



Promoting the Art, Recreation & Conservation of Fly Fishing Since 1975

President's Message

May 2011



By Wayne Holloway

Seems like months! Because it has been that every time I sit down to write you it is, "Unseasonably cold, partly cloudy, chance of rain", as it is again today. Okay, so truth be told, I've been going a bit nuts and my fly lines are getting a bit dry and brittle. I am not a fair weather fisherman and I have frostbite scars to show for it (well I should have anyhow), but one hundred and twelve days into the year and I only have 11 days of fly fishing to show for it. Something's gotta give soon. I feel it! You feel it?

New to GCFF? Recently joined our troop and wondering what the big deal is all about? Haven't been out? Really haven't met anyone yet? Clinics canceled? Well, have heart, as I. It's all about to change. The seasons are on our side and eventually we are going fishing. Hang in there!

Which reminds me- The demand has been high for Henderson Springs and this May's trip has been full for almost a year, but I have an opening. Just one and that doesn't happen often. Call me if you're interested!

Things to ponder on- More news on this year's Salmon season! Last month you'll recall that I was dubious at best about the California Fish and Game Commission's decision to open the waters off our coastline April 2nd for a full recreational Salmon fishing season. Well they've followed suit again and pretty much declared a full blown season now for our Central Valley inland waters too. So basically there's going to be a season roughly from July 16th all the way into December. The actual dates vary only slightly for the Sacramento, Feather and American rivers. More into the fall, an open season applies now for the Klamath and Trinity rivers too. I guess the Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service know what they're doing (Yah? Is that naive or what?), but at least there are some indications that there are more Kings out in the ocean than there have been in the past few years. There are also reports that baitfish and krill have increased as well and that really is what makes the whole deal go round and round. Possibly even better news yet is that up north Alaska fisheries biologists are predicting their 5th largest Salmon year in recorded history.

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Website link <http://www.gcff.org>

Wouldn't that be sweet if the recovery continues, and travels our way?

And this is cool- Millions of dollars have been spent on the Delta with little progress toward helping Salmon. Any kind of collaboration between waters users has been non-existent and in the end detrimental to Salmon. However, some committed folks are making headway. I have lived in Auburn for over 25 years and I suppose that at one time the Auburn Ravine, one of 738 tributaries to the two great California rivers, was probably teeming with Salmon (I like to think so anyway), but it certainly was more than 25 years ago. Well the good work of Save Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead (www.sarsas.org) may be bringing them back to the Auburn Ravine. They have been instrumental in effecting small yet significant and persistent change towards achieving just that, with the installation of fish ladders, plans to retrofit dams and pushing Auburn officials into making upgrades to their wastewater treatment plant have brought Salmon ever closer to their once natural spawning grounds. Yes, here in little 'ol Auburn. Last year Salmon swam some 20 miles up the Auburn Ravine to the city of Lincoln. Next year they will travel 25 miles upstream. After that they only have about 8 miles left before they reach the SARSAS goal of returning anadromy to the entire 33 mile length of Auburn Ravine and Lincoln and Auburn will join the ranks of only a handful of other California cities with Salmon spawning at their centers. That's cool!

What Fly Fishing Teaches Us- A little bit about everything!

"Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in. I drink at it, but while I drink I see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is. Its thin current slides away, but eternity remains." --Henry David Thoreau

Get out there and feel the grab!

Wayne



By Trent Pridemore

Gold Country Fly Fishers Programs

May: Dan LeCount has worked for the Reno Fly Shop and Truckee River Outfitters for over a decade. He started fishing at age 3 and was fly fishing by age 11. He comes from a famous conservation minded family. He is primarily a trout guide, but an avid interest in warm water fisheries heads him that way on occasion. He is a commercial fly tier and has written for the Sierra Sun. His photos have been in California Fly Fisher and Western Outdoor News. Dan is an easy to get along with guy and is a member of Tahoe Truckee Fly Fishers and TU. He is very active in stream restoration projects and is one of my favorite guides. I used his photos of huge trout from a secret place when I testified before the Fish and Game Commission on the need for special and consolidated protective regulations on the Truckee System.

His program will focus on Smallmouth Bass fishing in the Truckee area, but will also cover a lot of ground including smaller streams and lesser known lakes as well as the Truckee and LTR. He will be doing demonstration tying before the meeting. Check out some of his go to flies! I bid on and won a box of his flies at an auction a couple of years ago. Some were special Pyramid patterns. They work! Let's give Dan a good audience to show off his stuff. You might be able to add a fly caught Smallmouth to your species list this summer.

June is Free Hamburger Night along with Tall Angling Tales. Think of your best short Tale and have it ready. A prize of one bottle of "Fly" wine will be awarded. Lots of camaraderie and BS.

Trent

GCFF Dues Reminder

Gold Country Fly Fishers membership dues for 2011 are \$35 for an individual and \$50 for a family of two or more. If you haven't already paid your dues, you will have an opportunity at the May meeting – or you can send a check, made payable to "GCFF" to:

Neal Brunckhorst , Treasurer
19958 Chaparral Circle
Penn Valley, CA 95946



Walt O'Dwyer, with a nice Pyramid Lake Lahontan Cutthroat

Meeting & Program Announcements

The next meeting of the Gold Country Fly Fishers will be Tuesday May 3rd at the Ponderosa Building (formerly known as the Senior Center) in Nevada County Fairgrounds – Grass Valley. Use Gate #2 or Gate #4. The General Meeting starts at 7:00 PM. Members of the Board meet at 5:30pm & the Conservation Committee meets at 6:00pm.

Program:

Dan LeCount, Fly Fishing Guide, Writer, Conservationist
Presentation on Fly Fishing for Smallmouth Bass in the Truckee Area

Fishouts



By Mike Williams

Note: Todd Williams assists Mike Williams with coordination of Fishouts. Mike can be contacted at 530-265-3589 river-angler@att.net and Todd at 530-274-8046 tmwflytyer@yahoo.com



Todd Williams

Historically, May is the month where fishing in the northern foothills really gets going. With all the water this year and late storms things may be delayed a bit. We do have a lot planned, with a May 6th Feather River Shad outing hosted by Bob Alvares. Bob usually does this each year sometime during Shad season and does a great job of finding the fish. See Bob if you are interested in going.

On May 7th the State Park Association at Malakoff Diggins SHP will host another Little Kids Fishing Derby on Blair Lake. Blair Lake, a small 2 acre impoundment, receives its water from nearby Humbug Creek, and was once used as a water supply for the North Bloomfield town site and early on for hydraulic mining. In the early 90's the lake was drained and cleaned out with repairs made to both the dam and outlet. The lake bottom was completely re-contoured with a deep zone that transitions into shallows. Spawning habitat was created, and the lake was planted with Brown Trout. Today, it is primarily a planted Rainbow Trout fishery. This is a small, but great place to take children fishing. Our club generously donates to this event with both funding and volunteers. If you are interested in attending see Frank.

May 13th and 14th Wayne Holloway is hosting a group to Henderson Springs. This outing usually fills up fast and this time was no exception. Wayne does have one spot available right now due to a cancellation. If you're interested in going, contact Wayne. Also, on May 14th we have another local venue for those of you who would like to fish for Trout. Rocco Fasone will lead an outing to Lower Scotts Flat Lake. Sometime during the month Clay Hash and Frank Rinella will host yet another Lower Yuba clinic with the exact date and time to be announced later on. Also, last but not least, Frank Rinella will host a Trout outing to the Clear Creek Sports Club in Corning. This event is scheduled for May 25th and 26th. The cost of the outing was not available by print time. Frank will provide us with an update by meeting time.

For those of you that are interested in attending a Warm Water, Bass Bluegill clinic, on a private 2 ½ acre pond, located in Penn Valley, see Don Liljeblad. The clinic will start around 4 pm and will cover tackle, flies, casting and fishing techniques and then fishing on the private pond until dark. The cost per person will be \$25 for use of the property and pond with a date to be announced later.

Those of you that have been fishing the Lower Yuba River know that despite the ups and downs with the flows, the fishing has been good. We have done well the last couple of times out using suggestive nymph patterns such as the Brown Rubber Legs, egg patterns and the Red Headed Stepchild. Swinging flies, at least where we were fishing, wasn't happening for us. The fish do seem hungry and readily take nymphs. Todd Williams recently caught a very nice Lower Yuba Brown which makes 2 Browns caught that I know of this year above the highway 20 bridge. We seem to be hearing more and more about these fish being caught. I wonder if it has anything to do with all the high flows going over Englebright Dam this year. You can see a picture of his fish below.

Mike



Todd Williams' Yuba River Brown Trout

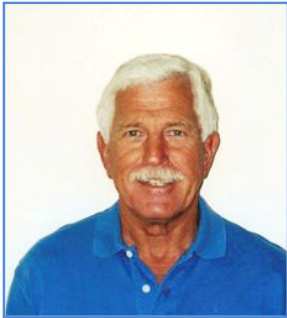


Ed Tom caught this Brown in the Yuba also

Fishout Schedule for 2011

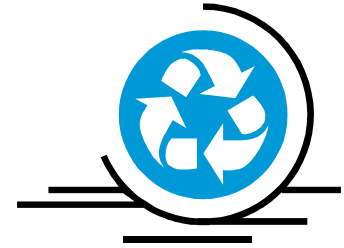
| Date | Location | Fish | Fish Master | Phone |
|-----------------|--|-------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| May 6 | Feather River | Shad | Bob Alvares | 530-478-9643 |
| May 7 | Little Kids Fishing Derby Malakoff Diggins SHP | Trout | Frank Rinella | 530-906-4116 |
| May 12 | Nevada City Anglers Ladies Gathering – Knot Tying | | Anna Lee Lantz | 530-265-0560 |
| May 13-14 | Henderson Springs | Trout | Wayne Holloway | 916-826-8652 |
| May 14 | Lower Scotts Flat Lake | Trout | Rocco Fasone | 530-432-2769 |
| May TBA | Lower Yuba River Clinic | Trout | Clay Hash Frank Rinella | 530-913-1334 530-906-4116 |
| May 25-26 | Clear Creek Sports Club | Trout | Frank Rinella | 530-906-4116 |
| June 11 | Ladies Only Clinic GCFF & Granite Bay Club | Trout | Clay Hash Frank Rinella | 530-913-1334 530-906-4116 |
| June TBA | Davis Lake-Frenchman's (Campout) | Trout | Norm Sauer | 530-478-1679 |
| June TBA | Golden Trout Wilderness (After Ice Out- We may adjust this month) | Trout | Rocco Fasone | 530-432-2769 |
| June TBA | Little Truckee River | Trout | Ralph Wood | 530-346-7065 |
| July 7-10 | Fall River | Trout | Mark Rockwell | 530-432-9198 |
| July 23 | Milton Lake | Trout | Rocco Fasone | 530-432-2769 |
| July TBA | Alpine Meadows (Granite Chief Wilderness) | Trout | Todd Williams | 530-274-8046 |
| July 30 | Gold Lakes Basin | Trout | Mary Crooks Rocco Fasone | 530-272-3173 |
| July TBA | Madison, Yellowstone River | Trout | Clay Hash | 530-913-1334 |
| August 6 | Fuller Lake Family BBQ | Trout | Len Valente | 530-432-4982 |
| August 27 | Lower Yuba River (UC Davis) | Trout | Mike Connor | 530-432-3236 |
| September 9-10 | Frenchman's Reservoir (Overnight Campout) | Trout | Wayne Holloway | 916-826-8652 |
| September 17-21 | Eastern Sierra 5 day trip | Trout | David Bear | 530-265-2269 |
| September TBA | Lower Yuba River (Monday Evenings) | Trout | Steve Allen | 530-470-0677 |
| September 24 | Boca Reservoir | Trout | Rocco Fasone | 530-432-2769 |
| September TBA | North Yuba River (Late September) | Trout | Ralph Wood | 530-346-7065 |
| October 6-7 | Upper Sacramento River Dunsmuir | Trout | Wayne Holloway | 916-826-8652 |
| October 8-9 | Henderson Springs | Trout | Wayne Holloway | 916-826-8652 |
| November | How about early November Stillwater fly fishing for Fall Browns? | | | |
| December | Maybe another clinic or North Coast Steelhead | | | |

We still need volunteers to lead a fishout - See Todd Williams



By John Felde

Conservation Corner



By now, the Trout in the Classroom tanks should have been cleaned, wrapped up for the season and returned to the classroom for storage. I will be meeting with key players to reorganize this program and distribute the workload more evenly. Step up to volunteer as a co-sponsor of a classroom so we can have a backup for each tank. With 2 people, it's a pretty easy job. You can call me or anyone in the program.

I am in the process of trying to put together a coalition of stakeholders interested in making sure the Lower Yuba River below the Hwy 20 bridge remains open to public access for walk and wade fishing as well as drift boat access. I hope to enlist the support of government agencies as well as fly fishing clubs in northern California. Stay tuned for future developments.

The merit badge program has been cancelled for this season due to a lack of interested boy scouts. We are exploring why this occurred and hope to have an active program next year.

John

Special note from Anna Lee Lantz: For very informative videos of the Trout in the Classroom go online to YOU TUBE and search for Trout in the Classroom. There are many states represented. California has an exceptional series of three to five minute segments describing the entire program. It is presented by Cal Trout and focuses on the program at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery. Our Club members and teachers are trained at Nimbus and we receive our eggs from that hatchery. If you are thinking of volunteering or you just want to know more about TIC this is an excellent opportunity to view the entire program in just a few minutes.

DAMSEL FLIES EMERGING

ATTENTION FLY LADIES

The ladies of the GCFF are making a gradual appearance. The ladies met for a casual gathering at the Nevada City Fly Shop, on April 14. We talked about what is fun or frustrating, what is difficult and what we would like to achieve in our fishing journey. Tony Dumont gave a delightful hands on fly identification activity. We received a lot of information, asked lots of questions and came away with an education in our local entomology. We also brainstormed for a name for the ladies group. (Damsels, Damsel Flies, Mermaids, etc.) We all agreed we enjoyed the informality of just gathering together and letting the group just emerge.

Our next Gathering will be on May 12 at 3:30 P.M. at the Nevada City Fly Shop. We had so much fun at the Fly Shop that we are going back and have a workshop on Knots.

Monday Lady Fishouts are scheduled to begin on May 9. We will meet at the Brunswick Flour Garden, time TBA. A schedule of locations will be provided soon. Mary Crooks will coordinate the Monday Fishouts. Her number is 272-3173. An e-mail will be sent out soon regarding these fishouts.

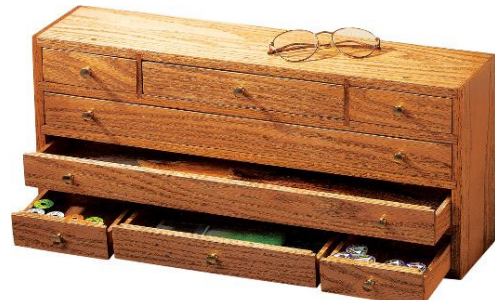
Did you know that 21% of trout anglers nationwide are female? Trout Unlimited is focusing on increasing fishing and conservation participation with female anglers. In a recent TU survey, female anglers revealed that 60% of them were more likely to attend meetings, fishouts, etc. with a mentor, partner/spouse or friend. Fifty-nine percent of those surveyed thought learning to fish from a female appealed to them but 80% preferred to be in a mixed format club membership.

If you have any questions regarding the Lady Damsel Flies contact Anna Lee Lantz at 265-0560 or outcast1@att.net.

Anna Lee

Raffle for May 3rd Meeting

- Door Prize:** LED Multi Tool with Lite
- Regular Items:** Hat with LED clip hat lite & hand-crafted Pewter fly pin
- Winston Vapor rod 9.0' 4wt/4pc
- Fly Exchange flies in fly box & Ripple Fly Patch
- "Early Strike" Trout Puzzle



Big Ticket Item:
 Solid Wood Fly Tying Materials Cabinet
 \$ 5.00 per Card Purchased
 Requires 17 more cards to be SOLD to Raffle

Refreshment Report

May 3, 2011 Meeting

Grapes, Cantaloupe & Strawberries
 Seven Layer Mexican Dip with Salsa & Chips
 Mini Tacitos
 Fruit Water
 Coffee & Hot Teas
 Assorted Cookies

Vicki

Fly Exchange

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 (273-6719 edtomcarvings@gmail.com) or Trent Pridemore (274-8770 trentpridemore@dishmail.net)

Note: The fly exchange will take place at each monthly meeting, including May 3rd.

Fly Tying and Fly Casting

Fly Tying: Wednesday May 25th 6:00 to 8:00 PM at 13835 Seven Cedars Dr. Grass Valley
 Call Sam at 530-477-7537 before you come.

Fly of the month: Carey Special Peacock (wet fly)

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Hook | TMC100 12-14-16 | Body | Peacock Herl |
| Thread | Olive | Hackle | Ringneck pheasant back hackle |
| Tail | Ringneck pheasant back fiber | | |
| Rib | Fine gold wire | | |



Sam Higginbotham

Fly Casting: Wednesday May 25th at Lions Lake 10AM -12 Noon (if open)
 Call before coming



Tim Ackerman, Secretary

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

Opening: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gold Country Fly Fishers was held on April 5, at the Ponderosa Building, Grass Valley, CA for the purpose of promoting the art, recreation and conservation of fly fishing. The meeting was convened at 5:05 PM by Board President Wayne Holloway .

Present: Wayne Holloway, Dennis Carlsen, Neal Brunckhorst, Tim Ackerman, John Felde, Todd Williams, Jim Coe, Frank Rinella, Anna Lee Lantz, Steve Allen, Frank Herwatt, Vicki Valente, Trent Pridemore, Herb Busboom.

Treasurer's Report: Neal

- The current balance is \$8439.
- Paid membership is 128. Letters will be sent to members whose dues are not current. (Wayne and Dave Bear)
- March Raffle income was \$321 . Snack cost after donations was \$31.07.
- New club hats have arrived, look great, cost to members is \$15.

Membership: Herb

New members will be contacted to see how they are enjoying the club and if it is meeting their needs.

Conservation Committee: John

Neal reported that we received a letter from the Nevada County Fish and Wildlife Commission to acknowledge that they will award us \$375 to purchase additional equipment for the Trout in the Classroom project. We are developing a restructuring plan for next year's program. (John and Anna Lee) Continued access to the Yuba below the Highway 20 Bridge remains a concern. Our Board is supportive of forming a coalition of groups to work on this problem. (John)

Web Page: Frank H.

The Web Page www.GCFF.org continues to develop. In addition to the current Blog, Calendar, and other existing sections, we now have Podcasts on many topics including fly tying techniques, casting, etc. Check it out! A 20 minute demonstration of the Website will be prepared for the next Board Meeting. To prevent spammers on our website, all members will be assigned a generic user name and password to use when posting comments.

Fishouts and Mentoring: Todd

There are four fishouts scheduled for April. See the fishout calendar online or in the newsletter for details.

Ladies' Programs: Anna Lee

We have 12-15 women currently in the club. About half responded to the recent survey. There will be a ladies only "meet and greet" on April 14th at the Nevada City Anglers, followed by a fly identification program two weeks later. Check with Anna Lee or Tony for times. The next ladies only activity will be on the lower Yuba. This event is being coordinated with the Granite Bay ladies' club; call Frank R. or Anna Lee for additional information. When the weather improves, the ladies will hold a fishout every Monday at locations to be determined.

Youth Committee: Vicki and Jacob

Very few members responded to our recent youth survey. Be sure to contact Vicki if you have a young person that might be interested in a program. Neal will check our insurance regarding coverage for specific programs. We received a letter from Daniel Garvin, with the Golden Empire Council, Boy Scouts of America in response to our request for guidance on donating to their organization. Our BOD will determine the amount and direct the use of our donation. The Malakoff Diggings Kids annual Fishing Derby organizers sent a letter of thanks for our \$275 donation to their program. They are asking for our help at the event on May 7, call Frank R. to sign up. The Kids with Special Needs fishing derby is being held the afternoon of April 16 at Condon Park. Please call Steve if you can help out with this event.

Other:

We have received a great offer from Clearwater Lodge on the Pit River. The offer includes 3 nights lodging for two people plus a \$100 gift certificate which can be applied toward guide fees. (Frank H.) We may raffle this off at our June hamburger night social event. Information will be on the website and a thank you letter will be sent (Vicki). In action prior to the Board meeting, directors were polled and they approved that our endorsement be added to a letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board which asks that they "embrace a regulatory framework that will meaningfully reduce the pollution caused by irrigated agriculture".

There were 67 attendees for the March meeting and Keith Kaneko's program which covered Peacock Bass in the Amazon and largemouth fishing in Mexico's El Salto and Mateo Lakes. You can contact Keith at Angling on the Fly or through Kiene's Fly Shop. Clay Hash's 6 pm Table Top Forum featured Switch Rod lining and tying techniques.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Tim

Fishing Pictures for April



Rocco Fasone shows us a good Lower Yuba Rainbow



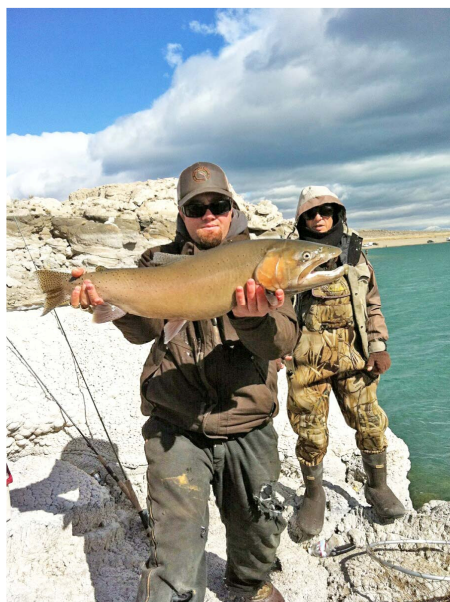
Don Steffa with a nice Lower Yuba Rainbow



David Bear caught this 15 inch Crappie in Clear Lake



Ed Tom, with a Bass from Collins Lake



Pyramid Lake Lahontan 10 lb
(unidentified angler)



Hawk, overlooking Clear Lake

Clear Creek Fishout

Trout and Bass on Private Waters
May 25th and 26th

This will be the Club's fifth year to fish the private waters of the Clear Creek Sports Club in Corning. The lake is about 65 acres in size and has been stocked with Bass and Trout to about eight pounds. This is always a fun event with great fishing, this overnigher includes the following: Fishing access for two days on the lake, overnight accommodations in the bunk house lodge (Beds, Linens, Towels included), breakfast and two lunches. You will need to bring your own soft drinks, water and adult beverages. We are on our own for dinner at the Rolling Hills Casino Buffet next to the property.

To fish the lake you will need a float tube, pontoon boat, or other small watercraft (no gas motors are allowed). 5 or 6 weight rods with floating lines or Intermediate lines work best, sinking or sink tip lines can also work. Bring all your gear to fish for the Trout, Bass and large bluegill in the lake. We will leave the Grass Valley area at 7:00am on the 25th and return late on the 26th. This trip has a limit of 12 persons. The cost of trip is \$200.00. This is a special discounted price thanks to Brad Henman the owner and the Redding Fly Shop.

A \$100.00 deposit is required and full payment by the time of the trip, checks are to be made to Gold Country Fly Fishers.

Contact Frank Rinella for any further information and a sign up list will be at the next meeting.

Frank
530 878 8708
Sierraguide@sbcglobal.net

UC Davis Yuba River Fishing Opportunity

The Yuba County Fish and Game Commission is offering a remote area fishing opportunity along the Yuba River, above the Parks Bar Bridge, the fishing dates are the weekends of May 7th and 8th, June 4th and 5th and June 11th and 12th, 2011. This opportunity is now called the Frank Allen Yuba River Fishing Event and is located on the University of California, Davis Field Extension in Browns Valley; gates will be open from sunrise to sunset. This, catch and release, opportunity is limited to approximately 15 anglers per day and will be filled by random draw.

For additional information and to register for the drawing go to www.yubafishandgame.net

For your added comfort, the University of Davis has recently added a covered picnic area with tables and barbeques. This area, along with the permanent restroom facility, can easily handle several family gatherings

Buck Weckman
Public Information Officer
Yuba County Fish and Game Commission
(530) 675-3221

Gold Country Fly Fishers

P.O. Box 2988
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Officers and Board Members

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Director: Jim Coe

Director: Anna Lee Lanz

Director: Todd Williams

Past President: Steve Allen

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FFF: Mark Rockwell

Mentoring: Frank Rinella w/ Don Steffa

Conservation: John Felde w/Gery Anderson

Programs: Trent Pridemore w/Steve Allen

Fishouts: Mike Williams & Todd Williams

Raffle: Vicki Valente

Meeting Snacks: Vicki Valente

Library: Len Valente

Casting/Fly Tying: Sam Higginbotham

Webmaster: Frank Herwatt

Newsletter: David Bear



Lower Scotts Flat Dam overflowing into Deer Creek
Photo by Todd Williams

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Note: Contributors to the GCFE 2010 Christmas Dinner Raffle are listed in the attachment to this month's Newsletter entitled "GCFE 2010 Christmas Raffle Sponsors". Members are encouraged to support those generous contributors

Gold Country Fly Fishers

Purpose and Objectives

Support the “catch and release” ethic

To promote fly fishing 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 fly fishing

Publicize and promote fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying, and other related topics

To represent fly fishers 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

