

# The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

February 2024

<http://gbflycasters.org>

## Leader's Line

*by Kim Lloyd, GBF President*

Man is a seasonal animal whose actions are dictated by the environment. Winter is often perceived as cold and dark, a time to conserve energy. But let's think about what winter really means. How about we recognize the winter season begins with the shortest day of the year. If winter begins with the shortest day, we intuitively understand that longer, warmer days will follow.

All animals have an innate reaction to seasonal, warmer weather. But man is more complex than other animals. Man does not hibernate during cold weather and then react when warmer weather arrives. Man has learned to perform planning actions during cold, wet weather so that he is most productive when the warmer weather arrives.

This club does the same thing. That is, we don't shut down during the winter months when fishing is slow. We, instead, plan future actions that maximize what we want to accomplish later in the year.

Here are two examples:

- 1.) A committee is working today to finalize fundraising efforts that will occur at our March 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner.
- 2.) The Conservation Committee is developing plans, right now, to vet organizations that hope to receive donations that will be awarded in June.

Both examples reflect how the club is acting today (during winter's gloom) so that a better (fishing!) future can be experienced tomorrow.

We've now arrived at the important part of this "action" discussion; the part that involves you. Each member

*Continued on Page 2*



## Monthly Program

This month's program will be a joint presentation by **Michael Mamola** and **Lee Duckwall**, who jointly manage DFW's Heritage and Wild Trout Program. The focus will be on the history and purpose of the program, with an additional emphasis being placed on Lahontan Cutthroat Trout management, and where in the North Central Region you can catch them.



*Michael Mamola*

Michael Mamola grew up fishing the streams and lakes of the Sierra Nevada. After graduating from California State University, Sacramento and American Public University with a M.S. in Fish and Wildlife Management, he worked as an

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## F E B R U A R Y 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1.	2.	3. Casting in the Park
4.	5.	6. Board of Directors Meeting	7.	8. Monthly Meeting	9.	10. Roseville Adopt-A-Creek Cleanup
11.	12. Fly Fishing 101 Session 1	13. Fly Tying Jam	14.	15. Fly Fishing 101 Session 2	16.	17.
18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.	28.	29.		

*Leader's Line - Continued from Page 1*

can take actions today that will help the club achieve its future objectives.

- One action would be to renew your club membership.
- Another action would be to purchase a dinner ticket.
- A third action would be to purchase raffle tickets.
- A fourth action would be to contribute to the Annual Dinner. This contribution could be a Silent Auction prize, or it could be volunteering some of your time during the dinner.

Any of these actions, taken today, will help the club fund those projects that preserve and protect our home waters well into the future.

*Monthly Program - Continued from Page 1*

Lee Duckwall

Environmental Scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the Inland Trout Program, before taking on the role of the Heritage and Wild Trout biologist for the North Central Region of California.

Lee Duckwall grew up hiking, diving, and surfing in Santa Cruz, California. After graduating from the University of Washington with a B.S. in Fisheries and Aquatic Science, he joined the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as a fisheries biologist with the Heritage and Wild Trout Program where he is currently the program coordinator.



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Meet local fly fishers and enter to win fabulous prizes!

Everyone's invited to the  
**GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS**  
35th Annual Dinner and HUGE



# Fly Fishing Raffle & Auction!

With thousands of dollars in raffle prizes and silent auction items including high-end rods, reels, and other fine tackle, plus guided fishing trips and many non-fishing items.

**Saturday, March 30th, 2024** • No-host bar opens @ 4:00pm

Granite Bay Flycasters is one of the most active fly-fishing clubs in the West. This event supports our ongoing conservation and education programs - and is a fantastic way to meet new fly-fishermen and women in the Sacramento area. Please join us for an evening of great food, friendship, fishing gear, and FUN!

Scan for tickets & details



**DINNER LOCATION**

Rocklin Event Center  
2650 Sunset Blvd.  
Rocklin, California  
Ph: 916-625-5200  
Free Parking!

## Granite Bay Flycasters 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner

**March 30, 2024 — 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM**  
**Rocklin Event Center**  
**2650 Sunset Boulevard**  
**Rocklin, CA**

The Annual Dinner is approaching quickly. It is the event at which our club raises the most money so we can give to worthy flyfishing related causes. It is also, in my opinion, the most enjoyable event that our club hosts.

The dinner will include a catered meal, raffle prizes, a silent auction as well as a dessert auction, games such as 100 Squares and Deck of Cards, a net of cash, and interesting conversation with fellow fly fishers and their family.

Annual Dinner tickets are \$50.00 per person. Raffle tickets this year are \$2.00 a ticket, sold in \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 bundles. The \$50 bundle will include 5 extra tickets (\$60 value), and the \$100 bundle will have 15 extra tickets (\$130 value).

Purchase Dinner and Raffle tickets on-line at [www.gbflycasters.org](http://www.gbflycasters.org). In the right column, click on "Annual Dinner registration" to purchase.

## Annual Knot Clinics Scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>!

*by Jim Degnan*

"No matter how good you get you can always get better, and that's the exciting part." —Tiger Woods

"If you fail to prepare, you're prepared to fail." —Mark Spitz

"Sittin' in the morning sun, I'll be sittin' when the evening comes." —Otis Reading

So it is with the sport of flyfishing. Most of us are looking for the next thing that will give us a small advantage against a creature with a brain smaller than a peanut, but somehow outsmarts us. Whether it's Casting Clinics or Flyfishing 101 or Fly-tying Jams, or Tenkara, we have a lot of fun improving our game. The annual Knot Clinics are another way to improve your catch rate.

How do we improve our catch rate? Fly in the water, fly in front of the fish. That means preparation and practice before you go on the water. The Knot Clinics will contribute to your success because you will spend less time on the bank or in your tube rigging up, instead of fishing and bringing the fish to the net. Knots are actually a small part of flyfishing, but without a quick, confident technique, you will be slow to get to the good parts, like casting and presentation. You'll be "sittin'" fighting the fluoro.

GBF offers two clinics: Fundamental Knots and Follow-up/Tune-up.

Fundamental Knots covers a few basic knots, easy to tie. While we have the absolute beginner as our main focus, experienced fisher gals and guys are also welcome to join us and learn the knots specialized to the sport of flyfishing, or to just relearn a new technique.

Follow-up/Tune-up offers flycasters a chance to review the knots from the Fundamental Knot clinic. We discuss problem knots (how to get that Kreh loop small?), new knots ("One Knot" or the "Orvis/Becker

*Continued on Page 5*



Annual Knot Clinics - Continued from Page 4

Knot”) and advanced applications (droppers, anyone?)—why we don’t cover the “Perfection Loop,” unless it is absolutely demanded.

After you sign up, we will send you emails and texts with course agendas and other information.

We meet at the Raley’s in Granite Bay (corner of Auburn Folsom Road and Douglas Blvd.). They have a nice meeting room in the back with a big monitor so you can see the movements of the fingers and materials as we manipulate them to form a knot.

We look forward to seeing you there! Sign up at the meetings or on the website!

Jim Degnan and the Coaches.

## Rancho Seco Joint Fishout with Flycasters San Jose April 8, 9, 10

What started out as an informal get together last year, morphed into a more formal joint fishout with FSJ. We got rained and blown out, but FSJ came back this year and wanted to try again. **Scott Vaughn** is leading the fishing portion of the fishout, and **Jim Degnan**, member of both clubs, is coordinating the rest of the activities with the FSJ fishmasters. If the weather cooperates, it is going to be a fun event.

April is a long way off, but for those who are considering parking their RV/Trailer etc. down at Rancho Seco during the fishout, you might want to book a spot in the near future. Rancho Seco is a stopping point for the annual south-to-north migration of the Northern Blueheads, a retired species of hominids with large RVs and trailers. They plan ahead, and take up a lot of space. Fun group, as I understand it.

*Continued on Page 6*

# WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT FLY TYING...



## OUR FLY TYING STAFF

**BRETT DRURY**  
Fly Tying Instructor  
Renowned Fly Tyer, Sacramento Area

**RICK ANDERSON**  
Contract Fly Tyer  
Montana Fly Company

**RON SPERONI**  
Contract Fly Tyer  
Pacific Fly Group

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**6360 TUPELO DRIVE, CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA 95621 (916) 722-1055 HOURS: MON-FRI 10-6, SAT 9-5, SUN 10-4**

*“They have the largest selection of fly tying materials in California!” - Andy Burk*

*Rancho Seco Joint Fishout - Continued from Page 5*

For those new to the area, you can book reservations through the group that manages the campground at Rancho Seco: <https://www.camplife.com/campground/Rancho+Seco+Recreational+Park>. You can also call them at 1-800-416-6992. Very nice group.

We will be sending out more information as we get closer to the fishout date. The date is right after the annual R.S. Fishing Derby. Rancho Seco plants trophy trout and a lot of standard size for the derby, so we plan to feast on the leftovers. They can't catch them all.

Looking forward to seeing you there on the water. Jim Degnan

## Pyramid Lake Fishout April 15-18, 2024

*by Eric Palmer*

The ninth annual GBF Pyramid Lake fishout and all-around fun time is near, so mark your calendar for **April 15-18** (Mon-Wed, 3 nights). Then be sure to sign up on the calendar [here](#).

Pyramid Lake, 45 minutes north of Reno, and the destination of the Truckee River, is about the size of Lake Tahoe, and a remnant of an ancient inland sea that once reached from Oregon to Reno, and west to Susanville, CA.

Anglers on Pyramid face the anomaly of hoping for windy, cloudy, cold, rainy weather that seems to improve the fishing geometrically, versus the comfort of fair weather and a subsequently lower catch rate, or, maybe not. So, while our timing is on the cusp of more comfortable conditions for humans, come prepared for cold and rain...or sun, and a warm gentle breeze, you just never know with Pyramid.



*Where following the crowd  
is a good thing.*



*Michelle's Big One*

Lodging can be found on the lake in rental cabins or trailers at the former *Crosby's Lodge*, now *Pyramid Lake Lodge*, under Paiute tribal ownership. Or, park your personal RVs at the improved and paved Pelican Point camp ground, with convenient tank toilets, or bunk 45 minutes back in Reno/Sparks at a fancy hotel. We usually have a good number of campers at the fishout, making it easy to find a comfortable hang-out spot for a periodic break with some socializing. And then, there's our pot-luck dinner late one afternoon.

A couple years ago, at the top of her game, was **Michelle Davidson** with 13 beautiful cutts to the net—and most of the others did nearly as well too—including her catch you see here. This 32-36 inch beast fell for **Doug Ouellette's** Pyramid classic chartreuse/white Popcorn Beetle with optional white tail seen on the next page. Although, there is no creature in Pyramid Lake actually matching this "fly," the fish don't seem to care.

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## Pyramid Lake Fishout - Continued from Page 6

If you are new to the lake or need a refresher, you will receive any orientation and coaching needed for a fun and successful trip, but the catching is ultimately up to you and your relationship with Lady Luck. Members who sign up will receive, via email, ample tips on rigging, flies and techniques needed to be successful.



*Just hangin' out and tellin' lies;  
a vital part of every fishout.*

So, sign up now and plan to join us! You can register by clicking [here](#) for the fishout schedule, or go directly to the [calendar](#) and locate the date and click on it. Scroll to the bottom of the page to **Register Now!** Once there, you will also find introductory information on Pyramid tackle, flies and rigging. You can buy your tribal fishing permit online [here](#), no NV fishing license required. You can also get a permit on site at the tribal ranger station close to Pyramid Lodge in Sutcliffe. Note that if you plan to fish Monday afternoon and Wednesday morning (departure day), you will need a 3-day permit plus a 1-day permit, both purchased individually.

Hope to see you there!

Eric



*The "fly" that fools many  
Pyramid cutthroats. Tail  
optional.*

### Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner (Taken from the Article Written in February 2009)

#### Fly Patterns - Bill's Skwala



*Bill's Skwala*

#### Materials:

<b>Hook:</b>	Daiichi 1260, #10
<b>Thread:</b>	Olive 8/0
<b>Hackle:</b>	Black dry fly quality saddle hackle
<b>Abdomen:</b>	Yellowish-olive dubbing (I prefer Lite-Brite)
<b>Thorax:</b>	Same as abdomen
<b>Underwing:</b>	Black micro-web wing sheeting or similar product
<b>Wing:</b>	Dark olive deer hair
<b>Legs:</b>	Mini-size gray Turantulegs
<b>Egg sack:</b>	Black foam

#### Description

This fly is based on a pattern tied by my friend Ralph Wood, with some modifications. Skwala stoneflies are found in many northern California rivers, but seem to often go unnoticed. Not so on the Lower Yuba River, since it is a prominent hatch that normally begins in January, continuing into February and sometimes longer. It's a great time to catch those "rocket" Yuba fish on top. I've seen only a few good Skwala imitations on the market. The "good" ones have two essential qualities, in my mind: First, they are tied sparsely; And second, they incorporate the right colors. It is important to imitate the color of the underside of the abdomen of the Skwala adult—a yellowish olive color—and the dark olive color of the fly's back. Only the females fly, so it is mostly them that you'll see struggling in the surface film out where the fish live.

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*Fly Tyers Corner - Continued from Page 7*

## **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. Debarb the hook, place it in your vise, and cover the shank with thread. Be sure to leave plenty of room behind the hook eye.
2. Move the thread to the rear of the hook, just above the back of the barb. Cut a strip of black foam 1/8" in width. Heat one end of it so it "rounds" itself. Tie the foam in with the rounded end to the rear. It should stick out about 1/8" to the rear.



*Steps 1 & 2*



*Step 3*

3. Tie in a properly sized black hackle at the same point.



*Step 4*

4. Dub the thorax, but don't use too much material. Sparse is best on this pattern.

*Continued on Page 9*



*Fly Tyers Corner - Continued from Page 8**Step 5*

5. Palmer the hackle up through the abdomen, using about 5 turns. Tie it off at the front of the abdomen.

6. Clip the hackle on the bottom and on the top, so that the remaining fibers stick out to the sides.

*Step 6**Step 7*

7. Cut a piece of the micro-web material that is about ¼" wide and 1" long. Round the corners of one end, and tie the material in at the front of the abdomen, with the rounded corners to the rear. The rear of the wing should be no longer than the end of the hook.

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8. Cut a small bunch of dark olive deer hair and clean out the under-fur. Stack it, and measure it to the same length as the under-wing. Tie it in at the same point and add a drop of super-glue.



Step 8



Step 9

9. Dub a sparse thorax, and then tie in the legs in the middle of the thorax. Add a bit more dubbing between the legs.

10. Tie in a properly sized hackle and take 3 or 4 turns. Whip finish the fly. Trim the hackle top and bottom and apply a drop of superglue at the head.



Step 10

## Tying & Fishing Tips

1. Be sure to leave plenty of room behind the hook eye. From the instructions above, you can see that there are a number of steps that require work in that space between the thorax and the hook eye.
2. If you have a wing burning tool that is shaped like a stonefly wing, use it to burn the micro-web wings. They come out perfect every time.

*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](mailto:editor@gbflycasters.org). All ads must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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>. Single membership: \$35; Family memberships: \$40; There is also a \$15 name badge charge for each new member. For membership information, contact VP Membership at [gbf-membership@gbflycasters.org](mailto:gbf-membership@gbflycasters.org), or visit the website at <https://gbflycasters.org/join-us/>.

**The Leader:** To send articles, photos, ads and other materials, please e-mail to: Frank Stolten at [editor@gbflycasters.org](mailto: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

## Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

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