

# The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

February 2025

<https://gbflycasters.org>

## Leader's Line

*by Mike McKinley, GBF President*

This is the beginning of the end of race sprint. Our members can do several things to make 2025 a great year.

- 1) Buy your Annual Dinner tickets. Only 200 will be sold. There will be many great prizes, tasty food, and great companionship. Buy tickets [HERE](#).
- 2) Volunteer to help at the dinner. Contact **Dave Stolecki**. Lots of roles are easy to fill: help with the raffle, set up and clean up, prize runners, etc.
- 3) Provide a prize; both fishing and non-fishing prizes are needed. Non-fishing prizes are easy—know a service provider like a CPA or mechanic? Ask that they donate their service. Have a time-share or summer cabin that is not being used? Put it in the raffle. Buy a date-night dinner and donate it. Are you a great cook? Donate a meal. PS: we still need desserts for the annual dinner. See **Ron Fay**'s article in this issue on Page 2.
- 4) Renew your membership. It's easy and available online at the club website.

As the weather warms, the spring bass/bluegill bite warms up. Our members have been fishing and posting results on the club's Facebook page. Thanks **Gene** and **Scott**. Now is the time to tie Jay Fair's Wiggle Tail nymph. Go [HERE](#) for the tying directions.



## Monthly Program

### BIO:

Our speaker this month is **Ryan Williams**, a guide/fly tier & owner of North Valley Fly Fishing. He is best known for his re-discovering of the Float n' Fly with the fly rod, and its application for still water bass during the Winter. He is also the first fly angler in the US to win a major bass tournament using a fly rod.



Ryan won the Wild West Bass Trail: Team tournament in January of 2021. There were 178 boats entered in total with most of the best bass pros in the state participating.

Ryan resides right next to Lake Oroville. He is about as passionate about fly fishing as they come—truly enjoys sharing his information and growing the bass on the fly movement.

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F E B R U A R Y 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1.
2.	3.	4.	5. Euro-nymphing presentation @Orvis Roseville	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11. Board of Directors Meeting	12.	13. Monthly Meeting	14.	15. Casting in the Park
16.	17.	18. Fly Tying Jam	19.	20.	21.	22.
23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	

Monthly Program - Continued from Page 1

**TOPIC:**

The topic of Ryan’s presentation will be the “Float n Fly for Bass.” This information can be applied smoothly to any bass waters in the state, especially reservoirs such as Oroville, Folsom, Berryessa, etc. Ryan will cover everything you need to know from flies, rigs, presentation, gear, structures to look for, timing, and everything in between. The goal of this presentation will be to enable club members to get out and catch some bass on the fly independently, and likely close to home.

**2025 GBF Annual Dinner Dessert Auction Procedures**

A wonderful 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 amount will be written on the envelope provided and the cash placed inside.
- \* The envelopes will be collected at the close of bidding 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.

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2025 GBF Annual Dinner Dessert Auction Procedures - Continued from Page 2

\* 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.


A Christmas Present

by Gordon Tornberg

If you are anything like me, you probably find it difficult to decide on what to get your adult kids for Christmas. Sure, you can give them a sweater, a shirt, or a gift card, but did you ever think about giving them time with you doing something you enjoy. And maybe, they may come to enjoy it too.

Well, I'm talking about fly fishing, which is something I enjoy, and if you are reading this, you probably do too. So, for the last several years, I have given both my son and my son-in-law a one-day guided fly fishing trip on the Truckee River. They are not fully invested in the sport yet, but they love the time we spend together, and look forward to doing it each year. My son is even looking into buying waders, since his duck hunting waders leaked a year ago. Fortunately, our guide, Blake Hunter, quickly got him a dry pair along with boots so we could keep fishing. This year, he again provided the waders and boots for my son. He always provides the rods fully rigged for a full day of fly fishing.

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



A Christmas Present - Continued from Page 3



We are fortunate to have a place to stay in the Truckee area, so we go up the day before our scheduled fishing, go out to a nice dinner, and get ready for a good day of fishing. In the morning, we meet our guide in the Hirschdale area, and he drives us in his truck to the special fishing spots where he knows there are fish. We went out this last year near the end of October, and while it was freezing cold, we brought to the net a total of 27 fish. (Left: That's ice on the rod guide.)

We caught white fish, a few rainbows, and even a brown, all catch and release, of course. No matter what, we had a great time, and we all learned something new about fly fishing. At the end of the day, we headed back for a brief rest before hitting The Pub at Donner Lake for some tasty food and a cold beer to celebrate a fantastic day. So, instead of them having some old sweater in their closet that they won't remember who gave it to them, or a gift card that they finally use for something that they either didn't need or something that they would buy anyway, my son and son-in-law have pictures and great memories of our day fly fishing the Truckee River.



So, before you wrack your brain trying to think of what to get your adult children for Christmas, think about giving them time with you. Whether it's fly fishing, biking, hunting, or just a day together, it sure beats giving them a shirt or sweater, and you get to enjoy the day, too.

Finally, I'm happy to say that the best time was had by me having my son and son-in-law out with me on the Truckee River having so much fun doing something that I enjoy. And, the very best part is that while I didn't catch the most fish, I did catch the biggest rainbow.

If you are interested in a very nice young flyfishing guide, I highly recommend that you check out Blake Hunter of [Hunter's Bigger Fish Guide Service in Truckee, CA](#).

### 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  
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER!**



WHEN: 4PM on Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup>  
WHERE: The Rocklin Event Center  
2650 Sunset Boulevard Rocklin, CA

I can sit here and tell you all the great things that are going to happen at the Annual Dinner: Raffle prizes galore; a silent auction with fishing and non-fishing items; games like 100 squares, Deck of Cards and Net of Cash; tasty desserts you can bid on; barbeque with friends; wild fishing tales and more.

*Or I could tell you this is the biggest fundraiser of the year for our club, bringing in money we give to worthy causes in conservation and help to support our monthly events.*

No, I am not going to do that. I am simply asking you to buy some dinner tickets, a few (or a lot) of raffle tickets and enjoy the festivities!

You can purchase tickets on-line by going [HERE](#) the Granite Bay Flycasters website, 'Events' at the top of the page, then 'Annual Dinner'. You can also access the Annual Dinner link on the website at 'Member Options' then 'Event Calendar'.

**This event is too important to wait until the last minute to purchase tickets as we will sell out! Get there before the crowd.**

Looking forward to seeing you on the 29<sup>th</sup>!

*Dave Stolecki*

(425) 269-2038

2025 Dinner Chair and

The GBF Annual Dinner Committee

Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner  
(Taken from the Article Written in February 2010)

## Fly Patterns - Micro Caddis Fuzzball



*Micro Caddis Fuzzball*

### Materials:

<b>Hook:</b>	Daiichi 1140 or similar scud-style straight-eye hook, #20-24
<b>Thread:</b>	8/0 (70 denier) tan
<b>Abdomen:</b>	Extra fine tan dubbing such as rabbit
<b>Wing:</b>	First tan CDC, then natural deer hair (try to select hair that has color right down to the tips rather than black tips, because the wing is so tiny that the wrong hair will show up as an undesirable black shade)

### Description

If you've spent a lot of time prowling around trout streams, you'll have noticed frustratingly tiny caddis adults bouncing about, particularly in the evenings—and I do mean T-I-N-Y, as in size 20 or smaller (down to 24). Here's what noted entomologist Rick Haefle has to say about these miniscule beasts: "Adult emergence can begin as early as June for a number of species, but peak activity generally occurs in July and August with many species continuing hatch activity into September. Because of their small size emergence activity goes unnoticed by most anglers. The best place to spot adults is on shoreline vegetation or boulders, where they run and flit with a nervous energy. When adults are observed along the stream and fish seem to be rising to some mysterious, unseen surface food, start thinking micro-caddis patterns.

"The time of day emergence and egg laying activity takes place is not well documented for most species. In general mid-afternoon to evening is the best time to look for them on the water and available to fish. I have found it difficult to tell if fish are taking pupae rising to the surface or adults returning to lay eggs. In such cases I first try a pupa pattern. If that doesn't work, I then put on an adult pattern. The type of water one fishes for pupae or adults is the same; moderate riffles and runs or the slow gentle currents of weedy flats."

Maybe because I'm contrarian by nature, I tend to fish tiny nymphs and pupae patterns during the hatch. If I don't catch fish on these, then I'll switch to an adult pattern. My go-to selection is what I call the "Micro-Caddis Fuzzball". The name refers to its appearance on the water, at least to those of us who are a bit challenged in the distance vision category. The fly's design is all about being able to see it—something—out there on the water. I'll tie them as small as 22, but that's where I draw the line (mainly because my tired eyes have a hard time focusing on anything smaller), using short shank scud-type light wire hooks because they have an increased gape for hooking purposes. Obviously one doesn't get much material on a hook of that size—but that's a good thing, because when tying small, the tyer must think "sparse, sparse, sparse." In the "tips" section below I'll provide some suggestions for improving your small-fly tying prowess. For now, let's tackle a Fuzzball, using a size 20 hook.

### 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 Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 6

1. De-barb the hook, and cover the shank down to mid-bend with a single layer of thread. This is important in order to achieve a nice smooth tapered abdomen. Ugly underbody, ugly body—that's the watchword.
2. Dub a sparse, tapered abdomen, leaving the front third of the hook open.



Steps 1 & 2



Steps 3 & 4

3. Lay two CDC feathers on the tying bench and place one over the top of the other, taking care that their curvature matches. Cut the hearts out of the two feathers and bunch up the tips.
4. At the front of the abdomen, tie in the bunched up CDC tips as an under-wing. The under-wing's length should not extend beyond the bend of the hook.

5. Cut and thoroughly clean a small bunch of deer hair, and place the hair into a hair stacker to even up the tips. Measure the hair to the length of the under-wing and clip the butts, leaving a 1/16" butt remaining.
6. Tie in the deer hair wing just ahead of the CDC under-wing; don't crowd the head as it will make finishing the fly very difficult. Be sure that the hair stays directly on top of the hook.
7. Once the deer hair wing is secure, push the butts upward and to the rear; this will create a nice head profile. Whip finish directly in front of the butts, and carefully place a tiny drop of super glue on the bottom of the head.



Steps 5, 6 & 7

## Tying & Fishing Tips

1. It is much easier to de-barb the hook at the vise than on the stream. If you drop the tiny hook at the bench you have a fighting chance to find it; not so if you drop your fly while on the stream either when you are trying to extract it from the fly box or while tying it on.
2. When dubbing the Fuzzball, use the tiniest pinch of dubbing that you can pull out. A good rule of thumb is to tease out a tiny amount and then cut it in half.
3. After using super glue to finish the fly, use a piece of fine copper wire to ream out the eye. It will be hard enough to tie a Fuzzball to your leader, but you'll become totally frustrated if you discover the tiny eye clogged as you try to poke the leader into the eye.

Accept my challenge to tie a tiny critter; be patient and tie at least a half dozen and you'll begin to get the hang of tying small.

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

## 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: \$45; Family memberships: \$50; 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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