

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

March 2022

<http://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by TinaLyn Sell, GBF President



Hello Members,

Hopefully, life is starting to settle a bit for everyone, and you are finding a good balance between pre-Covid life and somewhat post-Covid life. I have to admit, I am really enjoying my post-Covid life a bit more than my pre. I was forced to spend more time outside, whether it has been doing yard maintenance or exploring with Mother Nature. The more time I spend outdoors, the stronger I feel mentally. I fear with society being forced indoors, many of us are suffering from "Nature Deficient Disorder," and yes, it is a real thing. I challenge each of you to go for a walk, do some yard maintenance, take a drive to the beach or mountains for lunch, or better yet, go fishing. You will feel very refreshed afterwards. Now down to business...

The Board of Directors (BOD) made the unanimous decision to cancel the 2022 Annual Dinner. I appreciate all the hard work the Dinner Committee put into the planning and organization of the dinner. It is an important fundraising and social event for the club, but we listened to the membership and chose to cancel. Please allow a month or so for the refund of dinner and raffle tickets to take place.

In order to build the camaraderie in the club, the BOD is working on outdoor events where social distancing can take place, like the upcoming One Fly Contest at Ranch Seco (Saturday, March 26th)—a day of fishing, food, raffles, and beer. What could be better? Keep an eye out for email blasts...

Our fiscal year is quickly coming to a close, June 30th. There will be several board positions being vacated. If you are interested in serving, but not sure where you would fit in, give me a call and we can discuss what is available and what you would feel comfortable doing.

Keep on with keeping yourself and family safe. My best to everyone...

Monthly Program

Our March speaker is **Mitch Lockhart**, District Fisheries Biologist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

For the past several years, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has managed the deep blue waters of Echo Lake exclusively as a Lahontan cutthroat trout sport fishery.

Adding to the overall experience, Echo Lake receives relatively little fishing pressure. The 300-acre lake is best known as a jumping-off point for the southern portion of Desolation Wilderness. Few of those backcountry travelers, however, pause to wet a line at Echo Lake. "It's sort of a hidden gem," says Mitch Lockhart, CDFW's District Fisheries Biologist for El Dorado, Placer and Nevada counties. "You'll not be combating for space to fish here."

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M A R C H 2022						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8. Board of Directors Meeting	9.	10. Monthly Meeting	11.	12. Intro to Tenkara Clinic
13.	14.	15. Fly Tying Jam	16.	17.	18.	19.
20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26. One Fly Fishout and Picnic
27.	28.	29.	30.	31.		

The "One-Fly Contest" - Saturday, March 26th
at Rancho Seco Park

The It's not just the "One-Fly Contest" anymore, it's a GBF Party/Picnic! The Spring Fling!

Come One, Come All to shake off the confines of 2021 and kick off a new fishing season with fun and food. A GBF free family event, no cost to you except to enter the park. You don't have to compete in the "One-Fly Contest" to join us for a fine time.



Cheer on your favorite "One-Fly" contestant! Side bets are allowed. Bring your kids and dogs to camp on the grass at the group camp site. Cats if you want. Watch eagles, ospreys, mergansers, and cormorants out-fish our contestants. You may even spot a family of otters playing in the water. The beach is open for swimming, or at least wading. Hike the local trails and see the swans and pelicans, a whole bunch of different small birds and all kinds of animals swinging into spring! It's a beautiful park close to home.

What better place to practice the Seven Principles of "Leave No Trace?" We'll have a reminder of those principles in the Topic on the Message Board. We are a considerate group, so it will be easy.

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The "One-Fly Contest" - Continued from Page 2

We couldn't have our annual dinner this year, but the format will be somewhat the same. Good food, Bratwurst with all the trimmings, beverages, silent auction. Stay tuned for more food choices, activities, and events as we get closer to the date.

GBF has reserved Group Camping Site #2 from Friday noon to Sunday noon, so we will have the full use for camping on the grass for two days. A covered area with a BBQ and fire pit makes the camping easy and fun. Flush Toilets, in clean restrooms! No charge for the campsite.

Park opens at 7:00 AM and closes at 3:30 PM. The entrance fee is \$12.00 per car, \$15.00 if you have a fishing craft of any kind. Those who stay to camp will enjoy peace and quiet after 3:30 PM. We will send out more details for those wishing to camp overnight.

Sign up for the picnic/party on the web link: <https://gbflycasters.org/one-fly-registration/>, or with Jim Degnan at jd293@comcast.net, or text 408-887-7742. Leave us your name, number of adults and children.

NOTES FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO JOIN THE "ONE-FLY CONTEST:"

The One-Fly Contest will start at 8:00 AM and end at 12:30 PM on Saturday, March 26. For more information and full details, go to the GBF Message Board "Topics/Fishouts/One Fly Contest." **Sign up for the contest on the weblink:** <https://gbflycasters.org/one-fly-registration/>, or reply to the topic on the message board or directly with **Jim Degnan**, jd293@comcast.net, text 408-887-7742. 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.



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WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT FLY TYING...



OUR FLY TYING STAFF

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Fly Tying Instructor
Renowned Fly Tyer, Sacramento Area

RICK ANDERSON
Contract Fly Tyer
Montana Fly Company

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...COME IN AND SEE FOR YOURSELF - IF YOU NEED IT, WE HAVE IT!

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

The "One-Fly Contest" - Continued from Page 3

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 are docks you can fish from with room for casting. There may be boats for rent, but that is dependent on the park management. We'll keep you posted.

While many of the contestants will be very experienced flycasters, this is a great opportunity for someone new to the game. Don't feel you have to be a pro to join the contest. Pros start somewhere.

You will see a lot of good techniques, hear a lot of history, make new acquaintances, and have a general good time. We really encourage joining this contest. Fishing being fishing, you might be a winner, no one can predict this sport with any great accuracy. Last year, if you were a beginner and joined the contest, it would have only taken one dumb fish to win a prize.

The Contest works as follows:

The Park opens at 7:00 AM. Contestants will check in at the **North Ramp** with fishout team members, preferably well before 8:00 AM. From there, you can launch from any point you want. We will post a map and directions as we get closer to the event date.



There is no fee this year for joining the contest. The contestant will present his or her chosen fly 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 fishout team will record the catch on the "Leader Board." At 12:30 PM the contest will be declared closed; contestants will show their fly to the fish-master and members of the team, and verify their catch. The fishout team 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 break-off 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."

Last year's contest was pretty rough, lake and weather conditions worked against us. Let's hope this year's contest is easier and more competitive. The "After Party" should be a celebration, win or lose. Good luck to all!

**Advanced Tenkara Clinic Report***by Chris Kight*

One of the best features of Granite Bay Flycasters is the vast knowledge of absolutely every aspect of fly fishing. Nymphing? Yep. Dry flies? Yep. Streamers? Yep. Wading, drifting, water access, gear, rod building, net building, fly tying, every possible fish-populated piece of water in California, fishing other states, other countries, knowledge of hundreds of waters, fly tying, camping/hiking while flyfishing and Tenkara.

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Advanced Tenkara Clinic Report - Continued from Page 4

We have this club for spending time with other members to learn, fish and have fun, right? Which is why I attended the Advanced Tenkara Clinic at a park in Folsom on February 19, taught by **John Pellegrin**, our Tenkara "Sensei" (teacher) for GBF.

John attended many on-river webinars taught by the Japanese masters of the art where the finer points of fly tying, rigging, casting, reading water and drifting the fly were shown and then practiced.

He taught a few seminars in past years to introduce our members to Tenkara, and this recent tutorial was for experienced Tenkara fishers that wanted to learn more and practice to improve their skills.

It is surprising to me, the more I study Tenkara, how much there is to learn. (The word "Tenkara" is thought to mean "fishing from heaven"—describing how the fly lands on the water from a heavenly direction, but originally was called Kebari Tsuru, which means "fishing with a feathered hook," or more exactly, "fishing with hair-needle," as bent needles were the early version of fishhooks in Japan)

Since meeting John in October 2019, enjoying his knowledge and experience as well as his advice about where to fish, I've used what I learned to go Tenkara fishing about 60 times in the last two years, and I caught fish all but 4 times, sometimes just one or two fish, but often 15 to 20 in one morning. (Yes, I keep a log.)

The fly in Tenkara is almost weightless and, like Western-style flyfishing, it's the line and the casting of it that propels the fly to its desired target on the water and manipulates it to entice the fish.



At this clinic, John spent a few hours showing us the finer points of casting and the uses for various techniques—it turns out that there are almost as many different casting techniques in Tenkara as there are in Western Flyfishing, and John put on quite a show casting on the lawn at the park. He then coached us and answered questions as we practiced the demonstrated techniques, adding knowledge and improving skills.

There were about 10 of us on Saturday, sharpening our skills in preparation for the fishing that we'll do this season as the weather warms up and the fish become active. At the end of the session we chatted, as fly fishers are wont to do, and snacked on Japanese cracker-type snacks that John sourced—(heaven knows where?)

If you want to learn more about Tenkara and see action videos as well, spend some time on youtube (search "Tenkara"), or search "Tenkara" on your browser to see multiple sites that offer equipment, gear and advice. I recommend that you NOT search Amazon for Tenkara gear, as much of what is offered is absolute garbage that is CALLED "Tenkara" but is, in fact, cheap Chinese knock-off copies that would save money but leave you with equipment that just doesn't do the job. Stick with the actual Tenkara vendors like Dragontail Tenkara, Tanuki Tenkara, Tenkara USA, Tenkara Bum and Tenkara Rod Company. And, for heavens sakes, attend club functions and meet John. He is one of the many GBF treasures and, if you don't know him, dig in. He's your guy for Tenkara knowledge, and Tenkara flyfishing is every bit as fun as western style flyfishing.



In short: Tenkara: Another way to enjoy flyfishing.

John Pellegrin: Just the guy to help you learn.

In Memory of Joseph (Joe) Bania 1943-2022

by Mike Howes



Joe will be missed by many. His generosity and commitment in helping young adults in their education was what made Joe unique. Some of Joe's highlights in Granite Bay Flycasters are as follows: Joe joined GBF in 1991. In 1996, he served as GBF Conservation chair. In 2000, Joe took on the task of building an informational kiosk at Heenan Lake. With the help of many of the talents in the club, the kiosk was completed and still stands today. In 2009 and 2010, Joe led a team of GBF members in assisting in an event for children with down syndrome. He also supplied all the equipment needed to show the kids how to fly fish and tie flies. He started the Sierra Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

He continued supporting GBF with very generous donations to our annual dinner. He started and funded the "Women's only raffle" and a "Veterans" raffle at our annual dinner. He funded two scholarships mirroring GBF's scholarship at Humboldt State. In recognition of his support, he and Barbara, his wife, were made GBF Lifetime members. GBF was only a small part of Joe's generosity, he will be missed by many.

South Fork of the Snake River Review

by Mike Bean, VP Membership and Fishing Guide

Are you looking for a new river to fish? The South Fork of the Snake River should be on the top of the list. The South Fork is one of the best dry fly fisheries in the west. Last summer was one of the most memorable seasons with a salmon fly hatch that started the end of June to almost all of July. The South Fork has over 5,000 fish per mile, and the native fish is the Yellowstone Cutthroat trout.

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South Fork of the Snake River Review - Continued from Page 6



The South Fork is a tailwater fishery that starts at Palisades dam in Irwin, Idaho, and combines with the Henry's Fork near Menan, Idaho. The South Fork is a big river and can be accessed mainly through a boat. There are 5 main sections of river, and each section is roughly 12-13 miles. While the native fish is the Yellowstone Cutthroat, you will also catch Rainbows, Rainbow hybrids, and Brown trout. A 30-to-40 fish day is typical! The South Fork is also a very scenic river, and you can see bald eagles, moose, deer, cliff walls, and many other wildlife on the trip.

The river can be fished most of the summer with dry flies. In June, Salmon flies start, along with Yellow Sally's and Green Drakes. July has Salmon Flies, Golden stones and PMD's. August is hoppers and PMD's. September is Golden Stones, Hoppers,



I had the privilege to guide GBF members **Barb** and **Gary Millhollen** on July 13th. Their timing could not have been better with the Salmon Fly hatch. We fished the Upper Section of the South Fork. The hatch started around 11, and lasted all day. The fish were keyed in on the "Big Bugs," and some of the takes were explosive and impressive. Gary and Barb caught many fish on the significant dry fly patterns. It was an epic day fishing and great to spend the day with Gary and Barb.

The South Fork is a tailwater



and Blue-wing olives. October fishing is with streamers and blue wing olives. With most rivers being low last summer, the South Fork seemed to be one of the few rivers that fished well.

There is lodging in Swan Valley, Idaho and other nearby towns, such as Idaho Falls, Victor, or Jackson Hole, WY. There are also designated overnight camping spots set up in the Canyon sections by the BLM. Next summer should have another great season on the South Fork. The Reservoirs are shallow, and there won't be much snow runoff. The dry fly fishing should start the third week of June. Hope to see you on the river.



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Minimize Campfire Impacts

by TinaLyn Sell

Over the years, campfires have become synonymous with camping. Some would say, "It is not camping without a fire." However, building one is a skill not every camper has, but they should. Campfires can be used for warmth, cooking, and maybe a little romantic ambience. However, they can also diminish the natural look of an area, and affect the surrounding ecosystem. So, the age ol' question arises: campfire or no campfire?

The outdoor industry has answered the cry of the outdoor community on wanting compact and lightweight equipment. Most campers and backpackers have a stove at the ready, thus reducing the need for a campfire. There is no need to search for firewood and battle the elements to get the fire started

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Minimize Campfire Impacts - Continued from Page 7

and keep it going. Best of all, no one will ever know you were there if you follow this and the other "Leave No Trace" principles.

Think about the area before you start that campfire. Is there little to no wood, or is it in a heavily used area? It would be difficult to have a "Leave No Trace" fire under those conditions. An existing fire ring would be ideal, so be sure to look for one prior to starting your fire. Either way, think about one thing: how big of a fire do you really need.

With that in mind, my favorite items to take with me on my trips is a good old fashion pie tin. Just stack a few rocks to set it on, to keep the ground from being scorched, and you have a "Leave No Trace" firepit. Best of all, smaller sized branches are used, and more than likely there is a higher abundance of them. But remember, scatter the rocks when you are finished.

No matter the size of the fire, it can be difficult to get it started. This is why I always carry homemade fire starters. I make them from toilet paper rolls, dryer lint and candle wax. There are many items you can make them out of, but these are the things I have in my home already.

So, the next time you are in the great outdoors, here are a few things to consider before you build your campfire. Is there any potential fire danger in your location, any restrictions from the agency managing the land, enough wood to go unnoticed? Think before you burn.



Welcome to Our Newest Members!

by Mike Bean, VP Membership

Please join me in welcoming new members who have joined us recently. Make sure you keep an eye out for them at our meetings and events so that we can make them feel that they are an important part of our club.

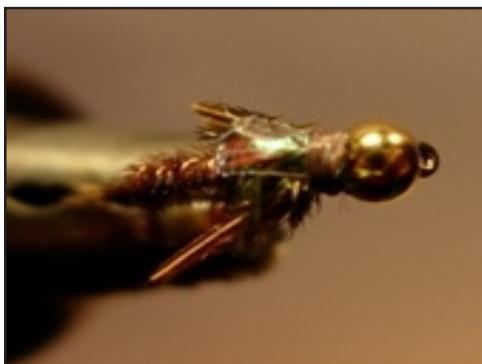
Larry Angus
Justin Gordon
Kent Ostroff

Paul Bonaventure
Jerry Hoyt
Amber Patterson

Derek Dell
Keith Miner
Nathan Smith

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

Fly Patterns - Beadhead Flashback Swimming PT



Beadhead Flashback Swimming PT

Materials:

- Hook:** Daiichi 1130 (or Tiemco 2457) scud hook, sizes 16-20
- Thread:** Brown 8/0
- Bead:** Small gold bead (2mm)
- Tail:** Three pheasant tail fibers
- Abdomen:** Black crystal flash
- Ribbing:** Hot orange and opal black Estaz or Jay Fair "Short Shuck"
- Wing case:** Pheasant tail fibers
- Thorax:** Peacock herl
- Legs:** Pheasant tail fibers

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 8

Description

Last month we featured a *baetis* cripple pattern. This month we'll tie a very popular *baetis* nymph.

Anyone who has experienced a *baetis* (or, blue winged olive mayfly) hatch knows that nymph patterns representing *baetis* larvae can be phenomenally successful at times. I recently had such an experience on the Upper Sacramento River on a cold overcast afternoon. At around 1:00 p.m. I began seeing tiny *baetis* adults on the surface, but no surface fish activity. I had been fishing two stonefly nymphs on a short line rig; the *baetis* hatch inspired me to add a tiny PT (pheasant tail) nymph as a "stinger" trailing behind the bottom stonefly. I selected a #18 "swimming" version of the PT, which also included a bead and a piece of mylar tinsel added over the wing case. The reaction was immediate—a series of large fish, all on the PT, taken from pocket water on one of my favorite Upper Sac stretches, including a lunker that I lost as he disappeared over the lip of the pool and threw the hook after straightening the hook. At around 3:00 p.m., the action stopped as if someone had dropped a curtain. Noticing that my hands and feet were nearly frozen, I headed for the truck with a smile and a loud "yes-s-s-s-s-s."

I talked to Bob Grace the next morning at the Ted Fay shop. When I told him about the tiny fly, he showed me his "two-minute PT"—but that's another story. I did watch him tie one and yes, it's done in two minutes. I promise to feature this fly in a future column, after I get Bob's permission. For the time being, let's build a Beadhead Flashback Swimming PT.

If you'd like to read more on *baetis* mayflies and their behavior, go to www.troutnut.com for good, plain English angler-oriented information; once you are on that site, use their search tool to find *baetis* info.

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. Slip the bead onto the hook and wrap 3 or 4 turns of fine (.010) lead wire behind the bead. Apply a thin layer of Flexament on the hook shank and cover the shank with thread, including about half of the hook bend.



Step 1



Steps 2 & 3

2. Tie in three pheasant tail fibers as tails, splaying them out. They should be short—no longer than half the shank length. Don't cut the butts.
3. At the same point, tie in a piece of small copper wire. Pull it back and out of the way.

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 9

4. Using your hackle pliers, grab the butts of all three PT fibers and wrap them forward, leaving room for the wing case behind the bead. Tie off the fibers and trim the butts.
5. Grab the copper wire with your hackle pliers, wrap it forward in even turns, and tie it off at the same place as the PT fibers were tied off. This strengthens the PT abdomen.



Steps 4 & 5



Steps 6 & 7

6. At the same point tie in a small strip of mylar ribbing material and let it lie back over the abdomen. Tie in four PT fibers at the same point. The mylar and PT fibers should be pointing to the rear and should be out of the way.
7. Tie in 4 peacock herls. Twist them together and wrap them into the thorax space, right up to the back of the bead, where they should be tied off.

8. Bring the PT butts over the top of the peacock herl, tie them down behind the bead, and don't cut the remaining butts, as they will become the legs.
9. Bring the mylar over the top of the PT Wing case and tie it down behind the bead. Pull the PT fibers back and tie them down in that position. Tie everything down firmly behind the bead and apply a tiny drop of super glue at that point.
10. Whip finish.



Steps 8, 9 & 10

Tying Tips

1. Bob Grace substitutes black midge-size sparkle braid (made by UTC, and in spools) for the peacock herl. It looks nearly identical to peacock and is much more durable.

2. Substitute copper or black beads for the gold bead called for in the pattern to change the appearance of the fly slightly. I like to carry such different versions in case the fish start rejecting the "standard" tie.

Fish this little gem in pocket water during an afternoon baetis hatch and hold on. 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

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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