

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS



Photo by Gary Flanagan

Jack Peuler with his first Yuba River Rainbow caught during the club's FishOut Feb. 15.

March 2004



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

March 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1.	2. Beginning Fly Tying class	3.	4. Conservation Committee meeting	5.	6. Intermediate Casting Clinic 1 part 1
7.	8.	9. Beginning Fly Tying class	10.	11. General meeting: 7 pm see page 10	12.	13. Regional Fly Tying Jamboree GBF Clubhouse 10 am
14. Intermediate Casting Clinic 2 part 1	15.	16. Fly Tying Jam Rod Building part 1 workshop	17.	18. Board meeting 7pm-9	19.	20. Ryan & Amanda's Fishout, see pg. 15 Intermediate Casting Clinic 1 part 1
21. Ranch Seco Fishout see page 12	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27. Day Clinic at Club house 10 am - noon
Spring begins						GBF Annual Dinner 5pm, dinner served 6:30 pm
28. Intermediate Casting Clinic 2 part 2	29.	30.	31. Intermediate Casting Clinic 3 part 1			

President's Message

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

I hope to see everyone at the Granite Bay Flycasters Annual Dinner at the Dante Club on March 27th. The dinner committee has worked hard to make this the best dinner yet. Thank you Karl Wolff, Ray Nunez, Art Hawkins, Frank Stolten, Mike Brune and Jim Hunter. It is sure to be a big hit. Ray and Frank have amassed many great raffle and silent auction items this year and Seth Norman is a funny, interesting and entertaining personality. You will surely be impressed with the Dante Club. This location is a perfect place for our annual dinner.

Also, don't miss out on Northern California Council/Federation of Fly Fisher's annual fly tying jamboree this month on the 13th, right here at the GBF Clubhouse. Experts will be tying their favorite patterns and GBF is fortunate to be hosting this event.

Spring is heading our way and I hear the mountain streams calling. Jack Ramos, our Good-looking Fish Master has some great fishouts planned. Be sure and take advantage of all that GBF has to offer this year, like the horse packing trip to the Golden Trout Wilderness Area, bookings to lodges on private California waters, guided Baja salt water trips and ranch trips to fish famous Montana rivers, just to name a few. All these trips have been negotiated and the rates have been reduced, just for our members.

I have fantastic news! We just confirmed and paid for reservations at the PG&E Bear Valley Campground for the second annual Presidents

Picnic and Campout. This year we added a day because several members wanted to set up their camp early. This year we can show up as



early as Thursday morning and start relaxing in the cool mountain air and with Fuller Lake at our doorstep you can start practicing early for the "One-Fly" Contest on Saturday. The dates are June 24th through June 27th and the best thing is the camping, Saturday's picnic and One Fly Contest are absolutely free to paid members. There will also be prizes awarded for the biggest, smallest, most and least fish caught and other categories Bill Carnazzo can think of. Tony Hamamoto has agreed once again to be the barbeque master. Thank you Tony. He will be supplied with plenty of baby back ribs, chicken, sausage and hot dogs.

For those of you that attended last year's picnic and campout you know how much fun we had and what a value to the membership. More to follow.

Mike Laing, through our conservation group, has organized a weekend entomology class with a top biologist in the field. Mike has arranged lodging at a Truckee area research station owned by UC Berkeley. I believe homework will include catching a few fish to make sure you didn't fall asleep in class. Look for Mike's article in next

See 'President's message' page 6

The 'Hanley's Bunny Fly'



'Hanley's Bunny Fly'

Ken Hanley and I have been friends for a long time. He never ceases to amaze me with his creativity and, of course, his boundless energy and enthusiasm. I watched Ken tie at the Sacramento ISE show, and again at San Mateo. If you ever have a chance to watch Ken tie, be sure not to let the occasion pass you by. You will learn a lot and have fun doing it. At San Mateo, I sat with Ron and Jeanne English, watching Ken tie several of his salt water patterns. They were all good, but I especially liked his "bunny fly." He had no special name for it, so that's what I'm going to call it (until he tells me otherwise). The key to this fly's success, according to Ken, is its movement in the water. I like it because it is so simple to tie. I even talked him out of one.

Ken discussed the difference between the various cuts used to make rabbit strips. The "zonker" cut slices the skin lengthwise, so that the hair is directly in line with the cut. The "cross-cut" cut slices across the skin, or side to side. The result is that the hair is cut on the bias, making the hair quantity much more sparse. In constructing the fly, Ken uses both types of strips. When purchasing rabbit strips, be sure that you know exactly which type it is that you have

selected.

The fly can be tied in different color combinations. Or, it can be tied in a single color (e.g., black). The fly that Ken gave me sports a tail and body of burnt orange rabbit, and a front collar of grey rabbit. Select any color you desire for the contest—the flies will be judged on their construction, not on the colors used.

Ken uses the fly in salt water, fishing the surf and along rocky shorelines. Its durability and attractiveness to fish makes it a "go-to" pattern for him. The fly is made to ride upside down. It can also be fished as a killer bass pattern.

I n s t r u c t i o n s

1. Attach the thread about 1/4" behind the eye. Build up a small mound of thread at that spot. Move the thread back about 1/8" and there build another small mound of thread. The purpose of these mounds is to make it easier to apply the eyes.

2. Take the eyes and place them between the two mounds. Wrap

See 'Hanley's Bunny' page 5

MATERIALS

Hook: Daiichi 2546 or TMC 8089N, size 2

Thread: Black flat nylon such as Flymaster

Eyes: Spirit River "Real Eyes Plus" eyes, size 7/32," nickel/yellow color (nickel with yellow eye balls)

Tail: Rabbit zonker strip

Body: Cross-cut rabbit strip

Head: Black thread

tying the ‘Hanley’s Bunny’

from page 4

figure eights around them, using 8-10 wraps. Now wrap horizontally below the eyes and above the hook shank. Make the wraps tight. This has the effect of tightening the figure eight wraps, and locks the eyes into place. Turn the fly over and put a drop of head cement directly on the wraps. Return the fly to upright position and place a drop on the wraps at the top. It is important to glue in both places.

3. Cover the shank with thread to the spot on the shank directly above the point of the hook (note that this is different than trout patterns, most of which call for the tail tie-in point to be a bit farther back, above the back end of the barb).

4. Cut off a piece of the zonker strip; it should be about 1 ½ times the length of the shank. Tie it in directly above the point of the hook.

This will be the tail.

5. Cut off a longer piece of cross-cut rabbit strip. Tie it in skin side up. This will make the next step, wrapping the body, much easier.

6. Wrap the cross-cut strip forward in consecutive, overlapping wraps, forming a nice, full body. Tie it off directly behind the eyes.

7. Bring the thread to the front of the eyes and make a small head, leaving about 1/16” of the hook shank bare behind the eye. Whip finish, snip the thread, and apply head cement.

See ya on the creek!!!

Monthly Fly Tying Winners for February

Beginners:

Mike Lang

Non-Beginners:

\$25 gift certificate from American Fly Fishing Company:

Jim Holmes

Best Tie: **Jim Hunter**

Don't be shy, submit a fly **Fly Tying Skills Program**

Sponsored by American Fly Fishing Company

Beginner: \$15 gift certificate

Non-beginner: \$25 gift certificate

Observe a fly tying master tie this fly at this month's general meeting and bring it to next month's meeting to be eligible for gift certificates donated by American Fly Fishing Company.

Get input and critiques from experienced tiers. This will help you improve your skills and help increase your chances of catching fish.

Rules:

- Judging takes place during the general meeting.
- Winning flies are those that best match the specific pattern recipe published. No other pattern is accepted.
- Non-beginner category certificate winner will be drawn at random from among entries in that category.
- Beginners will be moved to non-beginner category after winning their category twice.

Wet fly 'fisher' award

Do you know a club member who has slipped, tripped, stumbled, fallen, crashed, capsized, or otherwise gotten soaked while fishing – and won't mind having the incident recounted aloud at this year's annual dinner? If so, then you know a 'Wet Fly Award' nominee!

Nominations for this infamous annual recognition are still being accepted. To nominate someone, just contact a club Board member to relay the story, ASAP. The 'winner' is presented with a nice (appropriate) trophy at the annual dinner on March 27th!

President's message

from page 3

month's Leader.

Bill Carnazzo will once again have his popular Short-line Nymphing Clinic on the North Yuba River and I will be putting together a still water clinic to help beginners prepare for the One Fly Contest at Fuller Lake. Also, Jack Ramos has organized a joint fishout with California Flyfishers Unlimited (The Sacramento Club) at Indian Valley Reservoir. This will be the first time ever we are doing a fishout with another club and it is long over due. I am especially looking forward to see if other clubs also have big storytellers in their midst. You see, I always tell the truth when it comes to catching fish.

Looking at all the fun stuff we have in store for you this year, I am

little afraid we may be spoiling you. Oh well, at least we don't have to pay for your college tuition. Have I told you lately we have a great club?

Don't miss the day clinic

A popular part of the club's Annual Dinner event, the day clinic (aka 'day program') offers the chance for dinner ticket holders to come out to the GBF clubhouse the morning of the dinner to interact directly with the evening program's guest speaker.

This year we have award-winning author Seth Norman, to co-host the day clinic with Ron Vander Heiden, a Powell Rod Company consultant and expert fly caster. (The day program runs 10 am - noon at the GBF clubhouse, Folsom Lake.)

Ron and Seth will present a slide show on one of our most under-rated (and under-flyfished) quarry... the mysterious and ferocious halibut in S.F. Bay and our central coast areas (much closer than many trout waters).

Ron will conduct a brief, hands-on saltwater casting clinic to show how to get the most out of your 8-12 wt. outfits. Ron will have some rods, but feel free to bring your own if you have specific tackle/technique questions for Ron or Seth.

Lastly... Jim Hunter (day program coordinator) promises appropriate drink and munchies for everyone who shows up - and a special door prize for one lucky attendee. So be there for the information, the interaction, the door prize...or just for the halibut!

Denny Welch Attorney at Law

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Hatchery School Tour Program

Have you ever heard the Uh-h-h-s and Ah-h-h-s of 8 year olds when expressing their delight in watching salmon jump up the fish ladder at the Nimbus Hatchery? Have you seen the wrinkled faces and the curiosity of a 9 year old when shown the internal organs of a salmon? Five Granite Bay Flycasters' experienced the children's enthusiasm when they volunteered over a hundred hours in giving tours at the Nimbus Hatchery to groups of 15 to 25 children and their chaperones.

The Nimbus Hatchery School Tour program is new this year. It is part of the club's focus on educating its' members and the community on the local fisheries. In educating the community, this program is designed to supplement the hatchery's staff in giving 1-1 1/2

hour guided tours of the hatchery and explaining the life cycle of the salmon/steelhead to 2nd through 12th graders.

Do you know when and why the Nimbus hatchery was built? This program enhances the knowledge of the GBF member on the local fishery. This year the learning curve for the GBF members to be tour guides was rapid. They were given facts sheets about the salmon and hatchery. They did school tours with an experienced guide. This would go on until the GBF member felt they were confident enough to do it on their own. The Hatchery staff is also a valuable resource. Another learning opportunity is to attend the Teachers Workshop for the Salmon Egg Distribution

see 'Hatchery Tour' page 8



KEN HANLEY—March 20



BOB QUIGLEY—April 3

CELEBRITY CLINICS!

KEN HANLEY'S FAVORITE FLIES & SECRET SPOTS

Saturday, March 20 · 11 am-4 pm · \$50

BOB QUIGLEY'S SPRING HATCH PATTERNS

Saturday, April 3 · 11 am-4 pm · \$50

For details on these events, call or click.



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Ruby River July 18-25

Last chance to sign-up for the Ruby River Fish-Out.

Lets go fishing. Fish Southwest Montana and stay at the Broken Arrow Lodge located along the Ruby River near Alder, Montana. The Lodge provides private access to the Ruby River and is within a short drive to the Madison, Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers. Also numerous lakes are nearby for you float tubers.

The lodge is a modest, family oriented fishing/hunting lodge for fly-fishing enthusiasts. They also

offer horseback riding.

- Date: July 11th to 18th & July 18th to 25th, 2004

- Lodging: \$106.75/day or \$743.75/week (meals included)

- Guided Float Trips: \$276.25 for 2

Guides are recommended for the Madison and Beaverhead Rivers. The Ruby has big fish, is very easy to fish (wet wade) and a guide is not required. Call Bill Aaberg at 916-773-1897 to reserve your space.

FishOut Leader: Bill Aaberg; 916-773-1897, dryfly@quiknet.com

Hatchery Tour Nov. - Feb.

from page 7

program.

The Nimbus Hatchery School Tour program runs from November to February during the salmon/steelhead spawning period. It requires 2-3 hours a week (or a month) to participate in the program.

I look forward to next year's

program and to having more members being involved in the Nimbus Hatchery School Tour Program. This program qualifies for the Golden Trout program. If you have any questions about the program or would like to participate can email me: lifeisreel@aol.com or call 916 863 6795.

-Mike Howes

Last-call for Annual Dinner

This is it! The last Leader announcement for our famous Annual Dinner, raffle, and silent auction event on March 27th. Remember, this is our sole fund-raiser of the year and everyone who attends has a good time, helps sustain the club for another year, and has a real shot at walking away with fabulous prizes. Here's the gist...

- Who: Club members, friends, family members, co-workers, neighbors... anyone who wants to help support our great organization and have the chance to win thousands of dollars worth of tackle, trips, and other great merchandise!

- What: Fabulous dinner, incredible raffle, amazing silent auction, awesome presentation, and an instructional day clinic! The dinner speaker is renowned fly fishing author, editor, and columnist Seth Norman - who will also co-host the day clinic.

- When: Saturday, March 27th, 2004. No host bar opens at 5:00 pm; dinner is served around 6:30 pm. The day clinic runs 10 am to noon at the clubhouse and will focus on saltwater casting skills (using 8-12wt. rods), and local halibut fishing opportunities.

see 'Annual Dinner' page 9

Annual Dinner tickets still available

from page 8

- Where: The Dante Club on Fair Oaks Blvd. (between Howe and Fulton) in Sacramento. This famous venue was carefully chosen for its quality of food, facilities, and services. The address is 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd. Phone: 916-925-8230.
- Why: Because you want to win some of the thousands of dollars worth of new fishing gear, trips, and other cool stuff that will be raffled

or auctioned off this night, plus you want to show (and provide) your support for club activities through the fiscal year ahead.

- How: get dinner tickets (\$35/ea) by sending a check (payable to GBF) to Granite Bay Flycasters, Attn: Art Hawkins, 4120 Douglas Blvd, #306-356, Granite Bay, CA 95746-5936. Each ticket must include attendee's name and meal choice (beef, chicken, or vegetarian).

Fly Fishing Basics Course April 6 & 13

Bill Carnazzo and Sturmer White, will again teach Fly Fishing Basics along with one other experienced fly fisher. This course is designed for beginning to intermediate anglers, covering: equipment, flies, reading the water, strategy, and fishing techniques/savvy that you won't find in the books. A sign up sheet will be at the March general meeting.

This course is perfect for the beginners and intermediates that want to expand their understanding and improve skills, readying them to hit the water on opening day in April. The course has been an institution at Granite Bay Flycasters for many years and is very popular.

For more information call Bill Carnazzo at (916) 663-2604

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Tour Pinedale Wyoming by local professional

Mike Kaul, from Pinedale, Wyoming located at the foot of the Wind River Mountains and the Bridger Wilderness will conduct a casting clinic and a presentation of the region.

This area produces the headwaters of a multitude of outstanding trout streams to include the renowned Green and New Fork Rivers. Mike has taken every opportunity in the past 48 years to chase these wily trout with a fly rod. Starting under the tutelage of his grandfather at age 8, Mike studied and practiced the fly fishing craft with great zeal.

SPEAKER

MIKE KAUL

GUIDE/INSTRUCTOR

He has introduced fly-fishing to many individuals of all ages and backgrounds over the years and enjoys working with beginners who want to learn the art of fly-casting and fly-fishing.

Mike is a Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructor, and conducts a fly-fishing school and does wade fish guiding during the fishing season in the Pinedale area.



In the off season, Mike presents slide shows on fly-fishing in the Pinedale area and conducts casting clinics for fishing clubs and other recreational organizations.

He also teaches fly-casting classes beginning and intermediate students in conjunction with city recreation departments in Southern California. Mike writes a monthly column called "The Casting Corner" for the Internet newspaper Fishing Wyoming.com.

When: Feb. 12, 7 pm

Where: GBF Clubhouse



Annual Dinner raffle prizes accepted

Annual dinner raffle prize donations can be accepted right up to the time of the dinner.

If you have a last minute item, idea, or other input, call Ray Nunez (cell 916-276-9347).

Late donations may not be able to be acknowledged in the printed dinner program but are always appre-

ciated! Here are the kinds of things we're looking for:

- New and unused merchandise – fishing-related or otherwise.
- Professional services – in gift certificate or coupon form.
- Handcrafted goods – again, fishing-related or otherwise.

President's Picnic 'One-Fly' contest

On Saturday, June 26th, GBF will hold its now-annual one-fly contest on the Saturday of the President's picnic and camp-out. Last year the camp-out and picnic was a huge success, attended by numerous members and their families. One of the highlights of this event for me was seeing all of the kids there. Another highlight was the one-fly contest at Fuller Lake. Rick Radoff took the most-fish prize, but there were many other (some humorous) prize categories (smallest fish; no fish; etc.). Anyone can participate, and the teams are chosen randomly by drawing names from a hat. There

is no cost to participate, but we do have to have an advance sign-up list in order to assemble the teams. For details, or to have your name added to the list, call Bill Carnazzo at (916) 663-2604 (home) or (916) 295-9353 (cell); or send an email: billcarnazzo@aol.com. There will be a sign-up list at all of the general meetings between now and the picnic.

-Bill Carnazzo

Second Annual Area Fly Tying Event

Granite Bay Flycasters is hosting NCC/FFF second annual fly tying jamboree March 13, at the Granite Bay Flycasters' Clubhouse, located at Granite Bay State Park on Folsom Lake. This is a great opportunity to see our best local area masters creating their own specialty flies that have been designed to catch fish on Northern California Waters. We are expecting dozens of our best tiers from several area clubs creating their own specialty flies. There will also be a silent auction of fly boxes that you can bid on and add to you collection.

This event is a fundraiser for the

See Fly tying page 19

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Rancho Seco, stillwater clinic March 21

In the early 1970s, a small pond was expanded to a 160-acre lake to serve as an emergency backup water supply (in case of fire) for the now-closed Rancho Seco Plant. The lake receives its water from the Folsom South Canal and has no relationship with the power plant's daily water supply.

The surrounding lake is 400 acres of recreational property, which is open for day-use activities.

The Sacramento Municipal Utilities District, a customer-owned electric utility serving the Sacramento area, operates the park. SMUD uses the park-generated revenues to fund all park-related operating costs. Recently, more tent camping facilities were added. As revenues allow, other improvements will be made. Rancho Seco Recreational Area is open for both day use and overnight

camping. There is a small entry fee for day use of the lake and surrounding property.

Jack Ramos will be our Fishmaster on this Sunday trip. In addition, Gary Flanagan and Gene Goss will conduct a beginning personal flotation and Stillwater fishing clinic. There is a ten-dollar advance fee for the clinic however, there is no club fee for the fishout.

Rancho Seco contains Florida Strain, Large Mouth Bass, Blue Gill and Crappie which reproduce naturally in the lake and can be caught at this time of year, but most anglers fish for the thousands pounds of trout that are planted into the lake. Many of the trout are brood stock fish that weight over five pounds.

The clinic will cover the basics on how to safely enter the water using

see Ranch Seco page 14

It takes just one ticket

Raffle of all Raffles March 27

What do an Outcast pontoon boat, a Loomis GLX rod & Tibor reel combo, a Winston/Galvan combo, a pair of Simms G3 waders, and a bunch of certificates good for HUGE discounts on Orvis, Sage, and Ross Reel products (as well as many other top-shelf brands) have in common?

They'll all be raffled or auctioned off at the club's 18th Annual Dinner, March 27th along with more than a hundred other fantastic items – fishing and non-fishing related.

In the market for a new rod, reel, vise, or maybe a nice guided trip or weekend getaway with your better half? WAIT... come to the dinner and you just might win it in the raffle.

And don't forget to bring your checkbook because you'll definitely want to get in on some of the really outstanding tackle and trip discounts offered in the silent auction.

Additionally, for each non-member (spouses, children not included), you 'sponsor' for this year's dinner, you'll receive five free raffle tickets. To sponsor someone, have them buy a dinner ticket and designate you as their sponsor.

Make note, that's five 'free' raffle tickets for every 'sponsored guest' with your name attached to them. Dinner tickets are \$35 each and payable to: Granite Bay Flycasters, Attn: Art Hawkins, 4120 Douglas Blvd, #306-356, Granite Bay, CA 95746-5936.

What a great way to introduce a friend or two to the club for good food, friendship, fishing stuff, and fun? Remember, it only takes one ticket to win!

See you at the annual dinner.

- Mike Brune

A Tail of Two Rainbows

What does a Rainbow Trout living in the McCloud River have in common with a Rainbow Trout 6,000 miles away in Howeitoun, England?

Answer: From 1872 to 1897 the first superintendent of the McCloud River, Livingston Stone. He supervised the Baird Trout Hatchery on the McCloud River and was directly responsible for the exportation of Shasta Rainbows worldwide. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, the Upper McCloud and the Upper Sacramento rivers served as spawning grounds for vast numbers of steelhead trout and Chinook salmon. In 1879, Livingston Stone established the Baird Fish Hatchery on the McCloud to collect salmon and rainbow trout ova for ship-

“...TROUT QUICKLY CHANGE
THEIR COLOR TO ADAPT TO A
CHANGING ENVIRONMENT.”

ment around the world. In 1885, the first shipment of eggs bound for England were transported by Southern Pacific refrigerated rail cars in Dunsmuir to steam ships in San Francisco Bay for delivery in Britain. The shipment of fertilized McCloud River ova final destination was the Sir James Maitland hatchery near Stirling, England. Literally, all the rainbow trout in England today, are descendents of the McCloud River hatchery of the late 19th century.

So the answer to the questions is: The Rainbow Trout of Northern California and England are relatives!

A curious angler might wonder: Do the Related Rainbows look they same? They are similar in appear-

ance, but significantly different in coloration. Trout readily adapt their coloration to their environment.

The “Shasta” rainbows are radiant in color with freckled back, white bellies and a brilliant vermilion stripe. In contrast, the English rainbows have subdued colors varying from silver to gunmetal gray with black spots. Also, the English rainbows have a pale pink stripe from the gill to tail and a creamy white belly.

Ralph Cutter’s book, *Sierra Trout Guide*, he notes that Rainbow Trout can fill the color spectrum from bright colors found in smaller streams and rivers to silver/gray colors found in living deep in lakes. He also states trout quickly change their color to adapt to a changing environment. For example, when brightly colored hatchery rainbows are planted into lakes, within weeks their color is significantly subdued.

Last Question: Why does the flesh color of a trout vary from pink/orange to a creamy white?

Answer: Crustaceans. A trout’s internal coloration is as changeable as its’ external color and controlled by the food that it digests. Hatchery fish subsist on fish pellets and have a creamy colored flesh. A wild trout with a diet of insects and small fish will also have a creamy colored flesh. A trout’s flesh will quickly change to pink/orange when the diet includes crustaceans such as crayfish, scuds or copepods. The change of color is due to the beta-carotene in the crustaceans.

Resources: *Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Magazine*, November 2003 and Cutter’s: *Sierra Trout Guide*.

- **Chuck Honeycutt**

Research info requested

I am in the process of doing research for an article I've been asked to write for one of the magazines we all read. The article will cover ideas for storing fly tying materials, and methods for protecting them from vermin. I've found some help in a couple of old dust-covered books in the cabinet, and a few articles I coaxed out of the Internet. I have some ideas of my own, but am interested in other tyers' thoughts on those two subjects.

Rancho Seco FishOut

from page 12

pontoon boats and float tubes. We will have tips on the best way to keep warm and comfortable while fishing. There will be discussion on rods, reels, types of lines, leaders, flies and how to properly rig your equipment for Stillwater fishing. You will learn how to cast a fly rod while sitting in a personal flotation device and how to best use the wind to your benefit.

So, if you have come up with interesting ways to store and protect your materials, I'd like to hear from you.

Reward: For each person that sends me input, I'll return the favor by addin an additional Stick Caddis Fly to the boxes I am donating to G.B.F. for the Annual Dinner.

Please send responses via email: billcarnazzo@aol.com. You can also call me at (916) 663-2604 (home) or (916) 295-9353 (cell). Thanks.

- **Bill Carnazzo**

There will be instruction on how to position yourself in relation to where you think the fish are and how to best keep a tight line and contact with your fly so you will be able to detect when a fish strikes. Graduation will occur when you start catching fish.

For more information contact Jack Ramos at (916) 774-9972 for the fishout and Gary Flanagan at (916) 223-4240 for the clinic.

-**Jack Ramos**



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Tak a kid fishing day

Ryan & Amanda's Pond March 20

Want to give your children and grandchildren lots of practice hooking and releasing nice fish (1-3 lbs bass and trout)? Want the chance to take lots of pictures of happy kids actually catching fish?

On March 20th Ryan and Amanda's Fishing Hole has generously offered Granite Bay Flycasters 50% off their normal catch and release fishing rates for unlimited all-day, all-ponds, all-species, catch & release fishing! Prices: Adults=\$30; Youths(7-15 yrs)=\$15; Kids under 7 are always free with a paying adult.

Ryan & Amanda's is a commercial fish farm that recently opened to the public for incredible sportfishing. Kids (and adults) can expect to catch dozens of good-sized, healthy gamefish (trout*, bass, catfish, & carp) in just a few hours. This event is intended for 'catch & release' fly fishing, but any fish may be kept for an additional, per-pound fee, and any kind of tackle is allowed (see tackle restrictions, below). No fishing license is ever required at Ryan & Amanda's. *Trout availability is weather-dependent (if the weather's been too warm, they won't be there).

Tackle restrictions: No treble hooks allowed. If baitfishing, only 'Shelton Quick-Release' hooks may be used. These strong, re-usable hooks can be purchased at Ryan & Amanda's for \$2-3 apiece. All hooks, on all tackle must be barbless.

Other: Bring a camera, food, water, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, forceps or pliers to remove hooks, and a landing net to help minimize fish handling. If it has rained recently, or is expected to, bring shoes/boots that like mud.

This is a chance to catch more fish



in a single day than one might catch in an entire year on public waters! You will get lots of experience hooking, fighting, landing, photographing, and releasing good fish - and if practice makes perfect, this event will definitely benefit your fish handling & photo skills. Visit the farm's website at: www.ryanandamandasfishinghole.com for directions and more info., or you can call me: 916-276-9347

Bring bass poppers, woolly-buggers, leeches, etc. (they hit almost anything) and the lightest rods you have that can throw these flies (3-4 wt. for the bass, trout, and carp; 6-7 wt. for the catfish). The bass average 2-3 lbs; the catfish average 3-5 lbs; the carp average 1-2 lbs; the trout, if available, can weigh 1-10 lbs! The ponds are about 4-5 feet deep and generally snag free. Some have weeds, and many are very murky (including the one with trout). Some of the ponds are big enough for tubes/pontoons/etc (which are OK to use), but you can definitely catch scores of decent fish by just walking the shorelines.

We'll meet at the ponds around 8 am - just find the farm sign on Sunset Blvd. West, then follow the dirt road about ¼ mile to the ponds. Parking is usually available right on the water. Be ready for fun, sun, and sore arms!

Graduation Day on the Missouri

Vince had spotted two nice trout rising in a nice slot of water running past an undercut bank. He had told me that I could wade to within 40 feet of them, then cast to the nearest one first. "These fish are educated", he told me. "You cast to the farthest one, you'll line the first one and spook them both, and you'll have to wade all the way back to the boat for nothing!"

Vince had been guiding this stretch of the Missouri river between Holter Dam and Craig for some time, and knew most of the good lies. This one we had reached toward the end of the day, and the blazing sun was mercifully setting, making for one of those wonderful balmy Montana evenings when there were blankets of emerging bugs on the water and clouds of mayflies getting ready to start their whole life process over again. The fish knew it, too. These two were rising steadily, barely moving from their position more than an inch or two, because there was always a bug in their lane, anyway. Vince called the Missouri a Ph.D. river. The fish have so much food, and have been caught so often that you need a Ph.D. in fly-fishing to catch some of these lunkers. And Vincent was trying to get me to graduate for the better part of the week.

I first met Vince in his favorite hangout in Manhattan Beach, the 12th Street Bar and Grill. He liked it there because his buddies hung out there, and there were lots of young, attractive women that patronized the establishment. And Vince liked them young; he had two ex- Mrs. Vincents to prove it. I was just there to eat some lunch and happened to sit at one side of the corner of the

bar, the other side of which Vince was occupying. We got to talking and for one reason or another the subject of fly-fishing came up. I told him I wanted to learn and had looked into taking some lessons at one of the local sporting goods stores. "You want to spend a few hundred bucks and learn to cast a little, go ahead," he said. "If you really want to learn the sport, I can teach you. At first you can borrow my gear, and if you show interest and dedication, I'll keep teaching you, and we'll be fishing together for a long time. If I see you're not dedicated, we'll shake hands and go our separate ways, no hard feelings. All I want in return is that you pay my room and board when we go on a fishing trip." Having checked out the prices of some guides, this sounded like the way to go. It did occur to me later that these were cheap wages for a fly fishing guide. Vincent had an ulterior motive that would become clear much later. He had no one he called family and wanted to leave his legacy: years of fly fishing knowledge.

That was four years ago and Vince and I had spent a lot of days fishing together. But this was my first trip to the Missouri and I had spent the better part of that week figuring out how to cast from Vince's drift boat, watch for drag and mend the line. "Watch the back-cast, you'll put the damn fly in my hat while I'm trying to row the boat," Vince ranting like the crotchety old man he could sometimes be. Vince was blessed with natural athletic ability and all this came to him very easily. Plus he had been fly-fishing for 40+ years, and, I'm sure, forgot some

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Graduation Day

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of the frustration that comes with learning new techniques in a sport where the old ones have not become second nature yet. The day prior we had had it out, Vince accusing me of sabotaging the trip, not wanting to learn, me eventually explaining that the good Lord had seen it fit to handicap me with clumsiness and the ability to over-analyze my ineptitude in this arena to the point of not being able to scratch my myself and blink at the same time if I put my mind to it. He had no idea about my lack of coordination and felt terrible about beating me up for the entire week. He felt like he'd just kicked a guy in a wheelchair and changed his teaching style from browbeating and badgering to encouragement, with increased success.

So here I am, watching these two fish rising, waiting to cast the size 18 parachute Adams with a CDC caddis emerger behind it which had proven effective for the latter part of our day. Vince loved CDC emergers; he'd tie a CDC San Juan Worm with trailing shuck if he didn't think they'd laugh him off the river. Vince was a good ways behind me, leaning back in the boat, smoking one of the Pall Malls that would eventually kill him, just gazing at the softening Montana sky. I false cast downstream from the fish, a spray of water snapping from my line. Waiting a little longer on the back-cast, trying to place the fly in the fish's feeding lane so it would drift in front of his nose just as he broke the film. A little sip and the Adams

disappeared. I lifted the rod and felt the thrilling tension on the end of the line. The fish ran downstream as soon as it knew something was wrong with his supper. After a good fight I released the 18" brown, me elated, the brown a little wiser and tougher to catch on the next go-round. That left the other fish. Conventional wisdom taught that this fish, being in the better feeding spot, would be bigger than the one I'd just released.

*“WATCH THE BACK-CAST,
YOU’LL PUT THE DAMN FLY
IN MY HAT WHILE I’M TRYING
TO ROW THE BOAT”*

Vince yelled from the boat: “You’ve got ONE cast! If you miss, he goes down and won’t come up for the next half hour.”

I’ve got a hundred things going through my mind, all the things that could go wrong.

My line is hanging in the current, just waiting for my cast. The fish is still feeding. Weighing the unfavorable odds of presenting a second perfect cast, I figured, “What the hell, it’s only a fish.”

Without thinking, I back-cast and shot the line; the flies land. Then, there was a little sip. I just stare in amazement as my fly disappears beneath the film. In my shock I forget to lift my rod. When I finally remember that catching fish requires more than just throwing flies at them it was too late. He was on for just a moment before spitting the fly out and disappearing into the darkening water. Disappointed I turned to Vince. He just sat there with an approving smile and started clapping. “You just graduated”, he said.

- Jeroen Smit

The Wrist and Grip

The Wrist

The wrist is the weakest link in the system, so it needs the most care and attention to execute a good cast. It moves all right, but in a firm controlled manner. If the full range of motion for all three joints is 100%, the wrist is only moving 10% or less as it's contribution to the cast. The elbow is the biggest contributor at about 80% and the shoulder comes in at another 10%. These percentages vary depending upon how far you are casting. Or the type of cast such as curve or tuck casts.

THE GRIP

There are many ways to grip the rod. I prefer the Free Wrist Grip or thumb on the side method, (The key grip or extended finger grip are other names). With this grip, I have full range of motion in my wrist when I need it. This becomes very useful as you become more advanced in your casting. Especially in curve casting and line mending. I believe the free wrist grip, used by many top casters, is a good habit to develop from the start. It's like a handshake or like you would grip a tennis racket or the bottom hand in golf. There should be a "V" between the thumb and forefinger on top of the rod. The thumb is on the side. The index finger should be slightly ahead

of the thumb on the underside of the rod.

The oldest writing I have found on the free wrist grip was published in 1942.



Floyd Dean

So, this method was well established long ago and to this day, top casters have found it to be superior. It's a surprise to me that it hasn't been adopted by everyone.

I know that many teach the thumb on top or finger on top method. These methods are good for short accurate casts but not good for moderate to long distances.

There are many good reasons why the free wrist grip is superior. Often, casters have problems with controlling the fly in the air. They may be hitting themselves in the back of the head with the fly or the fly may be hitting the rod. When met with this problem, The first question to ask is, "Where is the thumb?" In most cases, the answer is, "On top".

Placing the thumb on top is OK in a short cast, (10 - 30 ft) because the hand will not usually pass the head on the back cast. As distance is increased beyond 50 feet, the hand must pass behind the head to achieve enough tip travel to reach the distance. In a good distance cast or a good accuracy cast, the rod tip should travel in a straight plane. As distance is increased, if the thumb is on top, it is virtually impossible to prevent the tip from rotating
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Granite Bay Flycasters Classifieds

Float Tube For Sale: Wood River Stealth-rider V-Boat with storage bag Like new – only used twice \$135.00 (55% off retail) Art Hawkins (916) 725-3026

To place a classified you must be a member in good standing of the Granite Bay Flycasters. Submit your listing to: jburkholder@nrmvinc.com with subject line: GBF: classified. Or mail your info to: Jeff Burkholder, 11300 Coloma Rd. Suite B14, Gold River, CA 95670.

New Members

Individual members: Jeff Bowen; Steve Clark; Jim Doran; Susan Emerson; Cedric Wong, Erven Good, Larry Lee, Jeff Sullivan

Family members: Bill Hagerty, Bill Joyce, Gary Millhollen, Richard Zakrzewski

The Wrist and Grip

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to the left shoulder, (for right handed casters). This will cause the tip travel to curve as you make the back cast. The further behind your head your hand, (with thumb on top) travels, the more the tip will point to the left shoulder. So that on the forward cast, there is a greater possibility of hitting yourself or your rod with the fly.

The thumb on top grip is not the only cause of getting hit by the fly or having the fly hit your rod. But, it is one of the most common causes. As you pull the rod forward. It's going to go from the left side of the body to the right side of your body, creating a curve. Possibly hitting you. If you put a little shock in the rod and cause a tailing loop it could be worse, you may smite yourself about the face.

Any time the path of the rod tip curves in any way the efficiency of the cast is diminished. Both accuracy and distance are decreased. The only way to make a moderate to long distance cast, with the thumb on top, is to rotate the palm upward to keep the tip in a straighter path. If you think that's difficult, you are right. It also causes the reel to flop to the right, making it 90 degrees to the direction of your cast. This puts a lot of unnecessary wear and tear on all three joints. shoulder, elbow, and wrist. This ad-

justment (to straighten out the path of the rod tip when the thumb is on top) is an unnatural movement.

With the free wrist grip, the thumb is to the side. Allowing the wrist to work naturally. The reel will stay more in line with the cast. You can move from 9:00 in the front to 3:00 in the back cast and the rod tip can travel in a straighter plane utilizing natural biomechanics.

The whole point of this is to make it easy and not to fight the body. So if you are having trouble making the tip of the rod travel in a straight path, or if you are hitting either the rod or the back of your head with the fly, check your grip. Have a friend watch you cast, or better yet, video yourself. It's impossible to be objective about your own casting because you cannot see the whole picture. If you can learn to read your loop, like reading water, it will tell all. And sometimes a simple adjustment of the grip can make a world of difference.

Please feel free to email me: floyd@flydeanflying.com with questions or contact me at the ponds for help. Remember, I will be honest with you about what you need to do to improve your casting. You've got a good grip on the rod now. Next month, The Stance and The Cant.

Tight Loops!
- Floyd Dean

Fly tying Jamboree

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This event is a fundraiser for the NCC/FFF. Admission is five bucks. Doors open at 9 AM and the event runs until 3 PM. There will be plenty of seating to get a close up view of the tiers in action. If you want, you can bring your own vise and tie along with the tiers. The best and most innovative ideas in fly tying arise from local tiers. Last year's event saw a host of extremely creative

flies. Some well-known California tiers are planning to contribute their talents (i.e. Gene Kaczmarek, Jim Christensen, Bill Carnazzo, Pete Peterson, Sturmer White and Denny Welch, to name a few.

GBF will be selling tri-tip sandwiches at the event for hungry spectators and tiers.

For details, see the NCCFFF web site at nccfff.org

The Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS

Granite Bay Flycasters
4120 Douglas Blvd. #306-356
Granite Bay, CA 95746-5936

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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