

# The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

October 2025

<https://gbflycasters.org>

## Leader's Line

*by Robert Farley, GBF President*

Well, fall is here. I am reminded just how fortunate that we have so many opportunities to get involved in our club in pursuit of fishing, and friendship. With all our classes and clinics, we all should be better at our skills of fishing for the fish of our choice. I have been with the club for a short time, and enjoy the club more by being involved in various activities. So please get involved and join some of our fundraising activities.

Mark your calendar for the Annual Swap Meet and Chili Cook-off, on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Now is the time to start dusting off your unused fly fishing gear and sell it at the swap meet. Also, remember to dig out your special chili recipe and fine tune it to your winning flavor. Another great item to bring with chili is freshly made corn bread.

The December General Meeting is our annual Holiday Potluck. It is an informal gathering of club members and their spouses for a night of eating and telling those great stories. Please use the chart below to determine what to bring. Use the first letter of your last name. This will help us to have a variety of food for our potluck.

- A-E Appetizers
- F-K Entrees
- L-Q Desserts
- R-Z Salads



## Monthly Program



Our speaker this month will be **Jason Renfro**. Jason started [Renfro Fly Fishing](#) because of a passion for fly fishing, teaching and his desire to help others get the most out of their time on the water. Jason believes he has been fortunate to work with hundreds of local anglers thus far, and looks forward to much more in the coming days. He is currently partnering with two great fly shops in Northern California to offer a multi-level continuing education platform for both single-handed and two-handed (Spey) anglers. These shops are *CrossWaterCreek Outfitters* in Lafayette, CA, and *Fly Fishing Specialties* in Citrus Heights, CA. Get to the clubhouse early for his presentation.

Jason offers private fly casting lessons for those who want to take their game to another level. For example, he conducts an Advanced

Dry Fly & Technical Presentation Clinic for single-handed rods. For the double-handed folks, he provides a Deep Dive Into the Fundamentals of Spey Casting class, as well as a class that focuses on Touch & Go casts.

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## OCTOBER 2025

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

Fuller Lake Fishout - October 4<sup>th</sup>

by Gary Gale, Fishout Leader

Fuller is a GBF regular haunt. Many members do well using their established known methods and favorite flies pitched out from their favorite spots. If you are new to float tube fishing, or have never been to Fuller, you will find a variety of advice being discussed when we collectively gear up. If you are new, or new to Fuller, please let me know what level of advice you would like to receive. Where possible, experienced members will provide mentoring while fishing themselves. If you see somebody 40 yards away hooking up repeatedly, paddle over unobtrusively and ask for a fly recommendation! It may help you out, if not that day, then the next time you fish Fuller.

For more information and to sign up, go [here](#) at the website.



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## Eagle Lake Fishout - October 16 - 20

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*by Kim Lloyd*

The results from trying to fish Eagle Lake in late May/early June over the last couple years have been desultory. In 2023, **Joey Nizuk** and **Curtis Frank** were each able to land one or two fish. Last year **Tom Mersch** retained a guide and did quite well, while those that used float tubes got skunked.

The primary problem during these fishouts was the weather; it was beautiful. The days were sunny and warm, with ambient air temps pushing 90 degrees during the afternoon. Surface water temperatures were around 70 degrees by 10 o'clock in the morning. Conventional wisdom believed these warmer temps had already pushed the fish deep. This conclusion was confirmed with Tom's success last year by fishing deep from a boat, versus float tubers catching squat.

Hence, the decision was made to change the timing of this year's fishout from late May to mid-October. A recent check of the 30-day weather forecast indicates that daytime temperatures will be in the low to mid-60's, with nighttime temps down to 40. This forecast bodes well for lower water temps and, hopefully, better fishing results.

The main objective of the fishout is to help GBF members land an Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout, which is a native California trout. This is important because it means this fish meets the criterion of the Heritage Trout Challenge. For reference, this challenge can only be achieved by catching six different California native trout from their historic drainages. Eagle Lake is the only location that holds the Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout, hence, its relevance to meeting the challenge.

There are currently six GBF members signed up for the fishout. Some will be staying at motels in Susanville, while others will be camping at the Merrill Campground. The use of float tubes/pontoons will be the primary method of fishing. One can fish from shore, but this is typically done very early or very late in the day.

Register for the fishout [here](#) using the club's website. Emails with more information will be sent to those that register.



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## Fuller Brown Trout

by Jim Degnan

Over the last thirteen years of fishing Fuller Lake, I have heard a lot of lore regarding the Brown Trout in Fuller Lake that they are regularly planted, or that they reproduce in the lake. It seems like they are always there, even when no one catches a Rainbow.

I contacted a very kind DFW biologist, Mitch Lockhart, who indulged my curiosity. He filled me in on the present data and theory as to why Fuller Lake always seems to have Brown Trout and very few Rainbows, even if the Rainbows are planted. According to Mr. Lockhart, the last DFW brown trout plant was August 28, 2013, and those were sterile. By now, the plant should have been depleted, so where do the browns come from? Why does it seem like there are times when we have good fishing for browns, and then it all dies off and we kiss the skunk?

Some history you may already know, but just in case: In the late 1800s miners and tunnellers planted Loch Levin and German Browns, depending on which area of Europe those folks came from. They planted them all through what is now known as the PG&E Drum Complex—lakes like French, Faucherie, Sawmill. Jackson Meadows and Milton are too new for this, though Brown trout were planted in Jackson Meadows at some point, and were not the standard diploid, sterile fish that are planted today in a few dedicated locations.

Mr. Lockhart says that biologists have found that those Browns are reproducing in the chain of canals and pipes that connect those lakes in the high Sierras, Jackson Meadows for example, to Bowman Lake. Bowman Lake feeds water into Fuller, which is the terminus for all those lakes and canals. Fuller regulates water going to Spaulding #3 powerhouse, and acts as a release point when PG&E is drawing down Bowman in preparation for winter. If they dump too much water directly from Bowman, the Yuba can become dangerous for recreation downstream. So, they dump the water into Spaulding, which then dumps it into canals feeding into lakes like Rollins and Scotts Flat, and is used for water in the downstream farms and towns.

*Continued on Page 5*



**WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT FLY TYING...**

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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**

*Fuller Brown Trout - Continued from Page 4*

Biologists posit that the fish that are in the above lakes and canals can get flushed into Fuller. Many may be fingerlings and sub-catchables. Those are what we see on the western shores of the lake. Fuller has a fish screen which prevents fish from being sucked into the turbines of Spaulding #3 powerhouse, so the Browns become residents. The population ebbs and flows depending on anglers harvest/fishing pressure and water flow from Bowman.

This thesis has been confirmed by the presence of Bass in July of 2025. The Bass are migrating from Rucker Lake through the weir that connects Rucker Lake to the Bowman/Spaulding conduit. They end up in Fuller. **Ed and Sara Kenney** have the pictures to prove it. Fuller is much warmer than usual because it is not getting the cold water from Bowman. PG&E is holding all water out of Spaulding while they complete the repairs on Powerhouses #1 and #2.

There are few, if any, holdover rainbows. According to Mr. Lochart, they get depleted in a few weeks by the harvesting anglers. We experience this—great Rainbow fishing for a week or so—then that's that. Browns are harder to catch, so they deplete more slowly, but when the water managers kick up Bowman flows, they wash more Browns down into the system and replace the population. Sooner or later though, the population of Browns does get depleted by harvesting anglers, so it gets so low that fishing becomes extremely hard, skunk shows up. You have to wait for another burst flow from Bowman to get back in the game.

I have heard of the "fall phenomenon;" that the Browns will congregate at the inlet to the lake in the fall. It is possible they want to go upstream to breed, but the inlet pipe is all there is. Biologists say the inlet pipe is not suitable for nests, so it is highly unlikely that the Browns sustain their population by breeding in Fuller itself. It is also possible that the increased fall flows flush the Browns into the lake, and like rainbows when they are first planted, are confused as to where to go—an inadvertent planting of the lake.

To ensure success at Fuller, you need to check the inflows from Bowman. You can do that by accessing [https://river-lake.nidwater.com/hyquick/BSCA/BSCA.usday\\_daily\\_flow.txt](https://river-lake.nidwater.com/hyquick/BSCA/BSCA.usday_daily_flow.txt). If the flows are in the hundreds, catching will most likely be better than if the flows are in the fifties, or like this year and last year when the flows were close to zero because PG&E was working on Spaulding Powerhouse #1 and #2. Of course, being on the water soon after a plant will get you rainbows and an occasional Brown. DFW plants twice a year, generally before a holiday for recreational fishing. We wish they would plant more often, but the hatchery is limited in output and budget.

Like all theories, the above discussion is open to further data and discussion. If you see or hear something that would add or contradict what we have proposed above, please contact me and we can offer an amendment in future *Leader* editions.



Fuller Lake has a population of true wild Brown Trout, highly hybridized from a hundred plus years of interbreeding generation after generation. These fish are a true treasure and rare. Take care of them when you catch them. They are scions of a long tradition. When we see anglers take Browns, let them know the history. I've done this twice, and both times the response was very positive. If you read the regs for Jackson Meadows, they specifically state that Browns are catch and release. I wonder what would happen if that same regulation and practice were implemented at Fuller?















Let's hope we have as nice a day as **Kathy Hiromoto** had in June 2021. One of the best days ever. THINK ANTS!!!




**WANTED - Snack Volunteers**



**Your Fly Fishing Club regularly NEEDS volunteers for the General Meeting Snack        Break.**

**Please sign up now for 2026!**

You don't have to make a big deal out of it; a few cracker choices, assorted cheese, large bag Chips  (potato/corn, etc.) fruit        or anything you might like as a snack that you can buy. Example: dip (hummus any flavor)  will do, sliced salami  with cheese and cracker, most stores have a Combo Flat  that works for snacking. Heck, even a couple of large Pizza's    would do!

A flat of water - smaller bottles preferred.

Of course, if you enjoy cooking , that's all the better, but no pressure, keep it simple.

You are reimbursed up to \$100 smack-a-roos, see the treasurer  at the meeting for reimbursement, or donate the snacks if you like. 

Text me at 415-716-0666, or email [hsandigo@icloud.com](mailto:hsandigo@icloud.com)

Thank You,

Henry Sandigo, facilities guy

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**Annual Swap Meet and Chili Cook-off**  
**Saturday, December 6, 2025 — Starts at 8:30 AM at the Clubhouse**

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It's time to start getting ready for the Annual Swap Meet and Chili Cook-Off. First, you need to put it on your calendar so you won't miss it. Second, if you're planning on selling some of that extra gear that is taking up valuable garage or closet space, get it sorted out and ready for the swap meet. Third, dust off that old special chili recipe and tune it up to enter it in the cook-off.

Seasoned club members know this is the event where you'll find the best deals around on fly rods, fly reels, fly lines, waders, boots, hackle, thread, split shot, fly tying vices, wading vests, thermals, and anything else you can possibly think of that relates to fly fishing. There will be flies hand-tied by members selling for less than \$1.00 each. There will be too many items available to mention here; just know you won't go home empty handed. Additionally, you might win the raffle fly box with four dozen flies for just showing up.

To get the best deals—be there no later than 8:30 AM (by 10:00 AM everything is pretty much bought, sold or eaten). Sellers should reserve table space by contacting **Drake Johnson at [1drakej@comcast.net](mailto:1drakej@comcast.net), or (916-532-3073)**. **There will be a signup sheet at the October and November meeting. You can also sign up through the Club Calender [at this link](#).** You should plan on being set up and ready to go by 8:30 AM. Additionally, it helps you sell items if you put price tags on the items you are selling. Large items such as pontoon boats, prams, etc. should be displayed outdoors on the deck or the parking lot.

**Chili Cook-off Contest** – Here's your chance to win braggin' rights as the best chili maker in GBF. Winner will be selected by who gets the most votes.

**To participate:**

1. Bring your chili in a crock-pot with a serving spoon, and pre-warmed.
2. Name your chili (This is important, because the name is what is used for voting).
3. Bring a short extension cord for your chili. Label it.
4. Winner will receive a fly box with four dozen flies.

**Continental Breakfast!**

We'll have a continental style breakfast available for \$3.00, and complimentary coffee and water.

**Remember:**

1. Get here at 8:30 AM for the best choice. Sales will start as soon as sellers are ready.
2. Stay late for the best price.
3. Bring cash.
4. Feel free to bring your boats, float tubes, prams, pontoons, etc., but set them up outside (with price and seller name). Those things usually sell better if they are inflated (with air).
5. Bring a friend. Bring your checkbook.

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**Granite Bay Flycasters Classifieds**

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*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.*

## Virginia Lakes Fishout Report

by Michael Kaul, Fishout Leader



*A loyal, fish-sniffing dog and his student.*

The Virginia Lakes never fail to please. The weather was tremendous. Got us above the near 100 degrees in Bridgeport, into the mid-70s. 25 members attended, including 7 ladies, which **Sandy** appreciated for hiking partners. Several of the ladies took a beautiful hike up to Cooney Lake with the dogs.

The fishing was fair, with folks catching fish in all three lakes. **Scott Vaughn** consistently caught the most, and eventually got a very large rainbow from Big Virginia Lake, which he estimated to be around 7#.

Beautiful fish released to be caught again. A couple of folks ventured down to June Lakes and fished Silver Lake with success. Others went to explore Mammoth for its beautiful lakes and all it has to offer.

The dinner this year was a burrito bar, which turned out great. Folks brought guacamole, **Bruce Emard** got delicious beans from a restaurant in Bridgeport, and Sandy brought some home-grown tomatoes. We had pulled beef and pork, and all the other fixin's. Folks also brought homemade cobbler, lemon bars, cookies, and margarita fixings.

Hope you all can come next year.



*Scott Vaughn with his brute rainbow.*

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

### Fly Patterns - Bill's October Bandit



*Bill's October Bandit*

#### Materials:

<b>Hook:</b>	Daiichi 1260, Tiemco 2302, or similar curved shank hook, #6-10
<b>Thread:</b>	Orange 8/0
<b>Tail:</b>	Medium dun deer hair
<b>Abdomen:</b>	October Caddis orange synthetic dubbing, or orange closed cell foam
<b>Ribbing:</b>	Fine gold wire
<b>Hackle:</b>	Dry fly quality dun or grizzly saddle hackle
<b>Wing:</b>	Same as tail
<b>Thorax:</b>	Same as abdomen
<b>Legs:</b>	(Optional) Pumpkin silicone legs

#### Description

The October Caddis hatch and GBF's Upper Sac outing—a marriage made in heaven—are imminent. So, members attending the outing need to be armed and dangerous with good, workhorse fly patterns. Over time, I have developed a series of five deadly flies for the various life stages of that marvelous insect, the Giant October Caddis, aka *Dicosmoecus*.

*Continued on Page 9*



*Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 8*

One of these patterns is Bill's Big Fish Fly (see also GBF's web site, "Fly Pattern Archives," January, 2009). This fly is beyond effective for October Caddis adults when the fish are keying on them; in fact, it should be forever banned for engaging in serious misconduct. Still, for many tyers, the Big Fish Fly is a bit complicated to tie. So, let's look at some alternatives.

There are, of course, other patterns that work as October Caddis adults - the hallowed Stimulator is just one good example. But I've never found one that rivals the Big Fish Fly - until, that is, I designed the October Bandit. Don't get me wrong - I'll never abandon the BFF. I just want to offer an alternative that will bring fish to the surface with vengeance in their hearts, yet is simple and quick to tie.

So I began with the ultra-simple Shambles Caddis, featured in the July, 2009 Leader (see "Fly Pattern Archives" on GBF's web site). Since then, Shambles has undergone some minor modifications and I've settled on a favorite color and size: lime green, #16. For the seven main streams of the Middle Fork American drainage, I don't use any other dry fly; the same goes for the North Yuba. In other words, it has undergone a lot of field testing. So, why not use it as the basis for an October Caddis adult? Duh! And so the October Bandit came into being. I tie them with two different body materials: October Caddis orange dubbing and orange closed-cell foam. For this month's fly, we will use dubbing.

## 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. Smash the hook barb and place the hook in your vise. Cover the hook with thread back to the hook bend.
2. Cut, clean, and stack a small bunch of medium dun deer hair. Choose hair that is of medium texture; in other words, don't use hair that is suitable for spinning as it is too hollow, or hair that is too fine and won't flare at all. We want hair that will flare some, but not too much.
3. Measure the tail hair to about 1/3 of the length of the shank. Tie it in securely at the hook bend (see photo for detail). Place a drop of super glue on the tied-down butts.
4. At the same tie-in point, tie in a piece of gold wire for ribbing and a properly sized saddle hackle. The hackle barbs should approximate the size of the hook gape.



*Steps 1, 2, 3, & 4*



*Steps 5, 6 & 7*

5. Form a dubbing loop and dub the abdomen with a taper, larger to the front. End the dubbing at the point where the thorax will begin and the wing will be tied in, which is about one third shank length behind the hook eye. Do not use excessive amounts of dubbing—even synthetic dubbing will hold water—and be sure to leave the front third of the hook open as we will need the room for a proper wing.
6. Rib the abdomen with the gold wire, and tie it off at the front end of the abdomen. Wrap the hackle forward, using 5 or 6 turns, and tie it down at the same spot.
7. Turn the fly upside down and carefully trim out the hackle on the bottom. It serves no purpose whatsoever; since natural bugs ride in the surface film and not above it, the underside hackle would preclude the natural appearance and generates a lot of refusals (boils that appear to be takes but in reality are caused by fish turning away at the last moment).

*Continued on Page 10*

*Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 9*

8. Be sure that the front third of the hook is open and covered with thread to provide a good base for the wing. Cut, clean, and stack a robust bunch of hair; measure it so that the wing will reach to the middle of the tail. Tie the wing in securely in the middle of the front third of the hook, being sure to keep all of the hair on top.
9. Trim the butts of the hair so that you leave a small head, similar to an Elk Hair Caddis. Add a drop of super glue to the wing tie-in point.
10. Add a small amount of dubbing at the base of the wing to represent the thorax, and bring the thread to the eye of the hook. Form a small, neat head there and whip finish.

*Steps 8, 9 & 10*

## **Tying & Fishing Tips**

1. You can substitute closed cell foam for the dubbing for the abdomen. If you choose to do this, cut a two inch strip of foam that is about 1/8 " at one end and 3/16" at the other end. Tie the narrow end in at the same place that the tail is tied in, and wrap it forward to the same 1/3 point on the shank.
2. One of the things I have learned about the October Caddis hatch is that during late September and most of October, the fish key on the larvae and emerging stages. Yes, you will catch some trout on the adult fly during this period, but you will catch far more if you stick with subsurface patterns. In late October and on into November and December, as the weather becomes cold, rainy, and snowy, you can fish adults most of the day with success.

Tie up a few of these for the October Caddis hatch, and...

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

## Library Update

### **New Items**

The library recently acquired 3 fly fishing DVDs that are worth watching.

1. "Wet Fly Ways with Davy Wotton" is a 2-hour introduction to traditional wet fly fishing. It demonstrates, among other things, different presentation techniques, when to use a floating or intermediate fly line, how to configure the flies on your line and how to tie special knots. All this and they catch some nice fish, too!
2. "Chuck Echer's October Caddis (using a Paraloop "V" Hackle Technique)" is a non-commercial video created by a local fly fisherman from Pollock Pines. This video provides a brief history of tying caddis flies before demonstrating how to tie the fly and what materials work best.
3. Bass Blast – Vol. 1 is a fairly short 49-minute video that focuses on targeting largemouth bass in shallow water habitat, whether by stalking along the shore or using a pram. More fish are caught – per minute – on this video than the previous two videos combined.

Gary Gale – GBF Librarian

## 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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Through June, 2026 - Roger Paulson  
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Through June, 2026 - Larry Lee  
916-962-0616

Through June, 2026 - Diana Lilienthal

Through June, 2026 - Scott Vaughn  
916-813-1308

Through June, 2027 - David Harvey  
209-981-3399

Through June, 2027 - Marie Spaulding-Gray  
Director at Large, 1 year term - Ed Kenney  
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Ed Lloyd

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