

GOLD COUNTRY FLY FISHERS

March 2010

President's Message



By Steve Allen

I want to start this month's newsletter by thanking Vicki and Len Valente for all they do for our Club. The snack tables have never before provided such fine fare as last month. Please support this upgrade with a small donation when partaking of the goodies. Vicki has also taken over our raffle with excellent results in the first two months. Len has reorganized our Library's check-out and return policy to insure all have a chance at our excellent volumes and videos. Thanks Len and Vicki!

Thanks to Wayne Holloway and Terry Hobart for breathing new life into our Club Website. Please submit your photos to be added to our improving site. One can access our site by typing Gold Country Fly Fishers into Google.

Gold Country member and Union columnist Denis Peirce sees good things for our Lower Yuba in his Feb. 9 column. After hearing our speakers (Paul, Curt, and Tom) from the Yuba County Water Agency, Dennis stated he was "confident the YCWA was committed to being good stewards of the watershed in which they control the water". Also mentioned was the surprise arrival of some fresh Salmon in the Lower Yuba. There may have been one thousand more returning Salmon than last year!

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Our Pyramid Lake Fishout Team will brave some cold and windy conditions Feb. 20th. Don Steffa assures me all will have electric socks for the occasion. We are hoping for some big-fish photos for our website and newsletter.

The Northern California/Nevada Council of Fly Fishers invites us to attend their Fly Fishing Hall of Fame Dinner in Napa, on Saturday Evening March 20th. Mike Michalak will become the 30th inductee into The Fly Fishing Hall of Fame. Reservations and information: www.ncff.org

Program Chairman Trent Pridemore has Bill Mitchell speaking at our March meeting. Bill has been working on numerous water resource projects in California, specifically in the areas of Salmon and Steelhead research, population monitoring, and habitat restoration. This will be another informative program that applies to our home waters. Our next meeting will be March 2nd at 7PM. See You All then.

Steve

MEETING & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Gold Country Fly Fishers will be Tuesday March 2nd at the Senior Center in Nevada County Fairgrounds – Grass Valley. Use Gate #2. The General Meeting starts at 7:00pm. Members of the Board & Conservation Committee meet at 6:00pm.

Program:

***Bill Mitchell, Fisheries Biologist for ICF Jones & Storkes
Yuba River Steelhead Research Report***

Programs



By Trent Pridemore

Gold Country Fly Fishers Programs

March brings back Bill Mitchell of ICF Jones and Storkes. He is the fisheries biologist who intrigued us several years ago with his preliminary report on the fish dynamics of our Lower Yuba River. He hinted at the breakdown between resident trout and migratory fish. The long awaited report will be presented at our March meeting. Over the past 20 years, Bill has been leading research and monitoring activities in the Yuba River to evaluate the effects of reservoir operations on salmon and steelhead. On our meeting night, Bill will summarize the results of his steelhead study that included analysis of over 800 scale samples collected from steelhead/rainbow trout in the Yuba River between 1999 and 2007. Here's a chance to find out if that silvery torpedo that you told your buddies about was really a steelhead or just a trout on stonefly steroids!

April brings Al Smatsky of Al's Excellent Adventures for a guide's presentation on Shad. Some of us know well the history of Shad in our Yuba as well as the nearby American, Feather and Sacramento. I'm hoping we can find a few this year if our rains continue and we get enough water to bring the fish home.

May is our Clinics night. We will feature celebrity guest tier David Lee and a few others for the fly tying part. Our own members will have a number of table clinics going on nymph rigging, Stillwater, rod repair, leader design and a few more topics. One wall will have space for you to showcase unwanted gear that may be someone else's treasure. Trades work too! Remember...good quality (no junk) and fair prices to stimulate sales. May is also free hamburger night!

June will be a special meeting built around Angling Legend Hal Janssen. We are fortunate in getting Hal to visit. He will be Fly Tying early, and then move into his special program with a lot of emphasis on Stillwater. Hal learned a lot from his and my co mentor Andy Puyans. You will see how he goes from insect collection to fly fabrication. No one else pays as much attention to color and morphology.

July is currently open.

August is our third annual free barbecue at Condon Park and we hope to see Jay and Glen Fair in the fall. Stay tuned.

Trent



Did I get your attention? I could use more pictures for the newsletter. If you would like to see your picture in these spaces, send them to the Newsletter Editor David Bear at opabear@comcast.net and I'll put them in next month's newsletter

Fishout Schedule



By Mike Williams

Schedule for 2010

Date	Location	Fish	Fishmaster	Comments
March 27,28,29	Pyramid Lake	Cutthroat Trout	Don Steffa	
April 10	Lake Wildwood	Float Tube Clinic	Don Liljeblad	This is a clinic designed to acquaint members in the use of float tubes. Proper use and safety will be discussed. This is a 2-hour clinic with a 6-member limit. This will not be a fishout.
April 19-23	Green River	Trout	Don Steffa	(Tailwater, Flaming Gorge Res., Utah)
April 21-28	Houseboat /Lake Outing	Trout,/Bass	Tim Ackerman	boat full, but call for options
April 30	Lake Shasta Scotts Flat Lake	Bass	Mike Williams Tom Page	
May 1	Lake Wildwood	Bass	Don Liljeblad	\$5 per person charge
May TBA	Clear Lake Area	Bass	Trent Pridemore	This outing may include the following Bass venues; Clear Lake, Indian Valley, Black Butte and Stonyford. Possible opportunity to camp out.
May TBA	Feather River	Shad	Bob Alvares	(held at Shanghi Bend, Marysville)
May 15,16,17	Henderson Springs	Trout	Wayne Holloway	This outing is reserved for 13 members. Check in 1pm
Saturday the 15 th	Check out 1pm Monday the 17 th .			
May TBA	Duck Valley	Trout	Don Liljeblad	(This lake located in Idaho)
May 26	Horseshoe Bar	Trout	Frank Rinella	Fly Fishing Preserve
June TBA	Clear Creek Sports Club	Trout/Bass	Frank Rinella	
June TBA	Fall River	Trout	Mark Rockwell	2 or 3 day; Circle 7 Guest Ranch
June TBA	Stampede Lake	Trout	Trent Pridemore	
June TBA	Davis Lake Camp out	Trout	Norm Sauer	(2 night stay Thursday, Friday camp out with Frenchman's as an option. We will watch for the Damsel hatch – most likely late in June
July TBA	Lower Yuba	Dry Fly Clinic	Frank Rinella	
July TBA	Milton Lake	Trout	Todd Williams	(limited to 8 members)
August 13	Fuller Lake Family BBQ	Trout	Len Valente	(our annual lake outing summer BBQ)
August TBA	Lower Yuba UC Davis	Trout	Mike Connor	(UC property, 20 member limit.
August TBA	Lake Wildwood	Bass	Need Volunteer	
August TBA	Lake of the Woods	Trout	Don Steffa	(Saturday outing; limit of 6 members)
September TBA	Frenchman's Lake	Trout	Wayne Holloway	(2 nt camp out w/Davis Lk option)
September TBA	Boca Reservoir	Trout	Todd Williams	(at Little Truckee River inlet)
September 25-29	Eastern Sierra	Trout	Dave Bear	(5 day outing Mammoth Lakes area)
October TBA	North Yuba River	Trout	Ralph Wood	(Another possible club BBQ)
October TBA	Upper Sacramento River	Trout	Need Volunteer	(This will be held in the Dunsmuir area, 2 night stay)
October TBA	Lower Yuba River Dry Fly Clinic	Trout	Frank Rinella	
October TBA	Caples Lake	Trout	Need Volunteer	(Caples Lake has lodge/cabins; overnight stay)
November TBA	Henderson Springs	Trout	Need Volunteer	
November TBA	Scotts Flat Lake	Trout	Need Volunteer	(Fish for fall spawning Browns; Deer Creek Inlet
December TBA	Lower Yuba UC Davis	Trout	Mike Connor	
December TBA	Trinity/Klamath River	Steelhead	Need Volunteer	

Fishout Report

By Mike Williams



Note: Don Steffa assists Mike Williams with coordination of Fishouts. Mike can be contacted at (river-angler@att.net) and Don at (ez1flyfisher@hotmail.com)

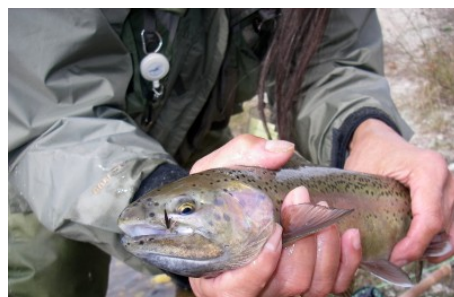
February Fishouts

During March, Don Steffa will lead another Pyramid Lake outing on the 27th and 28th. The group will be staying at Crosby's Lodge in the Sutcliffe area. Fishing can be very good in March. We will have a sign up sheet for this event at the next meeting.

I'm postponing the Collins Lake Stillwater clinic at this time due to schedule conflicts. We have about 9 members signed up. We'll follow up on this as soon as schedules, weather and water conditions improve.

The Lower Yuba River is fishing well the second half of February. We've had good water color and the warming weather has brought out the Skwala stones. Everyday about 3:30 until late pm we have been getting some good dry fly action with the adult Skwala patterns fished in tight to the bank. Remember that these Stoneflies don't hatch. If you're looking and waiting for these bugs to hatch you're not going to see it. They simply crawl out of the water to complete their life cycle. Keep your eye on the edges for floating bugs and the working fish.

Mike



David's first-ever Yuba Steelhead

Isaac's hefty Yuba Rainbow

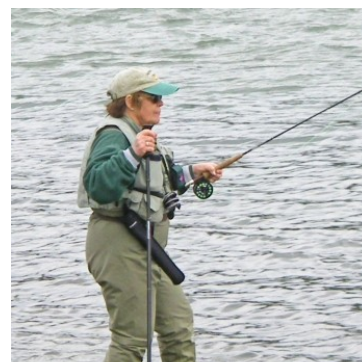
This guy is "lucky" every time he goes fishing! Could it be skill?



Some of our members enjoying a day fishing the lower Yuba River



Ed Tom and Robin Denegri



Anna Lee Lantz

Conservation Corner

By Gery Anderson



Yuba River Access

In an effort to try to separate fact from fiction on the issue of public access to the Yuba River at Highway 20, I spent a day visiting the offices of Cal Trans, the Yuba County Assessors and Public Works in Marysville.

At Cal Trans, I was able to view and obtain copies of the official Right of Way maps drawn prior to the construction of the new Highway 20 Bridge. Those drawings show that the State right-of-way at the bridge site is 150 feet wide. On my way back to Nevada County I stopped at the bridge and paced the width of the bridge. At the south abutment, the bridge width is about 42 to 45 feet. That means that the State right-of-way at the bridge is greater than 3 times the width of the bridge (in other words the State right-of-way is at least 100 feet wider than the bridge itself). In my research I read where any State property is considered public property. Therefore, at a minimum, the public could access the river on the north or south side using the 150 foot State right-of-way below the bridge. This would allow for foot access to fish the river but not necessarily allow for boat access.

At the Yuba County Assessors and Public Works offices I was able to obtain an assessors map showing property boundaries on the north and south sides of the river. On the north side of the river there are numerous small parcels from the bridge west (downstream). On the south side of the river the bulk of the property is shown to be owned by Western Aggregates (WA) for as far west as the map shows (approximately 1 mile). This map also shows the dirt road (designated as Main Haul Road) to be primarily located on WA property. The Yuba County Public Works department confirmed that the dirt road does allow for public access as a result of a judge's decision. If anyone is interested in the results of that decision, the document could be purchased at the County recorder's office (Document No. 2004 R-005484).

Finally, another issue of public access rights at the river includes the boundaries of the river itself. This is known as the "ordinary high water mark (OHWM)" and is used by the US Army Corps of Engineers to define the boundary of a navigable river (a designation given to the Yuba River). To my understanding, the OHWM has not been established on the lower section of the river, however, based on the Corp of Engineers definition and my background as a registered professional Civil Engineer and Geologist the OHWM would include a much larger area than the normal river water level.

Gery

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program

We are asking for your help again to put on the merit badge program. We will have signup sheets at the March 2nd meeting with the opening we need to fill. Would those of you have helped before please call me if you can help us again?

Schedule:

April 6th from 5:00 to 6:45 prior to the club meeting to teach fly tying.

April 24th from 9:00 to 12:00 am to teach various merit badge requirements at a local pond

May 8th from 9:00 am to 12:00 catching and cooking fish at a local pond.

Bob Alvares

Minutes from the Gold Country Fly Fishers Board Meeting February 5th



by Gary Smith, for Stan Sanderson

Meeting called to order 5:30

In attendance Jim Coe, Gary Smith, Frank Rinella, Neal Brunckhorst, Wayne Holloway, Tim Ackerman, Steve Allen.

1. Neal Brunckhorst has put Steve Allen on the bank account with signature privileges.
2. Suggest to the By-Law Committee that we increase the limit requiring two signatures from \$400 to \$500.
3. Vicki Valente has sent out letters thanking our newsletter sponsors and asking for continued support.
4. Ed Tom is meeting with the Nevada County Fish and Game Commission tonight and is asking \$750 for the Trout in the Classroom program.
5. Increase the fishout fund in budget to accommodate the several overnight fishouts coming up. The Treasurer collects the money from the fishmaster and writes a check for the fishout to lodge owner for the same amount. This added money needs to be reflected in budget. We will need to increase the budget \$10000 (revenue neutral).
6. The Board got an update from Terry Hobart who is working with Wayne Holloway on updating our website.
7. The Board voted 7-0 NOT to give our member roster to the FFF.
8. February budget accepted 7-0.
9. The Lower Yuba Conservation easement project was discussed and the President will discuss this matter with the general membership tonight.
10. Meeting adjourned 6:45

FLY TYING and FLY CASTING

By Sam Higginbotham

Fly Tying: Wednesday March 10 6:00 to 8:00 PM at 13835 Seven Cedars Dr. Grass Valley
Call Sam at before you come.

Fly of the month	Bead Head Pheasant Tail Nymph
Hook	tmc 2302 Mustad 3906B sizes 14---18
Thread	brown
Tail	Pheasant Tail fibers
Rib	fine copper wire
Body	Pheasant Tail Fibers, wrapped
Wing Case	Pheasant Tail fibers
Thorax	Peacock Hurl
Legs	Pheasant Tail fibers
Head	Brass bead



Fly Casting: Wednesday March 10 from 10 AM to 12 Noon, at Lions Lake (Fairgrounds)
Call if you wish to come



Gulf Volunteers building aquarium

Special Report:

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM



Building aquarium

School children in Nevada County, grades 3, 4, and 5 are excited and awaiting the delivery and development of about 150 steelhead and trout eggs from the Nimbus Fish Hatchery. Five classrooms, five teachers and five GCFE volunteers are participating in the Trout in the Classroom project. Teachers and club members participated in a day of training and certification at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery. The teachers received educational materials to guide the course of study for their age level.

Working with the Department of Fish and Game, the aquarium tanks have been constructed and are now assembled with refrigeration units at the schools participating in the program. The schools are Deer Creek School, Union Hill School, Pleasant Valley School and Ready Springs School. Our club members provide on-site assistance and monitoring of the tanks and the eggs. Steelhead eggs were delivered to two schools on February 25. The trout eggs will be delivered about March 15.

The Trout in the Classroom project includes the study of the lifecycle of the fish and the ecosystem necessary to preserve California's fisheries and aquatic habitats. The eggs will grow into fry under carefully supervised conditions and the mentoring by GCFE volunteers. The fry, after about four weeks, will be released into approved waterways, designated by Department of Fish and Game. On March 25 ninety children will release their fry near the Nimbus Fish Hatchery. The trout will be released in nearby waterways in April.

Does participating sound fun? The children will be receiving classroom instruction by the teachers. The teachers would love to have GCFE come and show them equipment, cast, and possibly tie flies in their classrooms or even help with classroom instruction. Having volunteers at the site locations for the release of the fish would be a wonderful opportunity to give children a taste of fly-fishing. Please contact any of the following club members if you would like to participate. A sign-up will be available at the club meeting.

Ed Tom, 273-6719 and Don Hess, 272-3308, are coordinating the Trout in the Classroom project. Club members participating are Anna Lee Lantz, 265-0560, Keith Scott, 559-8733, and John Felde, 271-1103.

We are looking for at least two more club members who would like to be a part of the project for the 2010-2011 school year. With two more volunteers we can provide tanks and supervision to two more classrooms. It is really inspirational, fun and requires little time. If you are interested, please call or talk to Ed Tom or Don Hess.

Contributed by Anna Lee Lantz



Volunteers attend training class at Nimbus Fish Hatchery



Ed Tom & John Felde set up fish tank in classroom



Teacher and children receiving tank instruction prior to delivery of fish eggs

Dues Reminder:

If you haven't paid your dues for 2010 yet, you may bring a check or cash to the meeting on March 2nd or send a check to our Treasurer, Neal Brunckhorst. Annual dues are \$35 for a single, \$50 for family (2 or more). Your membership fees help bring top-notch programs to our meetings, pay for our monthly meeting space rental, and serve to finance a number of other benefits throughout the year. They also ensure your eligibility to attend the fishouts throughout the year.

Make your check out to GCOFF and send to:
Gold Country Fly Fishers
Attn: Neal Brundkhorst
P.O. Box 2988 Grass Valley, CA 95945

Meeting Snacks

Welcome to March. Thank You to all who responded to the surprise snack display at February's meeting. It was a pleasure. Because of the positive response of our members the snacks will now include fruits & veggies & dips, breads, cheeses, salami, cookies, coffee & herbal teas, cider and hot chocolate packets. Remember NOT to eat a full dinner if you want to snack at the meeting. I really don't want to take it back home. See you all at the March meeting on the 2nd.

Vicki

Fly Exchange

Note: We need more members to support this worthwhile program

Don't forget to tie some flies for the monthly meeting Fly Exchange. Just bring 7 identical flies of your choice to the next meeting of Gold Country Fly Fishers. One of your flies will go into an assortment of flies from each tier which will be raffled off during the meeting. The remaining flies will be redistributed to each tier, so that each comes away with a variety of flies tied for that meeting.

If you have questions or want more info on the Fly Exchange program, contact Ed Tom (edtomcarvings@gmail.com) or Trent Pridemore (trentpridemore@dishmail.net)

Note: The fly exchange will take place at each monthly meeting, including the March 2nd meeting

March Raffle Items

Red Wine Bottle with March Brown Fly with Tying Kit and Instructions
Hat with detachable Dr. Shade neck screen
Rod Leash
Ready 2 Fish Fly Tackle Kit in case
6 assorted flies in fly box
Nevada City Anglers Gift Certificate - \$15.00

White Wine Bottle with March Brown Flies in Fly Box
Orvis Polarized sunglasses with cotton croake and case
Loon mesh stripping basket
ViaTek battery and crank LED lantern
A 2nd Nevada City Anglers Gift Certificate - \$15.00

Door Prize: Mini Multiple Tool with LED Light

Special Raffle: Crystal River 9' 8wt. Complete Rod, Reel, Backing, Line & Leader Combo with Rod Cover
Carried Over from February Raffle
5 Squares remain at \$5.00 per square.....
Let's get 'em filled and find a winner in March!!!!

Vicki

Gold Country Fly Fishers

P.O. Box 2988
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Officers and Board Members

President: Steve Allen

Vice President: Wayne Holloway

Secretary: Stan Sanderson

Treasurer: Neal Brunckhorst

Director: Frank Rinella

Director: Gery Anderson

Director: Gary Smith

Director: Jim Coe

Past President: Mark Rockwell

Committees & Chairs

FFF: Mark Rockwell

Mentoring: Frank Rinella

Conservation: Gery Anderson & Mike Connor

Programs: Trent Pridemore

Fishouts: Mike Williams & Don Steffa

Raffle: Vicki Valente

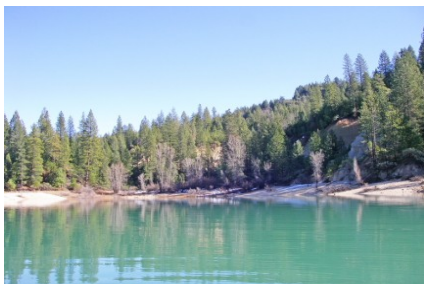
Meeting Snacks: Vicki Valente

Library: Len Valente

Casting/Fly Tying: Sam Higginbotham

Webmaster: Terry Hobart

Newsletter: David Bear



Try **Scotts Flat Reservoir** for **Smallmouth Bass**. Also, trout stocking will begin in March after a year of no stocking

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Gold Country Fly Fishers

Purpose and Objectives

Support the “catch and release” ethic

To promote flyfishing for the recreation of members

Promote and support the conservation of our water and fisheries

Provide assistance to members in the skill and techniques of flyfishing

Publicize and promote flyfishing, flycasting, flytying, and other related topics

To represent flyfishers through liaison with sports and conservation organizations

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.gcff.org

Gold Country Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 2988
Grass Valley, CA 94945

