

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS



Greg Rowe 1928-2003

September 2003



Visit our website: <http://www.gbflycasters.org>

September 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1.	2.	3.	4. Conservation Committee meeting	5.	6.
7.	8.	9.	10.	11. General meeting. 7pm-10:30 see pg. 10	12.	13.
14. Beginning Casting Clinic 10 am see page 15	15.	16. Fly Tying Jam	17.	18. Board meeting 7pm-9	19.	20. South Yuba River Clean-up see pg. 7 Great American River Clean-up see pg. 7
21.	22.	23.	24.	25. Crowley Lake FishOut	26. NCC-FFF Conclave Kings Beach, N.Lake Tahoe see pg. 12	27.
28. 	29.	30.				

President's Message

B y G a r y F l a n a g a n

I can't believe how quickly things change around here. Great things are afoot at Granite Bay Flycasters and I am proud to be a part of these improvements.

We have a club website that is now current and user friendly. If you have taken the time to log on and browse around the site, you have seen that Paul Meyers has done a magnificent job of organizing, updating and adding terrific graphics to the GBF Website.

Anyone you refer to this Website can't help but want to become a member. Gbflycasters.com is the place to stay informed. And if this is not enough, Paul has added a new Message Board that has instantly transformed our club from a monthly meeting to a daily—no, dare I say—an organization that is up-

*"I HAVE WATCHED MEMBERS
STEP UP AND MOVE OUTSIDE
THEIR COMFORT ZONE..."*

dated by the moment. Several of our members have posted their desire to go fly-fishing with each other to their favorite locations. New friendships are being forged through this Message Board and GBF Fishouts are now daily functions. Fish reports have even enticed others to fish new venues.

I have also watched the evolution of a professional looking Leader. Jeff Burkholder, one of our newer members, owns an advertising agency and has had a lot of experience with newsletter publications. Jeff has done a wonderful job turning our Leader into a polished publica-

tion purposely predicated to provide prompt and persuasive publishing in a precise and poignant way.

Something I didn't expect was to have a

relatively new member by the name of Bill Uhrig show up at our last Board Meeting and jerk a knot in our tail. Bill, being a new member, didn't like the way he was being treated. Heck, he had been a member for over three months and still hadn't gotten his name badge. As a result of Bill's constructive advice to the Board, Lester Snow and Ray Nunez have established a new member's package that is now mailed to our new members. This package should make anyone immediately feel like they are part of the Club's two-hundred-plus inner circle. Thanks Bill for telling us how you felt instead of just silently slipping away disappointed. At the next meeting, find a new member and take them fly-fishing.

I have been a member for a little over three years. Since that time, I have watched members step up and move outside their comfort zones and successfully tackle projects that were alien to their nature. For Jack Ramos, being a publisher was a tough and thankless job. Jack is a retired contractor, for God's sake. He took on the job as editor and publisher when no one else wanted it, and for two years has never once been late in getting the edition out at the first of each month. Prior to Jack,



“Burk’s Hexagenia”



This pattern is featured in Randall Kaufmann’s book entitled “*Tying Nymphs*”. In his introduction to the tying instructions for this pattern, Kaufmann states that “*Hexagenia* are the largest mayflies found in North America and attain a length of 1 ½ inches....‘Hex,’ as they are referred to, prefer slower stretches of streams, lakes, and ponds with silt bottoms, which they burrow into.” From personal experience on the Fall River, this hatch attracts the very largest of a river’s resident trout. I have also found them on my own ponds, and locally in Lake Natoma.

The hatch occurs just before and through dark. However, the nymphs are active for several hours before dark, and fish will take them on or near the bottom, and up through the water column as night approaches. To fish the nymph, a sink tip line is best where the water is deep; where the water is shallow, a floating line may do the trick. The just-hatched duns are huge, and light yellowish to white in color. Even so, they are hard to see after dark, necessitating “fish by feel” tactics, with casts to suspected locations of splashes made by trout taking the adults on the surface. As of this writing, the hatch is occurring at Lake Natoma. Check the

GBF web site’s bulletin board for details. There will also be a picture of this month’s featured pattern on the web site.

I N S T R U C T I O N S

1. Place hook in vise and smash barb. Wind 8-10 wraps of lead at thorax area, leaving plenty of room between lead and the hook eye. Flatten lead with a pair of smooth jaw pliers.

2. Cover the hook shank and lead with thread; cover all with a good coat of Flexament.

3. Tie in the marabou tail; it should be about 1/3 of the length of the shank. At the same point, tie in the a strip of turkey tail, the filoplume by its tip, and the copper wire. Reverse the filoplume and secure it. (Hint: try tying a knot in the marabou when it is still long and before tying it on the hook. This will cock the marabou off to one side, and cause the fly to “wiggle” when stripped.)

4. Dub the abdomen. It should
see Tying page 5

MATERIALS

Hook:	Tiemco 200R or Daiichi 1260, sizes 4-8, weighted
Thread:	Primrose or pale yellow 6/0
Tail:	Gray marabou
Back:	Dark turkey quill
Gills:	Pheasant aftershaft (filoplume)
Rib:	Medium copper wire
Abdomen:	Pale yellow rabbit or substitute
Wing case:	Turkey tail
Weight:	(optional) lead or substitute
Thorax:	Same as abdomen
Legs:	Mottled hen saddle

Tying the Hexagenia

from page 4

have a good taper and be relatively heavy. Leave the bobbin hanging at about the 1/3 point on the hook, behind the eye.

5. Bring the filoplume forward over the top of the abdomen, keeping the stem centered on the top of the abdomen. Tie it off at the forward end of the abdomen. Now bring the turkey forward to form the back. Tie it off at the same spot.

6. Wrap the wire rib, weaving it through the filoplume. Tie it off at the same spot.

7. Tie on a section of turkey tail that is slightly wider than the back, with the end sticking up and pointing to the rear. This will be the wing case.

8. Remove fluff from a hen saddle hackle, and sweep the fibers away

from the tip. Tie the feather in by its tip at the same point as the turkey tail, and with the tip pointing toward the rear, with the shiny side up. Bend it backwards, so that the butt is now facing the rear.

9. Dub a nice thorax back to the area where the turkey tail and hen were tied in. Bring the hen saddle forward, creating the legs. Keep the feather tight and flat. If you have done this correctly, the legs will be pointing to the rear of the fly at around a 45 degree angle rearward.

10. Bring the wing case over the thorax and legs, and tie it off. Form a nice head. Go fling this dog at some trout.

See ya on the creek!!!



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Keeping those big “fishon”

BE AGGRESSIVE

I got to the Feather River late, and took the last place in line. Being the last person in line means, everyone is going to bring their fish through you, so I spent a lot of time watching other people fighting their fish. I saw people with 10-11 wt rods, fight 20 lb salmon for 30 mins or more: that’s too much stress for the salmon. That size fish should be landed in 5 to 10 mins at the most.

Ok, here are some tips for fighting any size fish:

1. Learn how hard you can pull on your tippet before it breaks. On 14 lb test tippet, a 10 wt rod will blow up before the tippet breaks. Most people will apply about 1 to 2 lbs pressure on the salmon, and that’s not enough: 4 or 5 lbs of pressure will put less stress on the salmon, you’ll have



Photo by: Karl Wolff

Bill Carnazzo with “Fishon”

more control, and land it a lot faster. Learn how hard you can pull on your rod before you go fishing. Tie your tippet to something solid, or better yet, a small fish scale, and have someone watch the scale. You’ll have better leverage with the rod if one hand is on the reel and the other hand is about 1-1/2 ft above the reel.

2. Now you know how hard to pull on the fish, so, let’s use it. Most people will fight a fish with the rod

see “fishon” page 11

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President's message

from page 3

I sometimes got my copy around the 20th of the month, after the information was old. After I learned that he accomplished this with a rickety old laptop computer with no mouse, it is a wonder he ever got it out at all. Thank you, Jack, for all your hard work.

And if this wasn't enough, Jack has just volunteered to be our new Fish Master. I have no doubt that Jack will do a great job with the same vigor and dependability.

Jeff Medina just ended a term on the Board and has taken over as our new Librarian. We have authorized him a new budget and Jeff will be buying new videos and books to update our collection. He also plans on taking a complete inventory and accounting of our hundreds of books. If you have anything on your bookshelf that you have forgotten to return, please give it to Jeff at the next meeting. Thank you, Sir.

One final thing that would be nice to see is more of our newer members showing a willingness to become involved in leadership positions within the club. Although we have many veteran members that are involved in club functions and are irreplaceable, it is the new membership that drives this club with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. If you look at the current board, most of us are relatively new members. By getting involved, you will widen your circle of friends and greatly increase the rewards of being a member.

Ask not what your club can do for you; ask what you can do for your club.

Tight Lines and keep your feet dry...

-Gary Flanagan

Regional rivers need clean-up

Sept. 20th is clean-up for the American and South Yuba Rivers.

The American River Parkway Foundation for their 25th annual 'Great American River Clean-up and the South Yuba River Citizens League for their 6th annual river clean-up.

For more information on the American River Parkway, 9am-noon, clean-up call 916-456-7423 or see their website: www.arpf.org/cleanup.htm

The SYRCL is also cleaning up in their backyard the same day, 9 am – noon for the 6th Annual Great Yuba Clean-up. The clean-up covers the full Yuba region watershed, including South, Middle and North forks. Volunteers are asked to pre-register, either online at: <http://syrc.org> or call Kayle Martin, 530-265-5961 ext. 201.

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Bill Carnazzo, Licensed Guide

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Burney Falls Area Oct. 3 – 5

Yeah, I know, we're in the dog days of summer and some of our N. California Rivers and Lakes are fishing great. But, as the cool nights of Fall come, the fish will be looking up at flies a little more.

One of our state's treasures is Burney Falls St. Park, a special place for me. I'll never forget my first visit there, seeing the falls, my first Salmon Fly hatch, and catching beautiful wild trout.

The reasons I'm excited about this Fishout are the superb fishing and beautiful surroundings. Large Rainbows and Browns are typically caught in October. Some of the hatches include October Caddis, a multitude of other Caddis, midges,

CAMPING WILL BE ARRANGED
FOR SITES IN SAME AREA

and Blue Winged Olives. Dave Shaffer, American Fly Fishing Co., will also conduct an onstream clinic for us on Fri.

We will make our base at McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park. There are also motels in the town of Burney, about 10 miles away. From our base, there are literally six or more quality waters: Burney Creek, Hat Creek, Pit River, Fall River, McCloud River, Manzanita Lake, and others. There are also three fly shops with plenty of flies and information.

Please contact Karl Wolff at kwolff@questonline.com or (916) 719-0860 if you want to sign up or have any questions.

Camping reservations will not be required and are not taken. I will arrange to have our campsites in the same area. There will be a sign-up sheet at the general meeting.

Burney Falls regional info

McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park: 530-335-2777
www.parks.ca.gov

Lodging

Burney Motel: 530-335-4500
37448 State Highway 299 E,
Burney, CA 96013

Charm Motel: 530-335-2254
37363 State Highway 299 E,
Burney, CA 96013,

Green Gables Motel:
530-335-2264
37385 State Highway 299 E,
Burney, CA 96013

Shasta Pines Motel: 530-335-2201
37386 State Highway 299 E,
Burney, CA 96013

Sleepy Hollow Lodge:
530-335-2285
36898 State Highway 299 E,
Burney, CA 96013

Fly Shops

Vaughn's Sporting Goods and Fly Shop: (530) 335-2381
37307 Main St
Burney, CA

www.citlink.net/~vaughnfly
Trout Country- 530-335-5304
38247 State Highway 299 E
Burney, CA
www.troutcountry.net

The Fly Shop: 530-222-3555
Churn Creek Rd
Redding, CA
www.thflyshop.com

Clearwater House: 530-335-5500
21568 Cassel Rd
Cassel, CA
www.clearwatertrout.com

Catch, release legal

F&D code for Feather River



Mixed information has been discussed amongst the GBF club around the Feather River. Below is official notice from the Fish and Game regarding the 'Code of California Regulations (CCR), specifically prohibiting salmon fishing in the area on the Feather River between the Hwy. 70 Bridge and the hatchery. Notice quoted below (word-for-word):

"Dated: March 15, 2002"

"I appreciate your frustration over "catch and release" or "zero limit" fishing for salmon on the Feather River. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) attempts to protect the important spring-run Chinook salmon resource with regulations that sometimes appear ambiguous. The original intent of our regulation was to protect spring-run salmon that congregate in that section of the Feather River between the Highway 70 Bridge and the green

bicycle bridge at the Feather River Hatchery in Oroville. The fish are usually vulnerable there as they are frequently massed in dense, highly visible and unfeeding schools. In the past, spring run salmon have been in great jeopardy.

The issue at question is "Does the Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Section 7.50 (a) (5) (68) (B) specifically prohibit salmon fishing in this area from January 1 through August 30? The answer is "No". The regulations specify a zero fish bag limit on salmon, which means targeting salmon for catch and release fishing is legal. Having this in mind, our wardens, during the months when this portion of the River is open, will treat the area as a catch and release salmon fishery. Please note that all laws and regulations in this area will be enforced and that salmon taken there must be immediately unhooked and released unharmed.

I apologize for any misunderstanding, and I hope this letter has clarified the situation. If you have any questions, please call Captain Ken Nilsson at 916-358-44356 or email knilsson@dfg.ca.gov.

Sincerely, Michael A. Grima, Regional Patrol Chief"

-Gary Flanagan

Dept. F&G info

DFG-CA: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

DFG Code of Regulations:
http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/2003/freshfish03.pdf

DFG: License: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/index.html>

Nymph fishing tips and tricks

Bill Carnazzo, a charter member of GBF, will present a new program called “Fishing Pocket Water—a guide to successful nymph fishing with a ‘short line.’” Bill will present the program in a Power Point

position to the target; casting technique; fly drifting tactics; and proper method for striking. Then Bill will, with pictures, show the results of the short line technique—i.e., fish on!

Bill will round out the program

SPEAKER:

BIL CARNAZZO

GUIDE, GBF MEMBER



format, with many pictures of techniques, bugs, flies, and—most importantly—fish taken using the very productive short line technique.

The program will cover a variety of topics, beginning with rigging for pocket water, including proper rod and reel selection; lines; leaders; indicators; weight; and a bit about knots. Next, Bill will provide interesting pictures of seven different types of pocket water, and show how to recognize them. Bill will then cover the elements of the short line technique, using digital photographs to demonstrate proper angler

with a discussion—with pictures—of “bugs” that trout typically feed on, including the all-important October Caddis, and the flies that will catch those trout.

This program will be a good follow up to the August program presented by Dave Shafer. Dave did a good job in discussing the floating indicator technique that he uses and teaches. The short line method is an alternative to the floating indicator technique, and will provide you with another “arrow” in your quiver to assist you in your quest for nymphing success.

When: Sept. 11, 7 PM

Where: GBF Clubhouse



photo by Gary Flanagan

Bill Carnazzo, left with Ray Nunez

Granite Bay Flycasters club logo merchandise:

Pocket T-Shirts - \$10

Unisex sizes, one color (light heather grey), Hanes 'Beefy-T' brand

Light Canvas Shirts:

Short-sleeve: \$25

Long-sleeve: \$27 (2XL/3XL: \$29)

Men's and women's sizes, two colors,

great quality Cabela's brand.

Men's Polo Shirts - \$23

(2XL/3XL: \$25) White only, great quality Cabela's brand (these will not be re-ordered)

Hats - \$10

Baseball cap style, one size fits all, two colors, great Cabela's brand

Contact Mike Brune 916-723-4524 to check availability on any of the above, or if you're interested in helping with the club merchandise program.

'fishon':

from page 6

held vertically, which allows the fish to stay upright (some big fish don't even know they are hooked). Now, if you point the rod to the place were you want the fish to go, and stick the rod tip right on top of the water, or better yet put the rod tip under water, you'll be (rolling the fish over) pulling the fish on its side, and most fish don't swim well on their sides.

3. Before you get in the water, decide were you're going to land the salmon. Sometimes you can watch others land their salmon to see how they did it.

4. Now, you've finally got a grab, and the salmon is on: you need to set the hook. Point the rod down-river horizontally to the water, tighten up on the line and hit the fish hard 3 times with the line in your hand. If the fly didn't pull free with the set, you can fight the fish aggressively.

5. Now, you've got the fish on. Is it a legal (fair) hooked fish or a snagged fish? A snagged salmon will go crazy—they will jump, do cartwheels, and the salmon will be out of control. With a legal (fair) hooked salmon, you'll have control of the fight with the correct equipment to match the size of the fish.

6. Ok, it's a fair hooked salmon,

you're standing in a line with other people fishing, and you don't have a lot of room. This is the part I like: you holler "FISHON", to let the other people know what's going on. Be courteous to the other fishermen, and take the fish away from them to the spot you picked to land the salmon. Doing this also keeps an impatient fisherman from lining you—they will cut your fly line and the salmon off.

...YOU HOLLER "FISHON"..

Relax the pressure on the fish, hold the rod overhead, walk behind the other fishermen, and back the salmon down to the spot you picked earlier to land the fish. Once you get to your spot, you can now aggressively fight the fish.

7. Keep the fish working hard, but under control. Confuse the fish by pulling from one side then back to the other side. The fish doesn't know were you are standing, will get confused, and you will break its will to fight and the battle is half over. Keep pressure on, the rod tip on the water, and take the fish to the place you picked to land it. The best way to land a big fish is to beach it, net it or tail it. Also, this is a catch and release area, so why not break it off!

- Gene Goss

N. CA. Council FFF Conclave 2003

Kings Beach, CA will be the place to be if you're a fly fisher. The Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers will be presenting the annual Conclave Sept. 26-28.

The three-day event will feature speaker Jack Dennis of Jackson Hole WY, providing programs on fly casting, fly tying and his fishing adventures. Attendees can watch some of the best fly tiers in Northern CA and Nevada at one-on-one demonstrations and other fly fishing presentations.

Saturday will have youth programs for ages 10 to 16 for casting, fishing and tying. Throughout the three days there, attendees can visit booths for

all aspects of the fly fishing products. Other events are:

- Saturday, 27th Adult seminars: casting, fishing skills and tips on where and how to fish all over the world.
- Dutch Oven cooking lessons
- Fly tying demos from more than 60 of the best tiers
- Friday night social the 26th, meet the speakers and tyers
- President's Breakfast
- Sunday, 28th special fly tying classes

For more information visit the NCCFFF website: www.nccfff.org

Personal Watercraft clinic a hit!

Aug. 2 dawned with the sunrise on the horizon, obscured by overcast skies, cool temperatures and gentle delta breeze, a typical August.

Considered the day for the activity I planned to attend, likely to be cancelled, a personal watercraft clinic. But, I still scrambled into my camper and pulled out the float tube.

Besides, it was the first Annual **Lady Bugs Fly Fishing Club** and **American Fly Fishing Company** Personal Watercraft Clinic at Lake Natoma.

Much of the gear was hosted by **Outcast Sporting Gear and**

Henderson Springs Ranch with float tubes and boats to be demonstrated by visitors. Their staff assisted in demos, answering questions giving tips on using float tubes or boats.

Another note: American Fly Fishing Co. had lessons and demos

see 'Lady Bugs clinic' page 15

Monthly Fly Tying Winners for Aug.

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Bill Aaberg

Non-Beginners:
Ron English

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Heenan display near completion

Surviving cuts and bruises, numerous sunburns and lots of sore muscles, the structure for the interpretive display at Heenan Lake was successfully installed by 4pm Saturday, July 26.

More than 20 people from Granite Bay Flycasters and High Sierra Fly Casters turned out for the work party. Hoisting beams, moving rocks and pulling weeds in the parking lot, all worked hard to complete the task at hand that day.

Many hoped to fish the Carson River or Indian Creek Reservoir after lunch. However, the installation took longer than expected and yet most everyone stayed to work. The biggest problem was the site selected by DFG; maybe any of the sites proposed were just as rocky but at least some of them had

RON ENGLISH AND
RICK RADOFF WERE
INDISPENSABLE.
- BARBAR BANIA



Rick Radoff



Just some of the work crew, many had to leave when this was taken.

easier access in which to work. The backhoe utilized last September to dig the footings was unable to dig out some of the large rocks and, in attempting to do so, dug larger diameter holes than we needed. Not only did the work party need to clean out rock and dirt that had fallen back into the holes during the winter, they engaged in some backbreaking labor digging out rocks by hand that had been immovable by the backhoe.

Ron English and Rick Radoff were indispensable. Without their expertise and leadership, putting the structure together, the installation would never have been accomplished in one day. In spite of some of the unrepeatable words they were probably thinking, they maintained their composure and continued to devise solutions to the various problems that cropped up.



photos by John Carroz

Heenan Lake in the background while the crew work

see 'Heenan Lake' page 16

Greg Rowe 1928-2003

Greg was a friend to many, but especially to other fly fishers. Greg passed away July 14, 2003.

He had a great enthusiasm for life, and in "doing his part" of every activity he touched. He had a long, productive professional life as a pharmacist- one of the very best!

He was directly involved in the Bear River project from the very beginning and was very proud of the success of the project.

The GBF board and the club benefited from his up-beat participation.

Rest easy old friend.

-Jim Coleman



Photo by Jim Coleman

Greg Rowe doing what he loved

F i s h O u t

gary flanagan

Crowley Lake September 25-28

Crowley fishes extremely well this time of year. California Fish and Game Regulations have changed the lake to catch-and-release; single barbless hooks.

The last four years have produced fish on the average of between sixteen and eighteen inches. Fish in excess of twenty inches were caught and there is always that twenty-pound German Brown lurking around the corner! It is not uncommon to average over ten fish for a morning of fishing!

We will be staying at Convict Lake, which is only a few miles from Crowley. Convict has a great campground and cabins are available at the lodge. Cabins fill quickly so make your reservation now. Last year we found the campground to be crowded. We were able to accommodate the twenty- seven members that made the trip but just be aware that we may have to spread out a bit

As far as equipment is concerned, you will need a float tube, Pontoon

Boat or standard type boat. They do have rentals at the lake marina but is expensive. Make sure you have an anchoring system: Although not imperative, it is extremely helpful.

A 5 or 6 weight rod will work just fine. Bring a floating line and sinking lines. I have found success with a Tenney 200 line, but any line that will get down to about 10 to fifteen feet will work. Bring 3X, 4X, and 5X tippets.

Chironomid flies will work well as will small perch patterns. Size depends on what is coming off the lake so you might want to wait and stop by The Trout Fly in Mammoth Lakes. For more information on fishing Crowley Lake, e-mail me: flanagan@surewest.net visit the websites.

For more information:

www.convictlake.com.

www.thetroutrfly.com

Lady Bugs; flotation clinic

from page 12

on equipment supplied by Sage rods and reels.

After finishing off a roll of film, it was time I paired-off with a 9' 8 wt and refresh my beginner level casting skills. Outcast staff member Jamie, started me off with corrections to my techniques. AFFC's, Dave Shafer also helped me out refining my loading the rod on the back-cast.

Forty-five minutes later feeling better in my abilities, for the next bass fish out, I went on to browse the tubes and boats.

I did also find one pontoon boat that I found to be my preference. So, the day was good.

For more about next clinic or Outcast products contact The Lady Bugs Fly Fishing Club 530-677-6034, www.theladybugs.com or visit: Outcast Sporting Gear website at: www.outcastboats.com; American Fly Fishing Company at:



Photo by Nick Marmolejo

Dave Shafer, American Fly Fishing Co., instructs a young attendee

www.americanyfly.com or Henderson Springs Ranch website at www.hendersonsprings.com to learn more about their private fishery.

- Nick Marmolejo

Casting fundamentals, Tailing Loop clinics

John Hogg, Granite Bay Flycasters certified casting instructor, will be conducting a Basic Casting Clinic at Sailor Bar/American River on Sunday September 14th at 10am.

The clinic is limited to fifteen people and a \$15.00 fee will be required at the time of sign-up.

Golden Trout members: bring your booklets for sign-off, after successful completion of the clinic.

What to bring: waders, a fly rod with a floating line, a 7-½ foot tapered leader and a small piece of yarn to be treated with a floatant. No flies with hooks will be allowed for safety reasons. The clinic begins on-time, so arrive early, to start at 10am.

If you do not have a rod, reel or floating line the Club can provide a loaner, but arrangements need to be made when you register. Registration sheet will be available at the September meeting, or you may call and register with John directly.

A second clinic Sept. 11 at 6pm will be on "Tailing Loops". If you have problems with wind knots or you have a weak back-cast, this clinic will be helpful. The clinic will be conducted in the afternoon of the regular general meeting, prior to the start of the general meeting. There is no fee for the this clinic.

Contact John in the evening at 916- 663-2051 for more information.

Heenan Lake

from page 13

Bill Somer, DFGs senior fisheries biologist for the area, made a special trip, on his day off, to see how we were doing but, unfortunately, he arrived after many people had left. He was very pleased with the structure and the parking lot. While talking with us, we were treated to the sight of a young bear swimming across the lake and bounding up the hill into the woods on the other side.

With the structure in place, the remaining tasks of the project could begin. Joe and I measured the finished size of each panel and the framing for the sign being designed by Mike Radoff. With precise measurements, Mike can order proper size wood for the sign,

and we can finalize the content and size of the interpretive materials to be placed in the panels. These tasks might not be completed until the last minute but, we anticipate they will be done by August 28.

Opening for fishing at Heenan Lake will be at 6:30am August 29th. After all the work that's gone into this project, Joe and I definitely want to be there. Hope to see you there too.

There are numerous photos on the GBF website: www.gbflycasters.org

THANK YOU to everyone involved, from the inception of this project to its completion, who helped make this interpretive display a reality.

-Barbara Bania



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Wading safety 15 easy steps

Wading is essential to successful fly-fishing in streams. It is also, when properly and safely done, a most pleasurable part of the sport. The operative word here is "safely." Quite simply, no fish is worth risking your life to catch it.

"Safe wading" can be broken down into two sets of criteria: (1) possession of proper safety equipment; and (2) use of proper wading techniques.

ESSENTIAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT

The following items are essential. You should not step into a river without them. Exceptions exist for waders; i.e., there are situations where "wet" wading is appropriate, such as when the ambient air and the water are warm enough to avoid hypothermia. Do not skimp on these items; buy the best safety equipment after researching available products.

1. Polarized glasses. Non-polarized sunglasses are useless to the fly fisherman. They will not remove surface glare. This means that where glare is present (and it almost always is present), you cannot see the bottom. Polarized lenses remove the glare, giving the wading angler a clear view of the rocks on the bottom. When the rocks are visible, you know where to safely place your feet.

2. Wading staff. Proper use of the staff will be discussed later. Most guides will not take a client on a river unless the client has a good staff. The staff acts as a "third leg," enabling the wading angler to retain stability while wading through currents and around rocks. Staffs come in wooden and metal models. Whatever model you choose, make sure that it has a secure strap that attaches to your wading belt, your vest, or some other appendage, in a failsafe manner. It is scary to watch a wading staff float downstream while perched in the middle of a swift riffle.

3. Wading shoes. Wading shoes should be properly sized—meaning they are of proper width, and (normally) one size larger than your street shoe size. Always try shoes on with waders or a neoprene bootie to obtain a proper fit. Side support is important for preventing ankle injuries, and for absorbing

"hits" on rocks. The front "box" should be firm for the same reasons. The soles should be felt, with or without spikes. Spikes are good in the water, but can cause slippage on dry rocks. Most falls, in fact, are on dry rocks. The newer rubber soles are, in a word, insufficiently tested.

4. Wading belt. A firm, tightly cinched belt can save your life. It will not keep all water out of your waders, but it will keep intrusion to a minimum for a while. The neoprene belts are useless for safety purposes. The best belts are made of a webbed material, with adjustment straps.

5. Water bottle. Dehydration can cause loss of equilibrium. Drink plenty of water while on the stream. The refillable bottles with a filter are ideal.

6. Waders. As stated above, there are times when wet wading is possible. But if waders are needed, make sure that they do not leak, and that they keep your legs and feet warm. Cold feet/legs are clumsy, and cause falls. Use proper layering techniques to avoid clamminess, which in turn will cause cold.

GOOD WADING PRACTICES.

Assuming you are properly equipped, there are a number of "rules" which, if observed, will minimize the chance of an unfortunate accident.

1. While walking on the shore, use your wading staff and carefully place each step. Most falls occur on dry rocks, and spiked boots can increase the risk. It pays to be observant, and to not look at the river while walking among rocks. If you want to look at the river, stop and do so, and then continue walking.

2. Make use of your staff. It can help you, at the very least, to:

a. find depth so that you don't step into a deep pocket and pop your hat off.

b. brace yourself in heavy current. Always keep the staff upstream of you, even though it sounds counter intuitive. Rule of thumb: if you have difficulty planting the staff where you want it because the current moves it

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Wading Guidelines

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downstream, you should not go there.

c. move safely. Always keep the staff out in front of you and walk to it. It's of no use to you when it's behind you. Maintain two points of contact with the bottom at all times. If both your staff and one leg are off the bottom at one time, you increase your risk of falling drastically.

3. In particularly difficult situations, several tactics are helpful: (i) use the buddy system—hold hands or lock arms until the difficulty has passed; and/or (ii) shuffle along, feeling your way along the bottom.

4. Plan ahead as you contemplate the water you are about to wade. Plan your route, and plan an escape route should things get tough.

5. In difficult situations, take small shuffling steps and angle your direction downstream.

6. If you need to turn around, turn downstream. Turning upstream can throw you off balance.

7. It is far easier and safer to angle your path downstream; wading upstream in even moderate current is difficult and can cause loss of balance.

8. Don't step on the top of big rocks; keep your feet on the bottom between the bigger rocks.

9. Avoid rocks with a smooth, flat edge and that have a 45-degree angle from top to bottom. Your foot will slide down that surface and if the rock is large, you will be thrown off balance.

10. Avoid getting your feet wedged between two rocks. If your foot feels cramped when putting it down between two rocks, withdraw it immediately. A wedged foot means you will have to remove your boot, which can be dangerous in deep or swiftly moving water.

11. Be alert to changing water levels in tail water streams. Upstream dam operations will affect water levels, often with no warning at all, leaving anglers stranded.

12. Be wary of "sweepers"—tree limbs in the water downstream of you. Wading around them will put you in deep water.

13. If you do happen to fall into the river in a spot deep enough to cause you to be pulled downstream:

a. Don't try to swim.

b. Position your feet downstream and float on your back.

c. Don't fight the current; work your way to the side to the shallows or slower water, using your feet to push off boulders.

d. Avoid foot entrapment by not trying to stand until you are absolutely sure that you are out of the current and out of danger.

e. Don't panic.

14. Here are some "nevers"—you should never:

a. Take a step without knowing the depth.

b. Cast and move at the same time.

c. Exceed your energy limit—in other words, as the day wears on, you will tire. Be aware of this physical fact, and adjust your wading accordingly. We don't need heroes.

d. Wave your rod around in the air when there is lightning around—graphite rods are great conductors. Observe the meteorologists' "30/30" rule: if you see lightning and the thunder clap is 30 seconds or less later, get out of the water; wait 30 minutes from the last visible lightning strike to resume your activity.

15. One last suggestion: always err on the side of caution. Don't take that extra step unless and until you are completely sure it is safe to do so.

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Wanted: 5-6 wt. reel in good working condition. Contact Ron DeBerard

For Sale: Powell Legacy Fly Rod; 9 foot #6 weight, 4 piece. With aluminum case. Like Sage RPL. Brand new condition, never used. Retail for \$587. Sell for \$250.00. Call John Bonatto 916-773-1613 email: jbonatto@pacbell.com

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The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

Granite Bay Flycasters

PO Box 1107

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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 www.gbflycasters.org or call Gary Flanagan 916-223-4240.

Doors open between 6:30pm and 7pm for socializing and fly tying demonstrations. The business portion of the meeting begins at 7:30pm. The main program gets underway after a short refreshment break and usually involves a guest speaker and slide show or other presentation. Each meeting also has a raffle, and visitors are always welcome!

Membership: Membership applications are available online www.gbflycasters.org and at general meetings. Single membership: \$30; Family memberships: \$35; and youth (under 18): \$10. There is also an \$8 name badge charge for all new members. Membership is pro-rated throughout the year. For membership information, call Lester Snow 916-967-7563 or visit the website www.gbflycasters.org

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