

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

May 2025

<https://gbflycasters.org>

Leader's Line

by Mike McKinley, GBF President

Thanks to **Dave Stolecki** and his great team for another successful Annual Dinner. Thanks to all the generous club members for your purchases and donations. These funds help us run the club and make generous contributions to conservation groups.

The weather has cooperated nicely—lots of winter rain to keep lakes and rivers flowing. Spring is warming on schedule; bass, bluegill, crappies are in full swing and trout are waking up. Be aware that we have a new invasive species to combat; golden mussels are causing quarantines and cleaning requirements at most Stillwater venues.

We have elections in June; we need volunteers for several board positions. **Bob Farley** has agreed to run for President. Thanks, Bob, for stepping up big time. Bob ran the programs in 2024-25, and took over the Conservation VP when illness struck **Jim Monical**, and then **Jeff Goodwin**. We have numerous other positions that need to be filled. We can have several people nominated for any position, so don't be shy. We especially need a Treasurer, VP Conservation and program director.



Monthly Program



The speaker this month is **Luong Tam**, a rod designer and maker who has been fly fishing since the 90s. He became "hooked" on Tenkara, and ultimately started his own company, *Tenkara Tanuki Rod Company*. He has studied under the living Tenkara legend, Masami Sakakibara, and developed rods that are fun and simple to use. He believes fly fishing with Tenkara rods is a modern way of fly fishing today.

Understanding the Tenkara system helps to get the best use of the rod. Casting is the essence of fly fishing. Tenkara casting is no different; it just has a different set of challenges. Tenkara fishing techniques focus on fly manipulation rather than focusing on matching flies.

In March 2019, Luong spoke at GBF, covering the essence of the Tenkara system, plus casting and fishing techniques. In September 2023, he again spoke about Tenkara, discussing the rods, lines, casting and fishing techniques, and landing fish, based on the science of physics. This month he will talk about fishing small streams with tenkara.

This is the meeting every year when we have tenkara rod casting available up on the hill in front of the clubhouse, with several of our tenkara coaches bringing rods. This time, Luong will be joining us, and bringing along several of his rods that people can cast.

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M A Y 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6. Board of Directors Meeting	7.	8. General Meeting	9.	10. Casting in the Park
11.	12.	13.	14.	15. Fly Tying Jam	16.	17.
18.	19.	20.	21.	22. Fuller Lake	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.	28. Sly Park Fishout	29.	30.	31. Tenkara Fundamentals

The Joys of Springtime Fishing

by Chris Kight

Ahhhh Springtime...when a boy's fancy turns to bluegill, crappie and bass in small waters...

We have a great number of lakes, small lakes and ponds in our area that have large populations of Bass, Bluegill and Crappie. Tempt them with a small fly or two and you can have a great time.

From April 13th to April 17th, I had opportunities (for which I am extremely grateful) to fish three of them:

First time out was my very good friends' Joey and Chrysta Nizuk 1st Birthday Party for their lovely son, Brady. As it happened, there was a nice pond with cattails along the edges next to the birthday party venue up above the townlet of Cool. I "happened" to have a few Tenkara Rods in the car (as I always do) and, in between great food, birthday cake, opening gifts and celebrating with about 25 of their friends and family, I used my Tanuki Shinobi 13-foot rod to toss some miniature olive and black, beadhead wooly-buggers out. Joey was kind enough to have a couple of light fly rods and another Tenkara rod available for anyone that wanted to wet a line off of the back patio. By dragging the fly sideways and letting it sink a bit, I caught about 18 lovely and feisty bluegills, and helped three little boys each catch one or two as well. It's easy to do with a Tenkara rod, just toss the fly, let it sink and wiggle it a bit and BAM!

Then, a couple of days later, a fellow club member invited me up to about 1500 feet to fish a small lake that he has private access to for an afternoon of floattubing and Bass, big Crappie and another success with those hard-fighting, beautiful bluegill and a serving of big Crappie on the side. I used a lovely three-weight

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The Joys of Springtime Fishing - Continued from Page 2

for much of the time, and fished a Tenkara rod as well. Both were equally effective. Score: 35 bluegill, 4 crappie and 4 medium-to-small bass to the net. Pretty good for 4 hours of floating and fishing.

Following those two outings was a generous invitation from **Jim Monical** to get out and fish one of the private ponds on the Rancho Murieta property where he lives. It was super great to see Jim, as I hadn't visited with him for awhile. There are a number of ponds within that community, but it's gated-access only, so you have to have an invite to fish it. **Joe Cammarano** was there with Jim as well. We fished for 2 ½ hours or so—another beautiful Spring day—and the Bluegill were very active there too. There were some larger Bass at this pond, and I caught 4 up to about 14". Score: 24 Bluegill and 4 Bass on the day. Again, I used my 3-weight and a Tenkara rod. The majority of the fish were with Tenkara.

So, I'm grateful for springtime when the rains taper off, the world warms up, everything turns a brilliant green and I'm able to get out and successfully fish. It also reminds me how grateful I am to the Members of Granite Bay Flycasters who got me going with traditional fly-fishing and Tenkara, and my life is all the richer because of these outings.

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.



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

Another Successful Pyramid Lake Fishout April 9-12

by Paul Estridge



Good times on the 10th Annual GBF Pyramid Lake fishout this month. We had great weather—60s and 70s throughout the day, with intermittent clouds and moderate winds. It was just perfect for waders and a light fleece most of the time. As for the fishing, action was light at many of our favorite beaches, but we had a hard-fishing crew that worked it for 3-plus days. **Tony Jelinek** had the secret sauce at Wino Beach, with plenty of hookups early in the week on his Midnight Cowboy

and popcorn beetle. Who'd a thought. **Tom Mersich** fished his way around much of the lake, including Wino and the cliffs, from both his raft and a pretty sweet custom chair-ladder, with good results.



And steady hand, **Kim Lloyd**, with his dog Lucca, had his first hookup in his "not so secret spot," far from the maddening crowd. But, much as we sought the solitude and quiet beauty of deserted beaches—they weren't so hard to find this trip—eventually we all tuned in to the intel of our better anglers, **Eric Palmer, Wendell Edwards**, and **John Peterson**, who all said get thee north, boys, get thee to Pelican Bay. And there were ladders. Ladders lined up for hundreds of yards, with multiple bent rods up and down the line.

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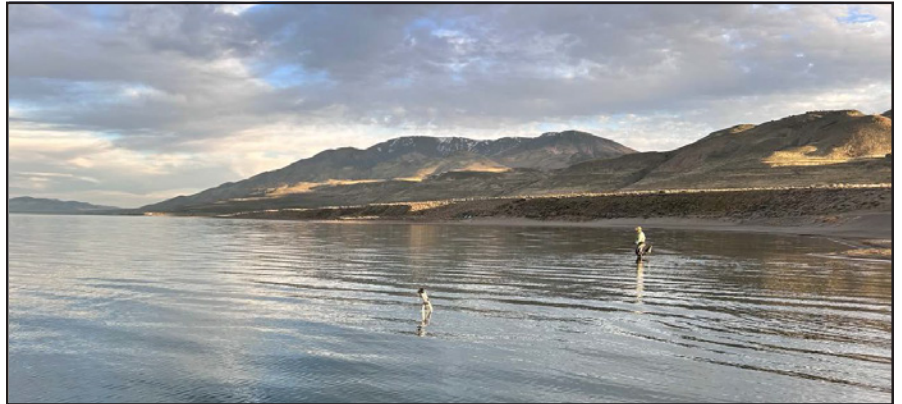
Another Successfull Pyramid Lake Fishout - Continued from Page 4



Congratulations to **Marc Wilson** for multiple fish on his first trip to Pyramid, and also to **Alan Low**, former tournament bass fisherman turned enlightened fly angler, for finding the big LCT that took him deep into his backing. They definitely cracked the Pyramid Lake code, and we look forward to fishing with them next year.

Friday night most of us circled up the wagons next to Wendell's trailer for happy hour, a potluck dinner, and easy camaraderie. Great contributions of food and drink, a perfect mix of anglers, and even a fishout dog, Tom Mersich's **Reese**, to bring out the best in us all. Lots of laughs, thoughtful conversation, useful observations—about the fishing life, and life in general—and then it was dark and time to chalk up another excellent trip to Pyramid.

We caught plenty of fish this week; who doesn't like to catch fish? But, fish long enough, and you start measuring a trip's success by more than a simple fish count. At Pyramid, it was friends and acquaintances, shared knowledge, mutual appreciation, and kindness-detecting dogs. Humor. Beer. Wine. Pelican flotillas herding lake minnows toward shore. Ridge lines of tufa, ancient high-water marks. Sunrise on a glassy desert lake. Mountain ranges glowing



orange at sunset. The human comedy of society, up on ladders, all engaged, once and for all, in a common goal. A good trip. Hope you can make it next year.



Rancho Seco Joint GBF/San Jose Fishout

by Scott Vaughn, Event Leader



It was a beautiful day at Rancho Seco with GBF and the San Jose Flycasters; you couldn't ask for better weather. We had roughly 36 people fishing and enjoying the company of fellow fly fishers, with about a dozen camping Monday thru Wednesday. San Jose supplied the lunch this year with BBQ, hot dogs and hamburgers—a great break after hooking into some fish.

Fishing started a little slowly, but within an hour or so people started hooking into fish. Plenty of bass, crappie and bluegills were caught. Trout were in the water, but none were caught. Even the pair of bald eagles on the lake didn't have any luck with trout. It was another successful joint fishout with

San Jose, and I look forward to next year's get-together. Next year we will supply lunch, and I already have some great ideas!



See you all in 2026!

Try Float Tubing Clinic

Hello GBFer's. **Michael Kaul** is thinking of doing the *Try Float Tubing Clinic* again this year, and we are trying to get a feeling about interest. The clinic is designed to give folks an opportunity to try tubing without having to buy the equipment. It is a very enjoyable, relaxing and productive way to fly fish. We borrow equipment from fellow members, do a survey of participants' needs, and meet up with the group at Fuller Lake.

After getting everyone outfitted, we will do a short class on basics of safety, like getting in and out of the water, and how to fish and land the inevitable fish. We will try to get as many different float tubes and fins as we can so you can see them, try them out and talk to people about the pros and cons of each. After that, we hit the water along with the experienced tubers who have volunteered to mentor folks out on the water.

After a few hours of fishing, we get together for a lakeside lunch, then back out if you desire. We anticipate that the date will be a Saturday morning sometime in late June/early July between the two fishouts that Michael is leading. If you might be interested, please call or text Michael @916-337-5468.

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

Fly Patterns - Pettis Pulsating Pupa



Materials:

Hook:	Tiemco 2457, Daiichi 1250, size 12-16 (Daiichi 1250 shown in pictures)
Thread:	Brown or tan 8/0
Body:	Three to five glass beads, root beer colored with silver lining, small size
Bead dubbing:	Lava Brown (or similar color) Buggy Nymph Dubbing
Legs:	Wood duck flank feather barbules
Thorax:	Dark brown Buggy Nymph Dubbing

Pettis Pulsating Pupa

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 6

Description

I first met Jim Pettis at the CalExpo ISE show many years ago, where he was a featured tyer in the Fly Tying Theater (then run by Danny Byford). As I tend to be, Jim was quiet and soft-spoken; we became good friends over time. Jim guides on the Lower Sacramento River at Redding and, as I can personally attest, knows the river as well as anyone can. He has launch rights at a rather unique, privately owned spot some distance above the Posse Grounds where most everyone else puts in when fishing the upper runs. I've never seen anyone more skilled at mending line to a floating indicator placed far away from the boat (in some cases more than 60' out)—without moving the indicator. At the invitation the Golden Gate Casting Club in San Francisco, he's taught his methods to the club's members. One of Jim's talents—and the one that first drew my attention—was his ability to innovate fly designs that survive the test of time despite an ever-skeptical cadre of fly fishers, guides, and others. Principal among his successes is the Caddis series, one of which is the Pulsating Caddis, which Jim first tied in 1993. The fly is featured in Joe Warren's book "Tying Glass Bead Flies."

The Pulsating Caddis can, in various sizes and color combinations, represent many different Caddis flies. It is an excellent imitation for *Hydropsyche*, which abound on the Lower Sacramento River. Here are a few statistics on this bug:

Genus: *Hydropsyche*

Common names: spotted caddis; net-builder; net-spinning caddis; gray caddis

Size: 10-15mm

Color: tan, brown, yellow-tan with greenish or tan shroud

Here is an excellent summary of the habits and characteristics of *Hydropsyche*:

"This case-less caddis acts like a spider: larvae build little nets in the crevices of rocks and capture drifting plankton for their meals. Their preferred habitat is riffles and runs. They often drift in the current; so, where there are large populations, trout will feed on them year-round.

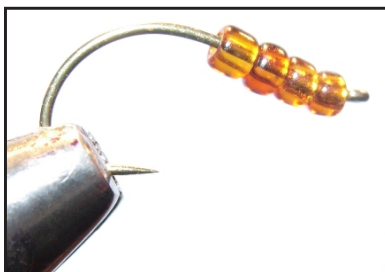
A larva pattern dead-drifted near the bottom can be very effective in spring and fall, and even in winter. Many species are pale green and look a lot like the green rock worm or green caddis; they are often found in the same kind of water and can be imitated with the same patterns and tactics. In other waters, spotted caddis larvae are more tan or brown. Pupation occurs in the same water that the larvae lived in.

During a hatch, dead-drift a pupa pattern near the bottom in riffle water or just below riffles. An unweighted pupa pattern can also be drifted near the surface, or you can present a soft hackle fly with a wet-fly swing. Another good strategy is a dry fly with a pupa pattern as a dropper or trailer; the dry fly acts as an indicator and sometimes is taken by the trout. After the hatch, errant and unlucky adults fall onto the water, and a dry fly is the right choice. Bank-water downwind or downstream from overhanging trees is a good place to cast your dry. Females swim or crawl underwater to lay eggs. You can fish a dry at this time, or go subsurface with a Soft Hackle or diving caddis pattern."

Let's get busy and tie one of Jim's gems.

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. Smash the hook barb and place some beads on the shank; the number will vary with the hook style and size. For example, if you are using a size 16 Tiemco 2457 hook, I suggest using three beads. Tip: start with a size 12 use 4 or 5 beads to get the feel of the proper number and then work down in sizes, experimenting as you go.

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2. Once you've got the hook in the vise, start the thread near the hook eye and wrap the front 1/8 of the hook with thread (this will later become the area for the thorax) in front of the beads. Wrap rearward to the hook bend, securing the beads each in succession with several wraps. Leave the thread at the middle of the bend.

*Step 2**Steps 3 & 4*

3. Place some of the lighter brown dubbing on the thread (here again you should experiment with the amount that you use, starting with smaller amounts, graduating to somewhat heavier amounts).
4. Place one wrap of dubbing behind the last bead, and move forward; place two wraps between each of the beads until you reach the thorax area. Place a half hitch there in preparation for the next step.

5. Using a piece of Velcro or a gun barrel brush (which is what I use), rub the dubbing with a circular motion; this has the effect of picking out the dubbing and standing it up.
6. Using your fingers, brush the dubbing rearward so that it resembles a sheath or shroud (remember Gary LaFontaine's patterns?).

*Steps 5 & 6*

Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 8

7. Cut the very tip of the heart from a well-marked wood duck flank feather (set this aside for some other use). Clip out a 1/8" section of the stem; you now have a "v" shaped piece that you should place, shiny side up, on top of the hook directly in front of the leading bead. Tie it down there to form legs on each side of the hook.



Step 7



Step 8

8. Dub the thorax with the dark brown dubbing. Whip finish.

Tying & Fishing Tips

1. As mentioned above, experiment with your materials on this pattern, and on all of your patterns. This will enhance your creativity by forcing you to think about each step of the pattern instructions. Eventually, if you incorporate this into your repertoire, you will develop your own design skills.
2. Notice the picture above: the thorax area is the same diameter as the body, so your tying techniques should take this characteristic into account.
3. Once you have done the legs, wrap the thorax dubbing over the leg tie-in area and slightly over the legs; this will force the legs into their proper swept-back position.
4. Because these critters engage in behavioral drift (which accounts for their success on the Lower Sac), you should plan accordingly with your rig—whether you prefer floating indicators, short-lining, or a swinging approach.

Crank a few of Jim's jewels...

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: \$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, 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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