

# The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

February 2026

<https://gbflycasters.org>

## Leader's Line

*by Robert Farley, GBF President*

I hope everyone is being able to get out and do some fishing. I know the weather has affected all of us. If you're not fishing, then fine tune your fishing equipment for this great upcoming year. The dates on the fishouts are starting to fill in, so sign up and enjoy a great day or two on the water.

At this time of the year, we are all talking about the annual dinner. Our annual dinner is March 28<sup>th</sup>, so if you have not bought your ticket yet, please do. Every ticket sold by Jan 31<sup>st</sup> will be entered into a drawing for 50, \$2.00 tickets. Remember, this is the one and only fundraiser for the club. The money raised at the annual dinner is what helps run your club. The annual dinner is a casual affair. Join us for an evening of fun at the Blue Goose in Loomis, CA.

Just to let you know, the proceeds from the dinner, combined with membership dues, help us pay for:

- Free fly-fishing clinics/workshops
- Club activities "Classroom Egg Program", ISE show, etc.
- Informative speakers for our general meetings
- Our insurance, state and federal taxes and other fees
- Member recognition
- Support for other Non-Profit organizations through our conservation program
- Humbolt State University Fellowship Grant

We still need your help! Please consider donating a raffle prize or auction item for the dinner next month. Here are some types of things club members have donated in the past.

- Flies you tied in a box
- New, unused merchandise—fishing-related or not
- Handcrafted goods—fishing-related or otherwise
- Professional Services—in coupon or gift certificate

If you can help, please contact Ed Lloyd at 916-220-2870.

Any contribution is appreciated.

So, hopefully, you're out fishing or getting things ready to enjoy a fantastic season.

## Monthly Program

This month a couple of Granite Bay guys, **Scott Vaughn** and **Mike McKinley**, will make a presentation about stillwater fishing; primarily for warm-water species. Both are long-time club members. Scott previously

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## F E B R U A R Y 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
8.	9.	10. Board of Directors Meeting	11.	12. General Meeting	13.	14.
15.	16.	17. Fly Tying Jam	18.	19.	20.	21.
22.	23. Fly Tying 101	24.	25.	26. Fly Tying 101	27.	28.

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served as a 3-year Board of Director, and is currently the club's Stillwater Fishmaster. Mike, too, served on the Board of Directors, and most recently served as the club's President.

Here's what Scott has to say about this month's program, "Greetings all, Michael and I will be doing a freshwater presentation for fly fishing. We will provide you with the knowledge we have accumulated over our years of fishing. We will provide advice on locations, gear, and what type of fish you can find. I will be providing a thorough talk on my float tube setup and how I go about catching warm water species. Hope to see everyone there."

Mike believes a picture is worth a thousand words. He has, consequently, provided this photo of his guide holding one of Mike's fish during a recent trip to Lake Picachos in Mexico.

These guys have a ton of experience with float-tubing and stillwater fishing. Come to the meeting and listen to their presentation. Then, use the "question-and-answer" session to pry out the secret spots, tips, tricks and techniques they "forgot" to include in that presentation. This will be a good time; don't miss it!



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## Board of Directors Nominations

We are looking for volunteers to be part of the Board of Directors. All positions are open for nominations, but some more than others need a volunteer. Our Board of Directors consists of 13 members:

President  
 Vice President of Membership  
 Vice President of Conservation  
 Treasurer  
 Secretary  
 3 third-year Directors  
 2 second-year Directors  
 2 first-year Directors  
 1 Director-at-Large  
 Past President

The year for the Board runs from July to June. The Directors on the Board take on various projects during the year. The Board has a Zoom meeting on the Tuesday before the second Thursday (the general meeting day.) We work from a budget, discuss the club's workings, and look for improvement or new areas we can take on. Our next election will be in June of this year—openings will be starting in July. Specific areas we are looking at are: VP of Membership, VP of Conservation, Treasurer, Secretary, first-year Directors, and three-year Directors.

If you are interested in finding out how your club operates and want to be in on the decisions that shape the club, contact me, Robert Farley, (President) at [graywolf95742@yahoo.com](mailto:graywolf95742@yahoo.com), 916-316-6832, or at the general meeting.

## Calling All Bakers!



One of the fun and tasty highlights of our Annual Dinner is the dessert auction. Please consider donating a dessert for this important fundraising event being held March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Blue Goose Event Center in Loomis. We only need 12 more delicious goodies for our dessert silent auction, and the spaces always fill up quickly. So, thumb through those favorite recipes (or try something new that sounds yummy) and volunteer to donate a dessert that can feed eight. New this year—there is a prize for the baker whose dessert receives the highest bid. To sign up, contact **Michelle Davidson** ([mhdavidson@icloud.com](mailto:mhdavidson@icloud.com))

## 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 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner

Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, is this year's annual dinner, which will be at The Blue Goose located in Loomis. This year is noteworthy because it's our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This is our biggest and only fundraiser of the year. We have many exciting activities that contribute to our success.

Our dinner is steeped in tradition after 40 years. It includes fun and exciting long-standing activities like the:

1. **Fishing Silent Auction and Non Fishing Silent Auctions** - There are two sessions, and they last most of the evening. There is something for Fishermen and Non-Fishermen as well. Even the ladies in attendance have the opportunity to take part, and it ends up becoming a family-type atmosphere.
2. **Live Raffle** - This has always been a popular part of our evening, and has always resulted in it being a festive atmosphere. You place the purchased raffle tickets in raffle item bags, and during the raffle, a ticket is selected; hopefully yours.
3. **Grand Prize** - Our Grand Prize this year is a Larry Lee rod, complete with reel, extra spool, fly line, fly box and flies.
4. **Net of Cash** - Art Hawkins builds a Net and has someone carry it around, and all in attendance are encouraged to contribute to the net. When completed, both the net and cash are auctioned off to the highest bidder, making this one of our more popular activities of the evening. High bidder gets both the net and the cash.
5. **Deck of Cards** - This is one of our popular activities in which all cards in a deck (usually \$20 per card) are sold. When all the cards are sold, the MC will pick a card and the winner this year will get a pair of high quality waders.
6. **100 Squares** - This year's winner of "The 100 Squares" will get a Dave Scadden Boat, worth around \$2200.
7. **Speaker** - This year's Speaker is Terry Eggleston, one of the founding members of The Granite Bay Flycasters. He will share with us just how the club got started, taking us through a rich history.



We hope you will make it a priority to attend this once-a-year event. Tickets are \$55.00 per person, and the proceeds go to the many activities our club sponsors throughout the year, such as Casting for Recovery, Conservation, Putah Creek Restoration, and Trout Unlimited.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. See you on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>!!

Tickets are available at: <https://gbflycasters.org/annual-dinner/> We ask that you purchase your tickets soon.

Thank You!

Ed Lloyd, Annual Dinner Committee Chairman

[edwinlloyd@att.net](mailto:edwinlloyd@att.net) • 1-916-220-2870

## Welcome to Our Newest Members

*by Rozaida O'Neill, VP Membership*

Please join me in welcoming new members who have joined us recently. Make sure you keep an eye out for them at our meetings and events so that we can make them feel that they are an important part of our club.

Jake Mater

John Santamaria

Mark Hurwitz



## Wet Fly Award

The Board is now accepting nominations for the club's infamous Wet Fly Award. This annual recognition is bestowed on the club member that has had the highest level of "oneness" with the waters we fish...who has taken that fateful extra step leading to an intimate bonding with the environment of our quarry...who has gone above and beyond the limit of mere waders to immerse him/herself in the world of our noble nemesis...who, in other words, has fallen in the water while fishing!

Who do you know who has slipped, tripped, stumbled, fallen, crashed, capsized, or otherwise gotten soaked while fishing—and won't mind having the story recounted aloud at our annual dinner on March 28<sup>th</sup>? If you have someone in mind, just contact any Board member to relay the deserving story by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember...think wet!

## The January 10<sup>th</sup> Putah Creek Conservation Effort

*by Kim Lloyd*

This conservation effort was an unmitigated success. It achieved three specific goals for those that participated:

- 1) It got us out of the house on a majestic winter day.
- 2) It provided an opportunity to walk each of the Putah Creek access trails.
- 3) We got a free lunch. The perfect trifecta.

The event was a bit crowded: about 80 volunteers gathered in Winters at **Steady Eddy's Coffee House**. Fly fishers and caffeine do not always a good mix make, but no injuries were reported on this day. Granite

*Continued on Page 6*

# WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT FLY TYING...



### OUR FLY TYING STAFF

**BRETT DRURY**  
Fly Tying Instructor  
Renowned Fly Tyer, Sacramento Area

**RICK ANDERSON**  
Contract Fly Tyer  
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*"They have the largest selection of fly tying materials in California!" - Andy Burk*

## Putah Creek Conservation Effort - Continued from Page 5



Bay was well represented with 8 members in attendance. These included **Tony Jelinek, Tom Surges, Greg Nyland, Roger Paulson, Trevor Fagerskog, Bruce Carlson, Rick Wiesner** and myself.

The volunteers were divvied up into work groups, and each was assigned an access trail. Most of the GBF guys went to Access 4. The story should end here, but I missed the sign, had to turn around, and was the last to arrive. As it turned out, missing the sign was not a problem because the huge number of volunteers meant we still got

everything done around 10:30.

But now there are 2 hours to kill before lunch. What to do? This early finish became the perfect opportunity to check out the other access trails. There is no substitute for having "boots on the ground," and these side trips gave us a firsthand look at the creek's "fishable" elements.

The volunteers then returned to the **Preserve Public House** in Winters for lunch. And quite the lunch it was: pulled pork, dinner rolls, risotto, a green salad and a cabbage salad. A big thank you to **Cole & Sara Ogando** and their staff for hosting this meal. BTW, the Preserve is not a coffee shop...it is a top-notch restaurant that blends hip with local. Check out their menu online; it may motivate a weekend trip.

This was a successful conservation effort. This success is based upon those that put it all together. These folks include, but are not limited to: **Johnny Feaster** (local guide), **Matt Wong** (CA Fish & Game) and **Ron Beltramo** (NCCFFI). No doubt others were involved. For example, **Ryan Williams** (local guide) donated his time to help manage volunteers at an access trail. Another clean-up is scheduled for June. Best efforts will be made to keep the club apprised of its date...and if it comes with a free lunch, too.

Bill Carnazzo Fly Tyer's Corner  
(Taken from the Article Written in February 2011)

## Fly Patterns - Bill's Swimming Starling Sally Dry



*Bill's Swimming Starling Sally Dry*

### Materials:

<b>Hook:</b>	Standard dry fly hook, sizes 14-18 (I like Tiemco's 900BL)
<b>Thread:</b>	Pale yellow 8/0 or smaller
<b>Egg sac:</b>	Fine rust colored dubbing
<b>Ribbing:</b>	Fine gold wire
<b>Body:</b>	Pale yellow natural dubbing with a slight olive tinge
<b>Thorax:</b>	Same as body
<b>Under wing:</b>	Pale yellow CDC
<b>Over wing:</b>	Pale yellow fine deer hair
<b>Hackle:</b>	Starling feather, tied soft hackle style

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Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 6

## Description

The **Swimming Starling Sally** was featured here last month. In that article I briefly referred to a subspecies of the little yellow stonefly that will actually transform into an adult in the water column, contrary to the habit of all other stoneflies. That information was garnered from Internet articles authored by respected entomologists. What I didn't mention is that there is no general consensus among scientists on this point. For example, Ralph Cutter, I believe (based on what he says in his excellent book, "Fish Food,") would disagree with such a conclusion. In any event, it matters not one whit and I don't know who is correct—the fact is that the soft hackle pattern works.

This month, let's look at the adult insect for clues as to how to create an effective floating imitation. That is the regimen that I follow when I sit down to design a new pattern. The adult Sally is very delicate, tiny, and slender. Its wings are gossamer, and its body is a pale yellow hue (with some variations). These characteristics render it nearly invisible when it is in the surface film. In flight it is somewhat more visible because of those same characteristics that make it difficult to see on the water—i.e., its pale colors reflect light against the sky and landscape. Still, as pointed out last month, it is readily and regularly mistaken for other insects.

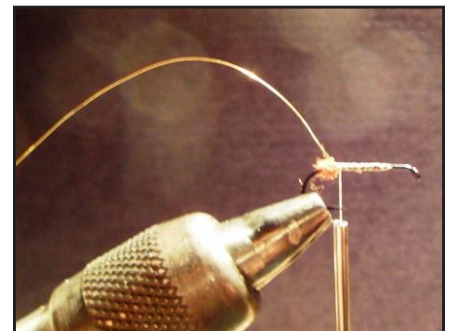
So how do the Sally's characteristics affect fly design? Obviously pale colored materials are required, but it is the manner in which those materials are applied that is critical, and somewhat less obvious. What it takes is actual, close-up observation and attention to detail. The watchword is sparseness—overdressed flies will be ignored by picky fish.

Using those principles as design guidelines, I came up with the Starling Sally dry fly. This pattern employs a new design concept: a marriage between a soft hackle fly and a dry fly. The hackle is starling, which of course is not intended to aid flotation; rather, it allows the fly to lie flat within the surface film with legs that move about, imparting some motion to the bug. The fly sports an egg sac made of fine rust colored dubbing (red is too bright), and utilizes the same pale yellow-olive dubbing as the nymph for the abdomen and thorax. The ribbing is fine gold or copper wire, to mimic body segmentation. The under wing is pale yellow CDC, and the over wing is fine (for translucency) deer hair in a pale yellowish color. Let's sit down and crank a few.

## 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; if you are using the "BL" type hooks, this is already done. Cover the hook with thread back to the bend (just above the back of the barb).
2. At that same point, tie in a tiny ball of rust colored dubbing for the egg sac, and then the gold wire for the ribbing.



Steps 1 & 2



Steps 3 & 4

3. At the same point, begin dubbing the body forward in a nice slight taper. It is important to keep the body slender but achieve a slight cigar-shaped taper as you proceed forward. Stop at the 1/3 point on the hook.
4. Rib the body with 4 or 5 turns of the gold wire and tie off the wire at the front of the body.

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*Fly Tyer's Corner - Continued from Page 7*

5. Take two similarly shaped CDC feathers, lay them together, and trim the butts so that what remains is the tips of the feathers; they should be no longer than the hook shank. Tie them in just ahead of the abdomen, and don't crowd the hook eye.

*Step 5**Step 6*

6. Cut, clean, and stack a small bunch of fine deer hair. Trim the butts so that the hair length equals the hook shank. Tie the hair in at the same point as the CDC was tied in, tightly securing the butts. Add a tiny drop of super glue to ensure that the CDC and deer hair remain directly on top of the hook. Again, don't crowd the hook eye.

7. Dub a sparse thorax around the base of the wing.
8. Prepare a starling feather (see below) and tie it in by its tip, just in front of the thorax. Since the fly is designed in the soft-hackle style, the concave side of the feather should face the rear of the hook.
9. Wind the feather around the hook at least 3 times, sweeping the barbules back on each turn. Tie the feather off just behind the hook eye, trim the excess, and wind the thread in close wraps rearward to help sweep the hackle backward. Whip finish and apply a small drop of super glue to the head.

*Steps 7, 8, & 9*

## **Tying & Fishing Tips**

You will note that some of the steps for this fly resemble those for the soft hackle pattern. This is intentional, as it makes for easier tying and fewer necessary materials. The following tips were included last month but because they apply also to the dry fly version, I have included them again here for convenience.

1. Starling feathers from the neck area have an iridescent black shine and a tannish tip. These are the feathers you should look for.
2. To prepare a feather for a soft-hackle fly, there are several methods that have been written about. I prefer to follow these steps:
  - a. Strip the fuzz from the butt end of the feather, but don't cut the stem.
  - b. Isolate the feather's tip by grabbing it with a pointed tweezer and sweeping the remaining barbules rearward.
  - c. Tie the feather in using the isolated tip as a tab. Remember to tie sparsely, and... See ya on the creek (which is where I'm headed today).

*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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916-316-6832 [gbf-president@gbflycasters.org](mailto:gbf-president@gbflycasters.org)  
VP Membership - Rozaida O'Neill  
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VP Conservation - Trevor Fagerskog  
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916-412-1281

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  
916-417-1433

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