

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

March 2024

<http://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by Kim Lloyd, GBF President

I usually hibernate between Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day. My rationale is that it's too cold and there is not enough daylight for small stream or still water fishing to be productive. I come out of this stupor around March only to realize a month of the fishing season has been lost. Let me explain.

Thanksgiving is 4 weeks before Christmas, which is around the shortest day of the year. Using this 4-week duration as a measuring stick, it means that if one stops fishing 4 weeks before Christmas due to restricted daylight, then one should start 4 weeks after Christmas because the longer daylight hours have returned. This "start date" would occur during the last week of January.

But not me. All too often I forget to crank up the fishing machine that I am (wait for laughter to subside) until Valentine's Day. This makes no sense mathematically because Valentine's Day is almost 8 weeks after Christmas...and I don't stop fishing 8 weeks before Christmas. If I did, it would mean missing **Tony Jelinek's** Upper Sac fishout in the Oct/Nov time frame. And, that won't work because I've learned that if Tony is still fishing, then so should I.

So, here's my point: now is the time to kick off your personal fishing season. It will be the first week in March by the time you read this article, and this will be 10 or 11 weeks after Christmas. Yes, there is spring run-off and "yes," the lake waters are still a little cold...but the longer daylight/warmer days triggers the bugs, and the bugs trigger the fish. Hence, now is the time to get out of the house.

And don't forget to trigger your camera and send **Chris Kight** a photo of that late winter striper, steelhead, trout or small mouth that you landed. And, most importantly, a photo of that late winter fish gives you bragging rights at the next general meeting.

See ya on the water,



Monthly Program

Our speaker for March will be **Mike Bean**, a GBF member and full-time guide in Idaho and Northern California. His presentation will cover his recent two-week trip to Argentina, where he fished the first week in the Northern part near San Martin, and the second week in the Rio Pico region where he fished the local rivers and lakes. If you are considering a trip to Argentina, this presentation will help on where and what lodges to fish out of, along with seeing some big trout.



They grow big in Argentina

IN THIS ISSUE

35 th Annual Dinner Poster	3
Annual Dinner Desert Auction	4
Classified Ads	12
Fly Tyer's Corner	8 - 12
GBF 35 th Annual Dinner	2
Leader's Line	1
Longer Springtime Trips	6 - 8
Monthly Program	1
Monthly Schedule	2
Officers	13
Pyramid Lake Fishout	5 - 6
Upcoming Knot Clinics	4

MARCH 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1.	2. Casting in the Park Tenkara Gathering
3.	4.	5.	6.	7. Fly Rod & Line Clinic	8.	9. Roseville Adopt-a-Creek Cleanup
10.	11.	12. Board of Directors Meeting	13.	14. Monthly Meeting	15.	16. Casting in the Park
17.	18. Conservation Meeting	19. Fly Tying Jam	20.	21. Fundamental Knot Tying	22.	23.
24.	31. 25.	26. Fundamental Knot Clinic	27.	28. Intermediate Knot Clinic	29.	30. Annual Dinner

**Granite Bay Flycasters
35th Annual Dinner**

Buy Tickets!



Then come to the dinner, have some fun, buy some raffle tickets and possibly win a fantastic prize. Then the club will have money to give toward worthy causes. Yippee, we all win.

Remember to bring some cash. Some of the games and the dessert auction deal in cash.

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 gbflycasters.org. In the right column click on "Annual Dinner registration" to purchase.

March 30, 2024 4 PM to 9 PM
Rocklin Event Center, 2650 Sunset Boulevard, Rocklin, CA



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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!

2024 GBF Annual Dinner Dessert Auction Procedures

A great way to end a great dinner is with a special dessert. There will be a dessert table showing all the fabulous desserts provided by our own GBF member bakers, which will be ready for silent bidding by table. It is **cash only**, and the table with the highest bid will get first choice of a dessert, the second highest bid will get second choice, etc.

The process is as follows:

- * Each table (as a group) will decide the amount to bid on a dessert.
- * The bid will be written on the envelope provided and the **cash** placed inside.
- * The envelopes will be collected and tabulated.
- * The table winners will be announced from highest bid to lowest.
- * In case of a tie, those table numbers will be announced and asked to select their dessert.
- * If there happens to be any remaining desserts, they can be individually purchased—price will be announced at the dinner.

Bring cash for the dessert auction, the “net-of-cash” and the deck of cards games.

And, if you have not yet purchased your Annual Dinner tickets, better do it soon to take advantage of all the fun, excitement, and fellowship that this event provides.

Upcoming Knot Clinics

Reminder: Fundamental Knot Clinic, Thursday, March 21st and March 26th. Follow-up/Tune-up is Thursday, March 28th.

Please note that based on popular demand, we opened a second Fundamental Knot Clinic. Max number is 10.

Fishing time, time on the water, is valuable for most of us. We need to schedule the trip or outing, weaving it in with the many other obligations in our lives. To make the most of this precious time and keep our fly in the water in front of the fish, we need to be efficient.

One way to do this is to practice before you go on the outing. We practice casting, sort our stuff, and buy new stuff. Few of us practice the one thing that can kill your efficiency, setting up rigs. We need to practice our knots before we go. Take some time at the bench or on the couch, and form a few knots. Most of the time ten or fifteen knots will get you up to speed so you can fish, and hopefully, catch something—not be afraid to be aggressive and break off from time to time. Don't be hesitant to go where the fish are.

GBF also offers a way to improve your efficiency in setting up rigs. Join the following knot clinics!

The Fundamental Clinic, (Thursday, March 21st, or Tuesday, March 26th) is aimed at helping you rig up faster with simple knots. Get to know the terms and methods for getting your fly in the water and fish aggressively, knowing you have confidence in the knots so you can fight that fish, and can quickly re-rig when you hang up and break off because you were willing to go down to where the fish are hiding.

The Thursday clinic was quickly filled, so we opened another for Tuesday, March 26th—plenty of room in that one.

The Follow-up/Tune-up Clinic, Thursday, March 28th is designed to reinforce the knots learned in the Fundamental Clinic, work on trouble knots and general rigging questions. Many of us repeat Casting Clinics (we go to them even if we are very experienced). We tune-up and learn something new—same as my comments about the Fundamental Clinic.

Looking forward to seeing you there! Contact Jim Degnan, jd293@comcast.net for more details.

Pyramid Lake Fishout
April 15-18, 2024

by Eric Palmer



Where following the crowd is a good thing.

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.

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



Michelle's Big One



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

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.

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

Continued on Page 6

Pyramid Lake Fishout - Continued from Page 5



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

sign up will receive, via email, ample tips on rigging, flies and techniques needed to be successful.

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

My Experience with Longer Springtime Trips

by Mike McKinley

I am an avid bass/bluegill/striper fisherman. As such, I eagerly await the springtime warming of bass water to 55-60 degrees. Bass usually awaken at those temps very hungry from a long winter of sub-50 degree temps.



Typical local BBQ joint

March/Aril/May is also a good time to find accommodations. The summer rush hasn't started; kids are still in school. If you have time share access, rates and availability are still good.

For years I wanted to fish the legendary lakes in Texas. Now Texas is a long 3-day drive from Sacramento, so I wanted to make the stay worthwhile. I had timeshare weeks that were going to waste; so, my stay was essentially free. By staying at the timeshare, we had 2 bedrooms and a couch to sleep on. There was a full kitchen, so we shared cooking (a lot of BBQ and ham and eggs). This saved enough \$ that we could sample some of the super BBQ in the area. We found that the best BBQ joints had some similar characteristics—a cheap, hole-in-the-wall look; large, often gravel parking lots; a smaller town location; limited hours; and a full parking lot, mostly pickup trucks.

Now, I've taken 3 trips in 3 years. The first trip was excellent. We discovered one phenomenon that will forever live in my fishing HOF. A Texas lake had a highway bridge over an arm. There was structure and cover for as far as you could see. But, about 45 minutes before sunset, 3-to-6-lb. bass started arriving under this bridge. They corralled bait fish (shad, we think), and just slaughtered them for about an hour. The water was just a froth. Not only did we catch double digit fish, but we could experiment to find the right flies, lines and retrieves. The bass ranged from 3# to 6 or 7#. (See photo on page 7.)

Continued on Page 7

Longer Springtime Trips - Continued from Page 6



Braggin'-size bass

On each trip, we fished several different lakes. We tried to keep drive times under an hour and, after 4 or 5 days, certain favorites appeared. But, herein lies the rub. Weather was the most important variable. A cold front went through on that first trip and ruined a 3-day stretch. On the second Texas trip we hit a 2 week stretch of tornado weather. I think we only went out for 5 of the 13 days, and sometimes could barely cast.

So, my third trip I explored the SoCal/San Diego lakes. That was last year. I carefully perused prior fishing reports for the best times. It was necessary to book accommodations 4-to-6 months in advance. Of course, we hit the coldest spring weather in 50 years. We still caught a few nice fish, but the fishing reports said that 3 weeks later the bite was off the hook. Our water temps had been 53-57 degrees; 3 weeks later they were 62-65.

So, flexibility on fishing dates is key, especially in the spring. This is hard to manage vis-à-vis hotel reservations.

Secondly, fly selection. You can take boxes and boxes on a car trip; some of us did. But, I found that the right level was more important than a specific pattern. Two or three poppers, a pencil crease fly, a big blooper, and a small (like a dime) fly

Continued on Page 8

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

Longer Sprintime Trips - Continued from Page 7



Readin', Writin', and Bassin':
a Real Bass School!

is all the top water you need. Streamers, Clousers of course, especially gray over white, a shad imitator, and maybe a Gamechanger are good—some lightly weighted, others fast sinking. And finally, take some leeches, woolybuggers, and damsel/dragonfly nymph imitations.

Bluegill, of course, want smaller flies. They aren't as picky—not that bass are picky either. My go-to bluegill fly is a black or green wooly bugger in size 12, or any soft hackle; but, almost any trout fly will work. Small size 12 foam spiders are lots of fun on top.

Northern California has some great spots as well—Clear Lake, the Delta, Mother Lode lakes, Bullard's Bar—each of these has a special fish and also a good general population of bass/BG. I'm retired now, and I will read fishing reports and watch the weather, hoping to go on short notice to maximize my chances.

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

Fly Patterns - Bill's Baby Bass Fly



Bill's Baby Bass Fly

Materials:

- Hook:** Tiemco 800S or similar type, size 1/0 or 2/0
- Thread:** White 6/0 Uni-thread or similar type, and then flat waxed white nylon for the head of the fly
- Belly:** Pearl Radfloss or similar 3/8" wide mylar ribbon wrapped around shank
- Under-wing:** White Superhair or similar product
- Over-wing:** Blue-green Superhair or similar product
- Interior Flash:** Krystal Flash UV pearl color
- Side Flash:** Gold Flashabou (fine)
- Topping:** Mixture of fine black crystal hair and Krystal Flash UV Herring Back color
- Throat:** Red antron yarn
- Eyes:** Silver 3/8" 3-D molded eyes
- Head:** White flat waxed nylon thread covered with epoxy

Description

In both September and December of 2008, I fished Mexico's premiere trophy bass lakes. There are two main bait fish that the bass in these lakes voraciously consume, leading to their unusually large size: Tilapia, and Threadfin Shad. Here are pictures of these two species:



Tilapia ((à la carte))



Threadfin Shad

Continued on Page 9

Fly Tyers Corner - Continued from Page 8



Using subsurface patterns designed to replicate these two bait fish, I did reasonably well. But, like many fly anglers, I like to experiment—actually, in my case, it's a contrarian philosophy, which leads me to push the envelope by trying flies that perhaps no one else has thought to use (although that may be a bit presumptuous on my part).

So, I asked myself this question: Why wouldn't these carnivorous, aggressive fish also be cannibals? In other words, don't they also eat baby bass? Fortunately, I had included in my vast array of bass bugs a few that look like baby bass, based on a pattern I saw in one of the bass magazines. As usual, I modified it significantly to suit my own theories of imitation, and the result is the bug featured here. The results? Here's one picture, but you'll have to ask my El Salto December trip companions for the full "truth."

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.



Step 1

1. Cover the hook shank with the 6/0 thread from the hook eye to the back end of the barb, leaving the thread behind the eye. At that point tie in an 8" piece of Radfloss (see below under "hints" for a picture of Radfloss) or similar 3/8" wide mylar ribbon. Wrap the thread over it to the back end of the barb, and return the thread to the hook eye.

2. Wrap the Radfloss forward to a point about 3/8" behind the eye; wrap it rearward in wide wraps, then forward again to achieve a cigar shaped taper. Tie it off and again move the thread to the eye.



Step 2



Step 3

3. Turn the fly over and tie in a throat of red antron yarn. It should extend rearward only to the point of the hook.

Continued on Page 10

Fly Tyers Corner - Continued from Page 9

4. Return the fly to the upright position and tie in a bunch of Superhair equal to about two pencils width. Begin tying it in just behind the eye, and rearward to that same 3/8" point (where the Radfloss ends). Make sure it is tied in directly on top of the shank, and make adjustments as needed to achieve this goal. Place a tiny drop of superglue on the top of the thread winds.



Step 4



Step 5

5. Tie in about 12 strands of pearl UV Krystal Flash at the same point by doubling the material around the thread. This will make the interior of the fly come alive. Wrap it down to the rear of the head area.

6. Tie in a bunch of blue-green Superhair (same size bunch as white) in the same manner as the white Superhair was tied in.



Step 6



Step 7

7. Tie in about 12 strands of gold Flashabou in the same manner as the interior flash, except pull 1/2 of the material down onto either side of the fly. This will form the side flash.

Continued on Page 11

Fly Tyers Corner - Continued from Page 10

8. Tie in about 12 strands of the UV Herring color Krystal Flash. This time tie it down in the middle of the bunch, allowing the front half of the bunch to stick out over the hook eye, with the rear half extending back over the top of the fly.
9. Using the same method, tie in a similar bunch of fine black Crystal Flash. Be sure to wrap it down all the way to the back of the eye.
10. Whip finish the 6/0 thread and then tie on the flat waxed nylon thread, wrapping a nice even head. Leave the thread at the rear of the head area.

*Steps 8, 9, & 10**Step 11*

11. Take the UV Krystal Flash and the black Crystal Flash that are sticking out over the eye, and pull them tightly rearward. They will mix but that is a good result. Tie them down with a few wraps at the rear of the head and whip finish there. This forms a "stripe" over the top of the head. Place a tiny drop of superglue on top of the head.

12. After allowing the superglue time to dry, place the eyes evenly onto the sides of the head.

*Step 12**Continued on Page 12*

Fly Tyers Corner - Continued from Page 11



Step 13

13. After allowing the superglue time to dry, place the eyes evenly onto the sides of the head.

Tying & Fishing Tips

1. If you want to add a weed guard, tie in 30 or 40# Hard mason onto the hook bend before step 2, and finish the weed guard by tying it in just behind the eye, before step 13.
2. After the fly is complete and the epoxy is dried, taper the fly by barbering the rear ends of the Superhair material.
3. Here is a picture of "Radfloss."



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>. 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, 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. 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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