

# GOLD COUNTRY FLYFISHERS

September 2008

## President's Message



By Mike Connor

The license regulating NID and PG&E's management of the lakes and streams in some of the club's prime fishing areas expires in 2013. The two agencies have initiated the re-licensing process for NID's Yuba-Bear Hydroelectric project which contains prime mountain and foothill fishing areas including Grouse Ridge and the Bear River. Specifically, the project is comprised of nine on-stream reservoirs (Jackson Meadows and Milton reservoirs on the Middle Yuba River; Jackson Lake on Jackson Creek; French, Faucherie, Sawmill and Bowman lakes on Canyon Creek; and Dutch Flat Afterbay and Rollins Reservoir on the Bear River), three off-stream impoundments (Dutch Flat Forebay, Little York Basin and Chicago Park Forebay), and two diversion dams on Texas Creek and Fall Creek. Also affected are the streams that flow between these impoundments or are diverted into the system -- Texas Creek, Fall Creek, Canyon Creek, Rucker Creek and the Middle Fork and the South Fork of the Yuba River. The two agencies must develop a proposal for management of the project and submit it to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for re-licensing consideration prior to 2013. There will be opportunities

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for input from the public, which will presumably be reflected in NID's proposals.

Frank Rinella has been representing fishing interests at these meetings. My hat's off to Frank because the meetings are many, long, and can get pretty involved. Several GCFF members, including Frank and myself and Conservation Chairman Allan Gere, attended a meeting in Auburn August 11 where input was received regarding fishing use of streams in the Yuba Middle Fork, Grouse Ridge and Bear River areas. Input was received from several individuals including Ralph Wood and Tony Dumont. Their information was especially valuable because of their knowledge of some of the areas involved.

NID's consultants will be accepting input at future meetings including some to be held on-site at project lakes in the near future. To keep up to date on the re-licensing activities see NID's project web site at <http://www.eurekasw.com/NID/default.aspx>.

## Meeting & Program Announcement

The next meeting of the Gold Country Flyfishers will be **Wednesday September 3rd** at Seaman's Lodge at Pioneer Park in Nevada City. The Board & Conservation meeting start at 6:00pm and the General Meeting starts at 7:00pm

**Program:** Nancy Foley, Head of enforcement for the California Department of Fish and Game

## Programs

By Trent Pridemore

September starts our Fall Season with a visit by Nancy Folley, the Head of Enforcement for California Department of Fish and Game. I have been at several meetings where Nancy presided and also at several social functions. I know you will enjoy her stories. On a more serious note, she will speak about the Warden Parity issue, recruitment and budget no doubt. Let's have a fantastic turnout to show Nancy that we are alive in the Foothills. With the Truckee Club and Gold Country, Nevada County does have clout. Many of my friends are amazed when they hear that we have 120 members. They also envy our array of outings and events. I will be dinning with Nancy at Dos Banditos before the meeting if you care to join us.

October's meeting will feature a showing on the big screen of a yet to be selected Angling Video. Lot's of time to talk and socialize.

November features Davis Lass of the Truckee Office of Trout Unlimited. I have worked with David for over two years on conservation issues. He runs Fly Tying for the Tahoe Truckee Fly Fishers. I'm amazed at the projects that Trout Unlimited has nation wide. David works hard to put coalitions together and lobbies fanatically for us. It's exactly what we need to get maximum bang for our buck in the lobbies of our state and nation. David is a dynamic energetic fellow that will get you excited. He's got a dream job at the Truckee Office.

No meeting other than our Christmas Party for December. January could be the Argentina Report. February could be fly tying under the video camera with guest tyers and a Swap Meet. Stay Tuned.

Am looking for Program Chairman Assistant! Good Perks!

## Fishout Schedule

By Ed Stember



Here is the schedule for our fishouts for the remainder of 2008. To attend club sanctioned trips you will need to have a signed waiver on file.

| Date              | Location                  | Leader          | Phone #  | E-mail Address   |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------|--|
| Sept. 5 (Friday)  | Frenchman Reservoir       | Ed Stember      | 265-2210 | <a href="mailto:edstember@att.net">edstember@att.net</a>                     |
| Sept. 23,24,25,26 | Eastern Sierra            | David Bear      |          | David Bear<br><a href="mailto:opabear@comcast.net">[opabear@comcast.net]</a> |
| October (TBD)     | North Yuba Clinic         | Ralph Wood      |          |  |
| October (TBD)     | Little Grass Valley Res.  | Frank Herwatt   |          |  |
| November (TBD)    | Feather River (steelhead) | Ed Stember      | 265-2210 | <a href="mailto:edstember@att.net">edstember@att.net</a>                     |
| November (TBD)    | Lake Amador               | John Kusanovich |          |  |
| December 13th     | Yuba River (UC Davis)     | Mike Connor     |          |  |

## Special Events

Sierra Nevada Alliance 15th Annual Conference &  
Anniversary Celebration  
September 12-14, 2008  
North Tahoe Conference Center  
Kings Beach, CA

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**GCFF is a proud Sierra Nevada Alliance Member**

### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Yuba Clean-Up - Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>

Gold Country Fly Fisher and its members has been a partner in the Great Yuba Clean-up for many years, and this year is no different. Every year we in the fly fishing community are given the task of picking up the trash along the Lower Yuba River from the Parks Bar Bridge down river. This is a big area with a lots of river miles, so we can use all the help we can get. This is our once a year time to be a good Stewarts of the river and pay it back for all the enjoyment it gives us.

The Clean-up is on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. We will meet under the Parks Bar Bridge/ Hwy. 20 on the Marysville side. You must sign up before the event; we will have a sign up list at the Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. club meeting, or call the South Yuba River Citizens League 530 265 5961 x 201 and let them know that you would like to sign up for the Parks Bar Lower Yuba site. This is a family event so bring everyone; there will be a free lunch and party after at Pioneer Park for all volunteers.

If you have any questions contact: Frank Rinella 878-8708 [Sierraguide@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Sierraguide@sbcglobal.net)

### Fly Fishing Clinics



The club will host two more fishing clinics in the next few months. The first will be a Lady's Day on the Stream, a fishing clinic for the women in the club. This will be given by Lisa Cutter and Frank Rinella. The date has not been set yet but will be in late September.

In October we will have another Lower Yuba River Clinic on how to fish safely around spawning Salmon and their spawning redds. We will show you how to indicator fish using egg patterns and fall fly patterns. The focus will be on protecting our Salmon when we fish for trout and steelhead in the river. The date for this will be announced soon.

## Fly Tying and Casting

### Fly Exchange

Sam and Trent were the only ones to bring flies in August. Trent saved them for the raffle and this month's FLY EXCHANGE. Bring seven flies....six for the exchange and one for the raffle pot. We like a recipe and brief description of usage.

### Flycasting

**Tuesday September 9<sup>th</sup>**. Sam Higginbotham will conduct Fly Casting instruction at the Discovery way pond on Tuesday Sept 9. Session starts at 9:00 AM and runs until 11:00 AM. **Call 477 7537 before you come.** All are welcome!

## Conservation Corner

By Allen Gere



### Trout in the classroom

Gold Country Fly Fishers has supported successful rewarding community programs such as the scout fly fishing merit badge program, fishing without limits and embrace a stream. We now have an opportunity to sponsor a highly esteemed project called "Trout in the Classroom". Our board has approved the seed money to initiate a fish rearing project in a local school. The activities in this project are fun for the kids and very hands-on. From the day the class receives the eggs from DFG, to the release of the trout to their native stream, it is an exciting experience. We will be asking for club volunteers to help with equipment and possibly assist the teacher(s) with some supplemental instruction.

Thank you to conservation council members, Don Hess and Ed Tom, who provided the spadework for this project and will work with the teachers in its implementation.

### Endangered Species Act Threatened

This administration has never masked its distaste for most environmental laws or its ambitions to thwart congress's will. Now in its waning months, it is trying to undermine the endangered species act.

The Interior Secretary, Dirk Kempthorne, has proposed a regulatory overhaul of the act that would eliminate the requirement of independent scientific reviews of any project that could harm an endangered species living on federal land... Instead, federal agencies would decide on their own whether the projects---including construction of highways and dams pose a threat and move ahead if they determine there is no problem.

Under current rules under the Act, federal agencies are required to submit their plans to either the fish and wildlife service or the national marine fisheries service. This, in effect, gives scientists at those agencies the right to say no to any project or require modifications if the project threatens an endangered species. Now the Bureau of Reclamation likes to build dams: the Dept of Transportation likes to build highways and protecting endangered species is not their priority. To me, it is like letting the "fox loose in the hen house" There is a 30-day comment period, after which the department is likely to issue a final ruling. Let your voice be heard!

## Minutes from the August Board Meeting

Minutes for prior meeting in June were approved

Treasurer's Report: The balance in the treasury is now \$4876.48. Total number of members currently 118

Fishouts: Fishouts scheduled for August are Fuller Lake BBQ Aug 9; Milton Reservoir Aug 22; Lower Yuba UC Davis Aug 30. September fishout to Eastern Sierra has been rescheduled for Sep 23-26. Frank Rinella suggested two more fishouts which will be added: September: Yuba-Ladies only, and in October: Yuba – fishing over redds.

Conservation: Don Hess reported details of "Trout in a Classroom" program being planned by him and Ed Tom and requested funding of \$350. Frank Rinella moved to fund the program and Mark seconded. Approved unanimously by the board. It was also proposed that GCFF spend \$35 to join the Sierra Nevada Alliance which works to protect the Sierra Nevada watershed. Also approved unanimously (Frank moved; Mark seconded)

Meeting place for GCFF monthly meeting: No suitable replacement facility has been found at a price that we felt we could spend. We will continue to use our current location and keep our eyes open for something better.

### Gold Country Flyfishers

P.O. Box 2988  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

#### Officers and Board Members

President: Mike Connor  
Vice President: Mark Rockwell  
Secretary: Gary Smith  
Treasurer: Neal Brunckhorst  
Board Member: Frank Rinella  
Board Member: Barbara Driscoll  
Board Member: Ed Stember  
Board Member: Trent Pridemore  
Board Member: David Bear

#### Committees

FFF: Mark Rockwell  
Mentoring: Frank Rinella & Ed Stember  
Conservation: Allan Gere & Steve Allen  
Programs: Trent Pridemore  
Fishouts: Ed Stember  
Raffle: Tim & Sue Colbert, Ann Sanderson & Barbara Driscoll  
Gear: Steve Allen & Tim Ackerman  
Library: Len Valente  
Casting/Flytying: Sam Higginbotham  
Webmaster: Terry Hobart

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# 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

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.gcff.org](http://www.gcff.org)

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Grass Valley, CA 94945

