

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

October 2024

<http://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by Mike McKinley, GBF President

Some of these monthly notes just write themselves. October is easy. The heat is gone, or at least going. There's color to the leaves. Football is getting into full gear, and salmon and steelhead will be running. Stripers will be in the Delta soon. Heenan Lake reports are coming through, and sometimes the toughest decision for Heenan is how many layers of clothing to take. Maybe it's time to start checking the fly box to see what needs replacing.

Thanksgiving is not too far away. I am personally thankful for my great club. We have great participation; the many leaders that we have come through time and again for me. I want to offer special recognition to **Kim Lloyd**. And it's not too early to start thinking about our annual dinner. It is our biggest fund raiser, and it doesn't happen without a lot of volunteers. **Dave Stolecki** is our leader there, and he would welcome your help and participation. Contact him [here](#) to see how you can help.



Monthly Program



Our speaker this month is **Mike Pease** who will present a program on **"Fishing the Lost Sierra."** This is a return visit for Mike, who spoke to us a few years ago. He is a fly-fishing guide, the owner of [Mike Pease Adventures](#), and founder of the [Feather River Fly Fishing School](#) in Plumas County near Graeagle, California.

Mike grew up trout and steelhead fishing with his father and grandfather on many of the well-known streams of Northern California. He took his skill and art to a new level when he learned to fly fish over 30 years ago in the Greater Redding area with many of the masters of the North state. Mike is a patient and skilled fly-fishing instructor and guide. He combines a career as a Stanford-trained educator with a lifetime of fishing and adventure to provide a unique approach to the pedagogy of teaching others to fly fish. Mike strives to make you a client for life while helping you hone your angling skills and serving all of your fly-fishing needs. Mike is a permitted guide in the Plumas National Forest, and will take you to hidden river gems like the Middle and North Forks of the Feather River, along with Central Valley rivers, including the Calaveras, Lower Yuba, Lower Sacramento, and the Lower American.

In addition to walk-and-wade guided trips, Mike also leads fly-fishing classes and clinics at an exclusive Sierra dude ranch and personalized classes in the Central Valley. The summer program is a 1-, 2-, and/or 3-day course offered at the serene Greenhorn Ranch near Graeagle, CA, which is approximately 2.5 hours from Sacramento. Information can be found at <https://www.greenhornranch.com/>.

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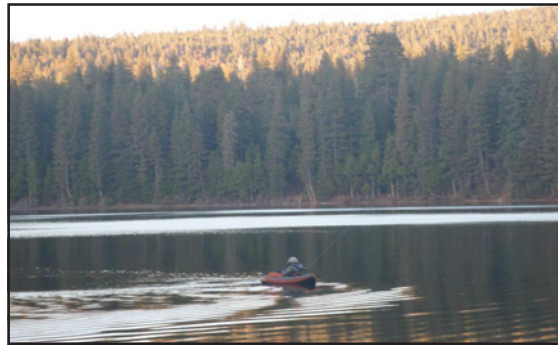
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OCTOBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1.	2.	3.	4. Fuller Lake	5. Yuba Fest
6.	7.	8. Board of Directors Meeting	9.	10. Monthly Meeting	11.	12.
13.	14.	15. Fly Tying Jam	16. Hennan Lake Fishout	17.	18.	19. Little Truckee Fishout
20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.
27.	3. 28.	29.	30.	31. Upper Sac Fall Fishout October 31 - November 3	1. Nov.	2.

Fuller Lake Fishout, Friday, Oct. 4th

by Fishout Leader, Gary Gale



Fuller Fishout #2 this year is on Friday Oct 4th. This is an open fishout and a favorite haunt of our club. It's fall, so that means the fish are going to be trying to fatten themselves up in preparation for the winter. The insect population starts to change a bit. Hopefully, that translates into fish that are less picky and open to a variety of good-looking flies.

I think I have fished Fuller about six times this year so far, with three good days and three that I scratched out a fish or two. Fuller was largely drained for the month of June. Of note, in the spring the fish that ended up in the net tended to be 8-11". I fished it recently and noted that the fish were mostly in the 11-15" range.

More details of this event are posted [here](#) on the GBF website. Since there won't be another club meeting before the fishout, if you have any questions, please contact me at g.gale.granitebay@gmail.com, or register directly on the [fishout page](#) on the website.



NCCFFI'S YUBAFEST 2024
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5th
One-Day-Event!
9:00AM to 5:00PM

The NCCFFI is proud to announce that Yuba Fest 2024 will take place on Saturday, October 5, 2024. The 2024 event will be a one-day affair with fly clubs and fly club members invited to a gathering of our fly-fishing clan.

This is a great way for our fly clubs and fly club members to bond with fly fishing on the lovely Lower Yuba River at Sycamore Ranch County Park.

The fly-casting crew from GGACC will be there to help with your fly-casting skills, putting on a program similar to what they do at the Fly-Fishing Show. The Fly-Casting Skills Development Program will be featured. This will be an all-day affair with fun social activities later in the afternoon.

Yuba Fest is a partnership with the NCCFFI, the Gold Country Fly Fishers, and Fly Fishing Traditions. This has been the main fundraising opportunity for the NCCFFI over the past number of years. We seek and welcome your support. More information and details will be coming.

Mark the date and come and have a fun day.

TICKETS:

- PRE-SALE / Online price - General Admission: \$20.00
- EVENT DAY / On-site price - General Admission: \$25.00
- Youth - 18 and under: Free

Purchase tickets at: <https://events.eventgroove.com/event/2024-Yuba-Fest-98282>

Upper Sacramento Annual Fall Fishout

by Tony Jelinek, Fishout Leader

The 31st annual fall Upper Sac Fish-out will be taking place from October 31st to November 3rd (Thur-Sun). Come up for all four days, or for just a portion. The Upper Sac boasts 30 miles of river access with the center being the town of Dunsmuir, featuring fishing for Rainbow and Brown trout.

Due to abundant pocket water, short-line nymphing and Euro-nymphing are the methods of choice on this stream. Sometimes, you may hit the hatch and fishing with a Mayfly, Caddis, or Stone fly pattern can make for some great fishing. If new to the river, or new to fly fishing, you will be partnered with someone who is familiar with the river, and everyone who registers will receive information on short-line nymphing, river access points, and local information.

If you are new to short-line nymphing, you will be shown how to tie the leader and obtain instruction on the technique. Evenings, we all gather for dinner at a local restaurant to appease our hunger and tell tales of the day. We are also planning on having a barbecue tri-tip dinner for \$10 per person on Friday evening. Plan on joining us for 4 days, or as many days as you can make it for fun, fishing, great camaraderie, and a chance to get to know this beautiful fishing water.

More details of this event are posted on the GBF website. If you have any questions, please contact me, Tony Jelinek, at jelinea@me.com or 916-751-9249. Or, register directly on the fishout page on the GBF website.

Exploring and Fishing Battle Creek

by Terry Block



It was a blistering hot day on Battle Creek, which flows through Shasta and Tehama counties, and is a major tributary of the Sacramento River. The section I fished was within the private Battle Creek Canyon Ranch located near Manton, California and is the subject of several projects and initiatives, including Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project. Currently, access to this section of creek is through River Pursuit Fly Fishing, owned and operated by Jason Thatcher.

“One of the proposed projects will restore about 42 miles of salmon and steelhead habitat on Battle Creek, and an additional 6 miles on its tributaries. These

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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.

Exploring and Fishing Battle Creek- Continued from Page 4



six (6) miles of fish-rich Battle Creek opened for the first time in 1999. Battle Creek averages twenty feet across, and tumbles down an often-narrow canyon that has one pool and riffle after another full of native rainbows, and sometimes steelhead at certain points in the season. It's a rugged wilderness atmosphere, and little has changed in years in what was once home to Ishi and his California Indian ancestor."

"Planting trout is prohibited in these lower reaches of Battle Creek, as it is the primary spawning tributary for salmon and steelhead from the Lower Sacramento River. Battle Creek's resident rainbows, therefore, are completely wild, native fish that have grown big and tough, full of fight, and usually die of old age without ever being fooled by a dry fly or nymph."

On this day, fishing the riffles and pools using my 3 wt rod from Larry Lee, and armed with a dry dropper setup consisting of a Chubby Chernobyl and Blow Torch, I was able to haul in 12 nice 10-to-12-inch wild rainbows.

If you wish to fish in this beautifully scenic fishery, contact Jason Thatcher at [River Pursuit Fly Fishing](#), and be prepared to walk and wade a moderately strenuous canyon and creek.

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



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

Fly Patterns - October Birds Nest Nymph



October Birds Nest Nymph

Materials:

Hook:	2x or 3x long curved shank nymph hook such as Daiichi 1260, Targus 200HBN
Thread:	Tan 8/0
Head:	Gold or copper bead, size to match hook
Tail:	Wood duck flank feather barbules
Abdomen:	Fine tan synthetic dubbing
Hackle:	Wood duck flank feather barbules
Thorax:	Same as abdomen
Rib:	Copper wire, fine
Weight:	Lead or substitute

Description

This month's pattern—Cal Bird's "Bird's Nest Nymph" — is an old favorite that should lurk in every fly angler's nymph box. There have been variations on the original pattern, but in my opinion none of them achieve any degree of "improvement" over Cal Bird's original design. I have added a bead to the hook—but only to show that it can be tied either with or without a bead.

GBF was fortunate to have had Cal Bird conduct a day of fly tying at the club house many years ago. As I recall, we have that session on video tape—and should probably consider having it re-mastered and transferred to a DVD format for our library.

The hackle on this fly is located at the juncture of the abdomen and the thorax, contrary to other nymph designs where the hackle is placed behind the eye and in front of the thorax. The procedure for applying the hackle is called the "distribution wrap," which is Cal Bird's own description of the procedure. It is a bit tricky to do properly, but does result in an even distribution of the hackle around the shank. Fortunately for us, Harry Mason, a friend who is a highly regarded fly tyer, has produced an excellent video on how to tie the Bird's Nest Nymph, including the elusive distribution wrap. It can be found at:

<http://www.troutflies.com/tutorials/nest/index.shtml>

Finally, this is one of those flies that are "tied in the round," meaning that the fly looks the same no matter how it is rotated. Compare this to a standard nymph that has a wing case on the top of the fly. In his famous book titled "Nymphing For Larger Trout", Charlie Brooks stated that he tied his flies "in the round" because a swimming nymph always rights itself before swimming away, and in order to mimic this habit a fly should appear the same from any angle. Thus, for his patterns that include a wing case, the wing case surrounds the fly. This simple idea revolutionized, so some extent, the world of fly tying. For example, think about how standard soft hackle patterns are tied: The hackle is wrapped around the hook and the body is uniform in appearance—a perfect example of tying in the round. The Bird's Nest Nymph is a type of soft hackle fly, in my view. I am partial to soft hackle patterns because of the motion of the fly in the water, attributable to the hackle's movement in the current. Sneaky, eh?

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.

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Fly Tyers Corner - Continued from Page 6



Steps 1 & 2

1. Smash the barb, place a bead on the hook, and secure it by placing a few wraps of lead of proper size behind the bead. Jam the lead into the large bevel of the bead, which should be facing rearward. I tend to use small beads—probably smaller than manufacturers' recommendation.
2. Secure the lead with thread wraps and advance the thread to the rear of the hook.

3. At a point just above the back end of the barb, tie on a tail consisting of a small bunch of wood duck or teal flank feather fibers. It should be about 2/3 of length of the hook shank. Take a well-marked flank feather and cut out the "heart," located at the top of the feather (see Harry Mason's video clip showing this technique). Roll the fibers and tie them in as indicated above.
4. Tie in the copper wire which will serve as the ribbing, at the same point (see hint #1 below).



Steps 3 & 4



Step 5

5. Dub a slender abdomen, taking the dubbing 2/3 of the way up the hook shank. Counter-wrap the copper wire ribbing with a few close wraps, and tie this off in front of the dubbing.

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Fly Tyers Corner - Continued from Page 7



Step 6

6. Using the remaining (bottom) portion of your flank feather, with the tips facing rearward, measure the barbules to shank length. Take a loose wrap around the entire piece right at the front of the dubbed abdomen, drawing the thread tight with a second wrap. The effect will be to distribute the barbules evenly around the abdomen if done properly (hence the name "distribution wrap"). Again, see Harry Mason's video for a good visual presentation of this technique:

<http://www.troutflies.com/tutorials/nest/index.shtml>

7. Dub a robust thorax in front of the hackle, up to the back of the bead; the thorax should be a bit fuller than the abdomen. Whip finish behind the bead.



Step 7

Tying & Fishing Tips

1. When tying in ribbing, it is a good idea to flatten the wire where it will be tied in. This prevents distortion of the body.
2. Try tying without using a bead, so that you can experiment on the stream with both versions.
3. Tie some in olive also. I also like to have some in black.
4. Tie in different sizes, down to #18. I even have some as large as #6 in my nymph box.
5. Go crank some of these bugs, go fish them, and...

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



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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 <https://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 <https://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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