

GOLD COUNTRY FLYFISHERS

January 2009

President's Message



By Mark Rockwell

I am reminded as I type this message how fortunate I am, and I guess, most of us are, to have such a wonderful life and place to live. I am here with my Daughter, her husband and our first grandchild, Diego, and awaiting the arrival of my youngest Daughter, and her family. We live in such a wonderful place, with so many grand benefits, many of which are the grandeur of the Sierra and all the wonderful fishing opportunities we have so close to home. It is that time of year to reflect and to give thanks for all the things we hold near and dear.

I want everyone to know that I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the Gold Country Fly Fishers, and I am looking forward to a wonderful year in 2009. Over the past 9 years that I have been a member of this wonderful club, many dedicated and responsible members have helped the club move from a small, yet enthusiastic club, to a relatively large and vibrantly active group of fly fishers. We have the benefit of a large group of people who are dedicated to our community, our fishing resources, and our fishing opportunities. We all need to reflect on these people, and at the next opportunity reach out and say "thank you" to those who have served our club over the

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
Meeting & Program Announcement	1
Programs	2
Fishout Schedule	3
Fishout Report	4
Conservation Corner	5
Article on DF&G Stocking Schedule for 2009	6
Board Meeting Minutes	N/A
Christmas Dinner	7
Classified	7

past many years.

I look forward to helping this club continue in the tradition established by all our wonderful members over the years. We should all reflect on how lucky we are to have so many great members who give so tirelessly for the benefit of the whole - from the officers, to the fish out leaders, to the program chair, the refreshment crew, our librarian, our board members, fish out cook, Christmas Dinner leader (Vickie), our program director, conservation committee, and everyone else who contributes to making our club a wonderful experience. I think about us as a large family, and I am proud to be a member! Looking forward to working with all of you in 2009.

Mark Rockwell

Ed. Note: The big brown shown above came from Montana's Bighole River. It was 34" long and weighed 15.75 lb. It was more impressive than the one Mark actually caught, so I took the liberty of substituting it.

Meeting & Program Announcement

The next meeting of the Gold Country Flyfishers will be **Tuesday January 6th** at the Senior Center in Nevada County Fairgrounds – Grass Valley. Use Gate #2. The Board & Conservation meeting start at 6:00pm and the General Meeting starts at 7:00pm. **Please note that the location and day-of-week for our meetings have been changed for 2009!**
Program: Dr. Greg Pasternack, UC Davis

Programs

by Trent Pridemore

Gold Country Upcoming Programs for 2009

I believe that we have an interesting, varied array of programs in the pipe for 2009. I try for a cross section and subject and speakers that get my juices going!

JANUARY 6 features Dr. Greg Pasternack from UC Davis. Several of our member know Dr. Pasternack and his work on stream sediments and hydrology and state that it will be a fascinating program. Bring a guest. It certainly is appropriate to our interest in the Lower Yuba River that so many of us fish.

FEBRUARY will feature Matt "Gilligan" Koles, a guide from Truckee who will present a program on fishing the Truckee and Little Truckee rivers. He will cover where to fish in the winter and spring months, hatches, and gear. He is one of the respected independent guides of the Truckee area. I've met him at Tahoe Truckee Fly Fisher meetings and on the river. He will speak on waters that are only an hour or less away from our homes. Matt will be talking about some of the access points and water in the Truckee as you move towards Reno and even beyond now that the restoration work is paying off. All of us need help on the Truckee!!! There could be some "secret stuff" as well.

MARCH brings Brandt Allen from UC Davis and Truckee. He will speak on Mongolian Taiman, the largest trout in the world and his travels as well as other endangered fish species.

APRIL features the dynamic David Lass. David is the Regional Director of Trout Unlimited. He is based in Truckee with what he calls "the dream job". David is a superb angler and leads the fly tying program for Tahoe Truckee Fly Fishers. He witnessed the catch and release of a 28½ inch BT on the LTR this Fall.

MAY remains open.

JUNE brings Phil Fisher from Santa Rosa to speak on Angling Entomology. Phil was directed to us by Joe Banovich of the Russian River Fly Casters. He thinks that Phil is one of the best speakers on the circuit because he is skilled in presentation, photography and knows his stuff. He is a Licensed Guide.

JULY remains open at this time

AUGUST sees our meeting place unavailable because of the Nevada County Fair conflict. We will have a fee barbecue and pot luck at a site to be determined using Peardales Fire Department barbecue wagon and real deal mesquite!

SEPTEMBER brings well know author, lecturer and world angler Ken Hanley to speak on Canadian Northern Pike and Mackinaw. We have crossed paths at Angling Shows for many years. Ken is a dynamo and we are fortunate to get him.

Our remaining dates will be filled in with a serious Bass presentation, The Long awaited Argentina/Chile program and a Fly Tying, Swap Meet/Hamburger Night.

Suggestion and program ideas are always welcome. If you are at one of the Winter Shows and see a program possibility...get his or her name.Trent

Fishout Schedule



By Mike Williams

Schedule for First Half of 2009

Here is the tentative schedule for the clubs fishouts through June 2009.

Dates to be determined if not already listed

Month	Location	Fishout	Leader	Phone
January 9th	American River	Steelhead	Frank Rinella	878-8708
January 16th	Feather River (Above Hwy 70 Bridge)	Steelhead	Frank Rinella Mike Williams	878-8708 265-3589
February	Lower Yuba River	Trout	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	
February	Pyramid Lake	Trout	John Kusanovich	273-2578
March	Amador Lake	Trout	John Kusanovich	273-2578
March	Scotts Flat Lake	Bass/ Trout	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	
March	Fuller Lake	Trout	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	
April	Clear Creek Sports Club	Trout / Bass	Frank Rinella	878-8708
April	Collins Lake	Bass	Mike Williams	265-3589
April	Rollins Lake	Bass	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	
May	LWW Fishout & BBQ	Bass	Don Liljelblad	432-5964
May	Frenchmans Res	Trout	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	
May	Truckee River/LTR	Trout	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	
June	Feather River	Shad	Bob Alvares	478-9643
June	Independence Lake	Trout	Todd Williams	432-8771
June	Davis Lake	Trout	Norm Sauer	478-1679

Tim Ackerman has suggested that we might have a fishout where we rent houseboats in groups towing our boats. We could do this on any of the larger reservoirs that rent boats such as Oroville, Shasta, Trinity even Englebright or maybe even the Delta. If there are enough interested in this we could schedule later on. More to follow.

Note: This schedule is tentative for now and subject to change with weather and water conditions. This includes the January fishouts.

If you want to volunteer to lead one of these or wish to lead a fishout you think of let me know and I will schedule it in.

Fishout Report

By Mike Williams

December Fishouts

Our December Lower Yuba fishout went well and Mike Connor reported; "We had beautiful weather on the 13th for the annual Lower Yuba December fishout, and the fellowship was great too, among the 14 members in attendance. This is a polite way of saying the fishing was a little tough. Fish were showing themselves with occasional rises, it was difficult to get a bite. In spite of that, some of the folks were successful."

Mike went on to say; "Jay Capachi got a very nice 20" male on a nymph that looked like dubbed gray-green body with a big orange Fox Poopah tail. Ed Tom caught several on a large Fox Poopah. The guys that went upstream from the picnic table seemed to have the best luck, but Gary Smith and Don Liljeblad had success near the picnic table. I think their bites came on a small PT and bead."

As of late some of the other members have been fishing the Lower Yuba. Trent Pridemore reported that there's been sporadic surface activity to PMD's and BWO's. There has been a small hatch one day and nothing on others. The angling has been somewhat difficult due to low flows (850 cfs) and very clear water. Trent did report of one 28 1/2" fish was taken on an egg pattern and that they have seen several steelhead. Trent also reported taking three fish on one outing using Hogan Brown's Red Headed Stepchild.

My son Todd and I recently fished well above the bridge and had some success at mid day using size 16 PMD Emergers. The day was cool, overcast and our fish were taken at the tailout of the pools, (about 20' to 30' above the beginning of the riffles). Late in the day I had one large Steelhead boil on my fly but no take.

In other fishing, Trent Pridemore and Phil Drees fished Rollins Lake recently, searching for the Pond Smelt action. They were unable to locate the smelt or any feeding fish. The water was cold.

Recently we fished Collins Lake scouting for a fishout. We had overcast skies, fog in the valley, flat water with no fish showing. We had no success that day and I suspect that the lake had turned over with fish scattered at different levels. It was tough.

As I write this we are entering Christmas week with some rain and snow mix. The forecast is good with rain expected all week. Unless we get huge downpours melting the snow pack, moderate rain should help Squirrel and Deer creek color the river. Give aquatic worms, (aka San Juan worms) a try.



Lower Yuba Fishout Attendees



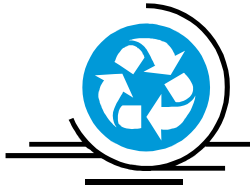
Jay Capachi



Gery Anderson

Conservation Corner

By Allen Gere



GCFF Conservation

Our club had a busy and rewarding “conservation” year. We were involved in Community Projects, Stream monitoring, Watershed bank improvement and we held a seat on important sectors such as CABY (Consummnes, American, Bear and Yuba Rivers Consortium), Yuba-Bear Watershed Council and the Nevada County Fish and Game Commission.

Jim Richards was engaged in The Yuba Stewardship program. Several members participated in a fish mercury study with Friends of Deer Creek. The Boy Scout Fly-Fishing Merit Badge sponsored by our club and FFF was a success for the fourth year as 13 scouts attained their badge. This year we co-sponsored “Fishing Without Limits,” an especially gratifying and fun fishing program for handicapped children. The SYRCL sponsored Annual Trash Bash led by Frank Rinella, brought out spirited members to clean-up the trash below Parks Bridge.

Next year GCFF will continue educating, promoting and working in alliance with watershed groups such as SYRCL, Friends of Deer Creek, Yuba-Bear Watershed Council, and CABY. We will be lending a hand with the construction of the Tribute Trail along the banks of Deer Creek as well as looking ahead to helping SYRCL ‘with club volunteers when the Lower Yuba Restoration Project stages are implemented. The exciting “Trout in the Classroom” program, led by our own Ed Tom and Don Hess, will offer an opportunity for club members to mentor to students in the classroom and in the field.

GCFF is a member of NCCFF (Northern California Federation of Fly Fishers) whose conservation and education efforts are acclaimed. Our newly elected president, Mark Rockwell, serves as Conservation Council Chair of NCCFF, and last year was honored nationally for his work. Many members belong to FFF, Trout Unlimited and Cal Trout.

I want to acknowledge all the members who gave time and energy to make 2008 a notable year and a very proud one for me. I particularly want to thank the Conservation Council Members who served our club so well.

Conservation Council Members

Steve Allen, Ace Emmerling, Rich Miller,
Dennis Monax, Carl Wiggins, Ed Tom,
Jim Richards, Don Hess,

Special note: During the Christmas Party special recognition was given to Dave Luger and Joe Abrell for setting up refreshments at each monthly meeting. We neglected to mention that Sam Higginbotham also assists in this effort. Thanks to all! (Ed.)

The following article addresses the controversy surrounding changes to the DF&G fish stocking schedules in 2009, for your information. It was published on Dec 17, 2008:

Roland Knapp | Setting the Record Straight: Limited Restrictions On Stocking Are Needed To Conserve California's Native Fish And Amphibians

By: Roland Knapp

California's angling community has voiced numerous concerns about an agreement recently reached by the California Department of Fish and Game, Pacific Rivers Council, and the Center for Biological Diversity that will limit stocking of nonnative trout in some State waters in 2009 while the Department prepares an environmental impact report (EIR) (See, for example, Tom Stienstra, Trout plants halted: it's a load of bullfrogs, Chronicle November 30, 2008).

The purpose of the agreement is not to rob the public of opportunities to fish, but rather to ensure that undue harm is not done to California's native fish and amphibians while the Department prepares an EIR (due in January 2010). The agreement specifically allows a majority of stocking to continue, including stocking in all large reservoirs, stocking by private businesses, and stocking in areas where the Department knows there are no sensitive native species present. This is a reasonable compromise that balances the interests of anglers with the need to reduce impacts to native species.

Although stocking will continue in many waters across the State, there will be some lakes, reservoirs, and rivers that will not be stocked in 2009 due to the presence of sensitive native species or a lack of recent survey information. It is not true, however, that these waters will never be stocked again. That will depend on the results of the Department's EIR and whether they determine that these waters can be stocked without contributing to the extinction of native species.

Results from decades of research clearly indicate that stocking of trout can have dramatic impacts on native fish and amphibians. For example, the California golden trout, our State fish, is at severe risk of extinction because of predation by introduced brown trout and hybridization with introduced rainbow trout. Likewise, species like the mountain yellow-legged frog, Cascades frog, and long-toed salamander rarely survive in water bodies where nonnative trout have been stocked.

Stocking of nonnative trout is also a potential vector of diseases like the amphibian chytrid fungus that is having devastating consequences for many native amphibians. In addition, trout stocking can result in the inadvertent introduction of harmful invasive species like the New Zealand mud snail, a species found recently at the Department's Hot Creek Hatchery.

The fact that stocking has been ongoing for more than 100 years in no way means that it is benign. Indeed, in recent years the Department itself has worked to reduce the impacts of stocking in the High Sierra, where they have surveyed for sensitive species and modified stocking practices to avoid habitats that contain these native species. As a result of this proactive approach, these areas are exempt from the interim stocking restrictions.

The EIR will provide the public with their first opportunity to take a careful look at all aspects of the Department's stocking program. The paradigm that more fish stocking makes for better fishing underlies much of the stocking program and deserves particular scrutiny. Recent research conducted in the High Sierra shows that most stocked lakes actually harbor self-sustaining trout populations and that ongoing stocking (conducted at considerable expense) therefore has no effect on trout densities. So, in these hundreds of lakes stocking is just a waste of angler dollars. Similarly, studies in Montana conducted in the 1960s and 1970s indicated that stocking of catchable trout into rivers and streams actually caused decreases in overall trout densities. Based on the results of these studies, in 1974 Montana stopped all stocking of flowing waters (to large protests from anglers) and the result was dramatic increases in trout populations.

Clearly, a long, hard look at California's fish stocking program is long overdue.

Roland Knapp is a research biologist at the University of California Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory in Mammoth Lakes and has conducted research on California's mountain lakes for more than a decade.

Christmas Dinner a Big Success!!

The club Christmas dinner was a success judging from the hum of conversation from the 86 members and guests that attended and the wonderful dinner beautifully served. Thanks Vicki! And thanks to all those who brought delicious dishes and fine wine to share. Thanks also to Dennis Carlsen for organizing volunteers for set up and clean up and who brings what pot-luck dishes and to those volunteers.

Several members were recognized for their special contributions to the club during the year. In a brief ceremony, Mike Williams received the Outstanding New Member Award, Sam Higginbotham was presented the Conservation Award, Neal Brunckhorst was given the President's Award, and Vicki and Len Valente were recognized for their considerable efforts.

The raffle was successful as it netted more than \$1500 for the club treasury. This is an important source of funding for our conservation and club activities for 2009. Thanks to Neal Brunckhorst who worked hard organizing and running the raffle and silent auction. Thanks also to Wally Holton for contacting approximately 20 manufacturers and vendors soliciting donations. A special thanks goes to Tony Dumont and Nevada City Anglers for his support. Other firms and individuals making donations to the raffle and auction are listed below.

Angling Evolutions
Cabela's Fishing Division
Bryant Sales Co., LLC
Stream Works
Sam Higginbotham
Fly Fishing Specialties
Mike Connor & Don Liljebblad

The Fly Shop
Rajeff Sports LLC.
Solitude Fly Co.
Wayne Holloway
Neal Brunckhorst
Rio Products International

Bill Sunderland
Sierra Stream
Trinity River Drifters
Ray Enneking, D.D.S.
Dyna King
Trent Pridemore

Gold Country Flyfishers
P.O. Box 2988
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Officers and Board Members

President: Mark Rockwell
Vice President: Steve Allen
Secretary: Stan Sanderson
Treasurer: Neal Brunckhorst
Director: Frank Rinella
Director: Barbara Driscoll
Director: Gery Anderson
Director: David Bear
Past President: Mike Connor

Committees

FFF: Mark Rockwell
Mentoring: Frank Rinella
Conservation: Allan Gere & Steve Allen
Programs: Trent Pridemore
Fishouts: Mike Williams
Raffle: Tim Colbert
Gear: Steve Allen & Tim Ackerman
Library: Len Valente
Casting/Flytying: Sam Higginbotham

Financial supporters of the Gold Country Flyfishers

(Hold down Ctrl key and click to see websites)

Wine & Roses Bed & Breakfast

Rose gardens & vineyard, elegant Tea Room and Victorian event Pavilion
Victoria Valente
(530) 432-4982
elegantrentals@aol.com

C.A.S.E Contracting, Inc.

Quality electrical installations since 1984
Tim Colbert
(530) 271-2208

Nevada City Anglers

Full service fly shop and guide service
Tony Dumont
(530) 478-9301
www.nevadacityanglers.com

Angling On The Fly

Your getaway to the world's most unique fishing destinations
Keith Kaneko
(916) 539-3474
www.anglingonthefly.com

Gold Country Flyfishers

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 Flyfishers
P.O. Box 2988
Grass Valley, CA 94945

