are no signs. Now the fun begins.

The USGS map indicates 2.1 miles from the grassy knoll area down to the Rubicon. The trail down to the river was clear with the exception of a few fallen trees. Bush ax not required. Take your time and watch your step. The occasional oak leaves on the path can be slippery. A second caution is the poison oak. Long pants and long sleeve shirt are recommended. Later in the summer, the poison oak may be more challenging. Most of the trail was in the shade. The trip down to the river took 1.3 hours. There were small meadows along the way covered with wildflowers—an amazing site in the Spring. You will hear the water before you can see the river as you hike down the canyon.



Near the bottom of the canyon an old steel bridge with wood flooring crosses Pilot Creek, which flows from Stumpy Meadows reservoir. Pilot Creek was NOT a creek that day. Access to the creek is limited, and would have required excellent boulder hopping skills. Once you cross the Pilot Creek bridge, the trail heads left towards the Rubicon.

After ~20 minutes, the river will be on the left. There was a nice area beside the river with boulders to rest on for lunch just below the washed-out bridge. In December 1964 during a heavy winter storm, Hell Hole Dam, which was under construction, collapsed. The bridge that crossed the Rubicon at NPT and continued up the canyon to Mosquito Ridge Road was washed out. The concrete abutments of the old bridge still stand.

Continued on Page 6

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

Rubicon River Canyon Hike - Continued from Page 5



Creek bridge, the confluence of Pilot Creek with the Rubicon River was visible in the distance. Fishing access down river to the confluence was unclear from my vantage point, an exploration for another day.

The river is accessible for fly fishing above and below the bridge abutments. Although there were remnants of campers, a fire ring with an assortment of rusted cans, there were no signs of recent visitors.

After lunch and a few pictures, it was time to head back. Before reaching the Pilot



The journey back to the car was a challenge. I estimated two hours hike out of the canyon to NPT head, plus 40 minutes on the fire road to the car. The return was slow. Thanks to the patent pending **Eric Palmer** wading staff—a must—the return trip was successful.

If you are up for the adventure, I suggest an early start, 10:00 AM. Pack a lunch with trail snacks, plenty of water, a walking stick, and sunscreen are advised.

USGS Map Link: <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewe>
Enter Georgetown, California and you are on your way.

Theo Bakelaar and the Origin of the Gold Bead Head

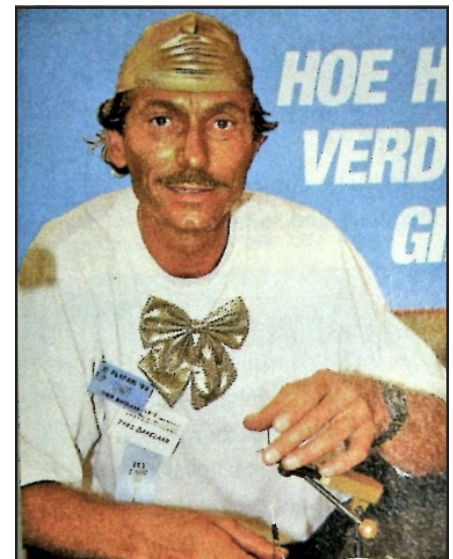
Thanks to **The Redding Fly Shop** for permission to reprint this from their 2022 fly tying catalog.
Submitted/edited by Eric Palmer

Ever wonder how those bead head flies got into your box? Like the sport itself, they were imported from Europe. But when they showed up, America wasn't yet ready!

Theo's from the Netherlands, and like a lot of people in the world of fly fishing and fly tying he has a personality that's a little larger than life. If you met him you wouldn't forget. He's made a tremendous contribution to the sport, yet most fly tiers and fly fishermen haven't the slightest idea who he is, or why we owe Theo a debt of gratitude.

He's "The Gold Bead Man in Rosmalen" and in 1990, when he first showed

Continued on Page 7



Theo Bakelaar and the Origin of the Gold Bead Head - Continued from Page 6

up on the fly fishing scene in America, with a suitcase full of beads, we weren't ready for him or his beads.

Another of those larger-than-life personalities in our sport, Mike Lawson, was there and described meeting Theo in West Yellowstone, "I was sitting there tying flies at the Federation of Fly Fishermen Conclave and this character comes up with a gold-painted head. I thought...there's a guy who definitely has his act together. He handed me a couple of those gold bead flies and I looked at them, then looked back at him and said, 'What fish in his right mind would eat this?' Spank me with a wooden spoon, because look what happened."

With rare exception, the sport of fly fishing and the art of fly tying usually progress at different times and at a snail's pace. However, when beaded nymphs caught traction it changed the direction of our sport immediately.

Noted angling artist, Dave Hall, was then responsible for the selection of new products at Umpqua Feather Merchants and he recalls, "Gold beads changed fly fishing beyond what anyone could have imagined. Suddenly a guide could take somebody onto the water, tie on a gold bead head nymph and, instead of spending weeks practicing casting, they could let the line drift down below them, lob an indicator upstream, and catch fish within minutes!"

To quote Theo, "It was crazy!"



I first seen it in a 80's show. Roman Moser at his desk had some flies with funny copper beads on it. I was surprised that nobody was tying flies in this way. So, I found a store some gold beads and started different flies with them.

It was crazy...the fish took them like hell!

The Dutch fly fishing fair was coming and I was a tier at that show. 1989. I painted my head gold and had a golden swimmin' cap on my head while I tied them bead flies...like the fish, people became crazy when they seen them.

I tied those files the whole weekend and at the end of the show I tried to clean myself.. but the thing was I had used a spray paint was for cars. Stuff didn't come off the way I want. I had to do a small surgery on my face.

Next year at the symposium in Yellowstone I tied those bead flies also dressed in gold, but with better head paint.

Lefty Kreh, when he seen them and he didn't believe his eyes. "Those are soldiers lined up for battle, Theo," he said. We talk about them beads and he took some.

Next month I get a letter from him...he said..."I was fishing in a big lake and people were filming it...I could not hook a fish and saw that funny fly with a big bead on it and used it. The first cast I hooked up a big brown trout... so your fly saved that day and the filming."

They become famous...I think in every box now you will find them.

Now, even the mail person delivers letters sometimes with only..."for The Gold Bead Man in Rosmalen."

— Theo Bakelaar

Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner
(Taken from the Article Written in July 2007)

Fly Patterns - Jay Fair's Wiggle Tail Nymph



Jay Fair's Wiggle Tail Nymph

Materials:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Hook: | Scud hook, size 10 |
| Thread: | Black 8/0 |
| Tail: | Burnt orange marabou |
| Body: | Jay Fair baby shuck material in burnt orange color |
| Head: | Thread - small |
| Weight: | Lead wire or substitute — .015 diameter |
| Hackle: | Burnt orange premium saddle or neck hackle |

Description

For those who don't know Jay Fair, he is known as the "guru" of fly fishing (and dark side fishing) on Eagle Lake, where there is a special strain of fish sometimes called "Eagle Lake Trout." These fish are large and they fight hard— but they can be notoriously difficult to catch. Suffice it to say that Jay has been around a long, long time. Over the years he has developed a series of flies that work—really work—for Eagle Lake fish. Not surprisingly they work elsewhere too— meaning anywhere that trout or bass will grab something that moves enticingly through the water and looks something like a leech, damsel, or whatever lives in the neighborhood.

Through his company, called Eagle Fly Fishing, Jay has marketed many products as well as his patterns. Although the company was recently sold, Jay continues to advise the new owners and is active in the fly fishing community. One of his more remarkable products is a line of crystal chenilles called "shuck." It comes in many beautiful fishy colors (e.g., burnt orange) and in three different sizes: long shuck; short shuck; and now baby shuck. I must admit to a bit of bias here, since I am a member of the Jay Fair "Pro Team," but I don't think anyone will disagree with me when I say that Jay's materials are of excellent quality and the range of choices is broad. If you'd like to see a list of Jay Fair products, just "Google" on "Jay Fair products" or "Eagle Fly Fishing."

The Wiggle Nymph is a sparsely tied fly — too much material will adversely affect the fly's motion in the water, which is clearly the key its success. It is suggestive of damselfish and leeches, and can be tied in a variety of colors and color combinations. For this month's pattern we will tie it in burnt orange.

Continued on Page 9

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.

Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 8

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. Wrap 4 or 5 turns of lead or substitute on the shank and cover hook and lead with thread back to bend (just above back of barb).
2. Tie on a tail of marabou. Use a ¼" section from the mature part of the plume. The tail should be 1" to 1 ¼" in length. Resist the urge to use more marabou and be sure the length is correct.



Steps 1 & 2



Step 3

3. At the same point, tie in a short piece of burnt orange baby shuck and a burnt orange saddle or neck hackle with barbule length equal to the hook gape. Tie the hackle in by the tip.

Continued on Page 10

Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 9

4. Wrap the baby shuck forward to a point about 1/16" behind the hook eye; tie it off there.
5. Wrap the hackle forward, using only 4 wraps. Tie it off at the same spot as the baby shuck. This is important: leave enough room for a nice, small, smooth head.
6. Whip finish at the head and apply a tiny drop of head cement or super glue.



Steps 4, 5 & 6

Tying Tips

1. When forming the head of the fly try to end up with a cone-like shape. Avoid making too many wraps. When doing your whip finish, move rearward with each turn of the knot, ending up at the rear of the head.
2. Before learning to use a whip finisher, learn to do the whip finish knot by hand. There are a number of reasons for this hint, including the probability that at some point you will have forgotten to include your whip finisher in your traveling tying kit. Also, by learning how to tie the knot properly, you will better understand what the whip finisher does and does not do. It's not an easy knot to learn, but once the movement is understood it will become intuitive.

Note: Here's a link you can copy & paste into your web browser's address window to Sexyloops website with animated instructions: <http://www.sexyloops.com/flytying/whipfinish.shtml>. Or, you can just Google: "whip finish" and get a bunch of websites with various techniques and tools demonstrated.

The Wiggle Tail Nymph moves with graceful motion through the water. Before you fish it, wet it well and move it around in the water (on your leader, of course) in front of yourself by moving the tip of your rod. You'll see why this fly is so inviting to fish — and, you'll better understand how to retrieve it once you cast it to your intended target.

Enjoy, and see ya on the creek...!!!

Urgent Need for Volunteers to Teach Scouts Merit Badge Skills

The Golden Gate Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America is in urgent need of volunteers to teach fly fishing skills to Scouts working on their Fly Fishing Merit Badges at the Wente Scout Reservation, Willits, CA. Volunteer instructors teach two-hour morning and afternoon classes for four days each week. The Scout will learn basic casting and fly tying, safety, first aid, stream entomology, basic fly fishing equipment, basic knots, and other outdoor ethics. Currently, they are seeking volunteers to serve one or more weeks in July & August. Volunteers get their camp lodging and meals covered during their stay and are allowed to fish for bass in their private camp pond during their free periods.

The Merit Badge Program has been successfully taught for over 8 years, and volunteers have had a blast teaching the next generation of fly fishers in a structured and fun environment. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Gus Link** by emailing him at flylink48@gmail.com for more information on this worthy volunteer opportunity, and how to register as an instructor. Hope you will pay forward the love of our sport to willing young people.

Also, volunteers get lodging & special camper & trailer hook-ups at the camp, meals while there, and the ability to fish the lake for free. Everything there is provided for you.

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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