

GOLD COUNTRY FLYFISHERS

May 2009

President's Message



By Mark Rockwell

I want to wish everyone a good summer fishing season, and May is the month when we really start those warm summer evenings, and great evening caddis hatches. The North Yuba is settling down and warming up, and snow and ice is off the Sierra lakes. I know in Fall River valley the wild rainbows are returning from their spring time spawning runs up the tributaries of Bear Creek, Spring Creek and Lava Creek. It's just a great time of year for getting outside and spending time on the water.

Our speaker in April, David Lass, from TU and our NCCFFF member club, Tahoe-Truckee Fly Fishers, reminded us of how lucky we are here in California. We have 11 different species of wild and heritage trout, many of which are near to us here in Grass Valley/Nevada City. By far, we have the greatest number of wild trout species of any state of the Union.

One of the primary drivers of the current reduction in trout plantings by the DFG is protection of wild and heritage trout. Over the past 75 years DFG has planted hatchery rainbow in watersheds throughout the state, not thinking about the impacts it could have on other species like wild trout and amphibians. The real problem came when DFG became aware of possible conflicts, but continued business as usual without doing an environmental impact report. They were asked to do an EIR, were told a suit would be filed if they didn't, but they still resisted.

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So, here we are today in a law suit induced 3 year process of DFG finally doing the EIR they should have done years ago.

The good news is it will benefit our wild trout species, as well as several other species, like the yellow legged frog, trying to survive in a changing world.

Lastly, I would like to encourage those members who are new to GCFF to take advantage of the buddy program. Don Steffa has worked hard to put together a great program to bring members together and get them out fishing. It is a great way to meet new people, and our goal is to help new members get to know others in the club. So, since May is such a great month to get outside, how about giving Don a call, 272-3518, or send him an e-mail, ez1flyfisher@hotmail.com, and get into the buddy program.

After all, there is nothing as fun as fishing with a new friend. Also, if you are new to fly fishing, Don can help get you involved with the mentor program run by Frank Rinella. You can also contact Frank, 878-8708, sierraguide@sbcglobal.net if you want to find out the date of the next workshop.

Good luck out there!

Mark

Meeting & Program Announcements

The next meeting of the Gold Country Flyfishers will be **Tuesday May 5th** 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 our new location and day-of-week for our meetings in 2009

Program: Tom Maumoynier of Lake Almanor Fly Fishing

Programs



By Trent Pridemore

Gold Country Programs

May brings Tom Maumoynier of Lake Almanor Fly Fishing. Tom guides on the large mountain lake that lies to our North, Butt Valley Reservoir and in the area. He has worked for Stanford's Drakesbad Camp and knows the area very well. He has roots in Grass Valley and is excited about his presentation on his area before us next month. He prides himself on his photography. Bring questions. We may get him to guide us at Almanor.

June will feature Bjorn Stromsness speaking on water issues in California and the drought. Bjorn is the Development Director of Friends of the River and knows a lot about the politics, special interest groups and other considerations that vie for our water. Come ready for questions, check your well output, but take a tranquilizer beforehand. The charged issues affect us all and may determine our fishery's future.

July see Phil Fisher arrive to speak on Entomology. Expect great photography as well as a really good screen in the Senior Center to complement the superb material. Phil guides and lectures and knows a lot about many fisheries. He comes out of the Andre Puyans University of Fly Fishing that evolved in the 70's and created many of the best people in the field.

August will be our "free" Barbecue night at a local park to be determined. Wives, girlfriends and significant others are invited. Mesquite and seasoned Oak will be lighted to grill marinated Tri Tip and Basque Chicken. Side dishes will feature Gold Country Chef's best recipes...no Raley's allowed. I'm working on a book featuring "Recipes of Itinerant California Fly Fishermen". I will give a prize of a bottle of "Polaris #1 Zinfandel" to the creator of the best dish. Casting games, Fish BS and good old fashion socializing will abound. There may be a one ticket raffle for a significant prize and we may give a prize for the best fishing hat. Mark the date of Tuesday, August 4. It's free if you sign up early, but costs \$100 per person if you don't. Assistants for the event will be needed. Call me at 274-8770 or e-mail to trentpridemore@dishmail.net if you can help.

Tight Lines!

Trent

Don't forget the Fly Exchange! It didn't work last month. We need a permanent Chairman...easiest job in the club. Call!

Member Name Badges: Those who ordered the new GCFF name badges at the last meeting can pick them up at the next meeting. Bring your \$4.25 and pick them up from Neal Brunckhorst. If you haven't yet ordered your permanent name badge you can do so at the May meeting.

Fishout Schedule



By Mike Williams

Schedule for 2009

Date	Location	Fishout	Leader	Phone
April 18	Lake Wildwood	Bass Outing & BBQ	Don Liljeblad	432-5964
April 22-23	Clear Creek Sports Club	Striped Bass Black Bass	Frank Rinella	878-8708
May 20-21	Clear Creek Sports Club	Striped Bass Black Bass	Frank Rinella	878-8708
May TBA	Feather River	Shad	Bob Alvares	478-9643
May 29	Fuller Lake Family Picnic	Trout	Len Valente	432-4982
June 9	Truckee River/ LTR	Trout	Trent Pridemore	274-8770
June 12	Horseshoe Bar F & G Preserve	Trout	Frank Rinella	878-8708
June 19	Independence Lake	Trout	Todd Williams	432-8771
June 25/26	Davis Lake	Trout	Norm Sauer	478-1679
July 17	Milton Lake	Trout	Mike Williams	265-3589
July TBA	Lower Yuba River Dry Fly Clinic	Trout	Frank Rinella	878-8708
August 29	Lower Yuba River UC Davis Property	Trout	Mike Connor	432-3236
September	Frenchmans Reservoir	Trout	Wayne Holloway	916-826-8652
Sept 22/23/24	Eastern Sierra	Trout	Dave Bear	265-2269
September TBA	Boca Reservoir	Trout	Rex England	272-5385
October TBA	Lower Yuba River Nymphing Clinic	Trout	Frank Rinella	878-8708
October TBA	North Yuba River	Trout	Ralph Wood	477-0780
November TBA	Feather River	Steelhead	Need Volunteer	
December 5	Lower Yuba River UC Davis Property	Trout	Mike Connor	432-3236

Fishout Report

By Mike Williams



April Fishouts

On Saturday April 18th Don Liljeblad hosted the Lake Wildwood Bass outing and barbecue. Although the fishing was not as good as expected some fish were caught. The morning bite was slow at best. Len Valente did the barbecue and I was told did a great job as always. Don reported to me that most of the 15 or so members in attendance got 1 or 2 fish that day and the fishing in the afternoon did pick up. Don also said that Tim Ackerman caught 6 or 7 fish and Ed Tom also did well. Thanks go out to everyone involved in making this a fun event.

Upcoming outings for May include the second Clear Creek Sports Club Bass Outing on May 20 and 21 hosted by Frank Rinella, and the Fuller Lake Family Barbecue and Fishout hosted by Len Valente Friday May 29. Bob Alvares will host the Shad outing again this year on the Feather River. At the beginning of the month Bob will begin to time the run and monitor the fish before we schedule a date. Saturday May 9 is the Kids Fishing Derby at Blair Lake Malakoff Diggins SHP. This event will be held from 10am to 2pm. Our club has volunteered to go and help out the kids with their fishing. A signup sheet for this event as well as the other outings will be available at our next regular meeting.

Clear Creek Sports Club Bass Outing, April 22 and 23

By Frank Rinella

This trip has become an annual outing for the past three years now. This bass overnigher has had such great sign-ups we are now doing two a season. We just returned from the April trip, where we had twelve club members with their pontoon boats, float tubes, prams, drift boats and even a Gregor equipped with bow electric motor and electronics. We arrived at the club in Corning between 8 and 9 am, checked in at the office and headed for the lake. The lake is 60 acres and has been stocked over the years with large mouth bass, sunfish and this year with some striped bass.

As we all know how fishing goes some guys found the fish right away and others like myself started out slow. I was using the method that worked for me last year fishing deeper water with fast retrieves. Well this year it was different. The fish seemed to move into the shallow weeded areas and wanted a very slow retrieve. Once we were dialed in on this fishing went to catching. I was fishing with Dennis Carlsen; he used the same fly for two days while I on the other hand tried many other flies that worked and the key seemed to be the very slow retrieve. When we stopped for our barbecue lunch we all shared information and flies and leaders that worked for us, then headed back to the lake.

The fishing was good that afternoon and a few guys stayed out late for the top water bite. The next day was much the same, with many of us fishing the same area and getting a lot of fish. My thanks to all of you who went on this trip for sharing your knowledge with the other members, and thanks to everyone who pitched in and helped with the meals. Being the fish master or leader of a trip really can be easy with members like ours. Our next Clear Creek trip is May 20 and 21st and we still have a few openings.

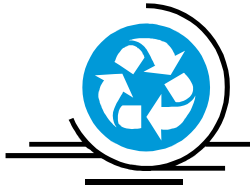
Truckee/Little Truckee/Prosser/Stampede Fishout June 9

By Trent Pridemore Trentpridemore@dishmail.net or 530-274-8770

We will assist new anglers on these rivers; if you are new, call and we can give you a primer. Basically, try long, light leaders with indicator flies with pt's, zebra midges and micro caddis suspended below. I will host a barbecue and can take three anglers inside as well as several more on the deck in sleeping bags at my place on the North Shore following the day's fishing. More hatch information will follow in the June issue. Expect early PMD's on the LTR and possibly green drakes on the Main Truckee. Carpenter ants are always a good possibility as well. I tend to fish streamers and crawfish patterns while looking for one or two big fish. Caddis are always important.

Conservation Corner

By Allan Gere



Magical Moments

.....BOY SCOUTS FOCUSED ON THE NUANCES BETWEEN A WOOLY BUGGER AND A CADDIS DRY

.....A GOOD CAST TO A RISING FISH WITH THE CRY " I GOT ONE "

.....SIGNING OFF A HAPPY SCOUT WHO HAS JUST DEMONSTRATED THAT HE CAN TIE THE REQUIRED FISHING KNOTS

.....THE PLEASED LOOK OF THE CLUB INSTRUCTOR WHO SEES THAT HIS RAPT PUPIL HAS DEMONSTRATED THE REQUIRED MERIT BADGE SKILL

.....AN APPRECIATIVE PARENT, THE SEEDS OF A LIFE-TIME HOBBY PLANTED, ONE THAT CAN BE SHARED BY PARENTS AND CHILD

I WANT TO THANK THE MEMBERS WHO HAVE STEPPED FORWARD TO HELP THESE SCOUTS FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THEIR FLY FISHING MERIT BADGE. THIS IS THE FIFTH YEAR OF OUR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM AND OUR MEMBERS IMPART THEIR SKILL, KNOWLEDGE AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THIS VITAL MENTOR-PUPIL RELATIONSHIP. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO 11 MORE GRADUATES TO JOIN THE 50 THAT HAVE PREVIOUSLY ATTAINED THE MERIT BADGE.

FINGERS CROSSED

We are awaiting word from NCCFFF CONSERVATION NETWORK to hopefully approve a grant that will enable our hard working club volunteers to extend our successful TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM program to other classrooms. Ed Tom, Don Hess and John Carcerano have been instrumental in pushing this successful hand-on program to the next level.

REFRESHING CHANGE

With all the problems our fisheries are having, it is good to see major change from our country's leadership regarding our national heritage and resources. After 8 years of exploitation from the previous administration, the Omnibus Bill just passed that protects precious watershed and created more wilderness. Thank you, Mark Rockwell, (our very own) who has worked diligently the last two years for this bill to pass along with others of a like mind who believe in land stewardship.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

TRIBUTE TRAIL PROJECT	Spring 09'
GREAT ANNUAL TRASH BASH	Sept 09'
LITTLE TRUCKEE RIVER Trail Restoration	Oct 17 09'

Minutes from Gold Country Flyfishers Board Meeting April 7, 2009:

In attendance: Mark Rockwell, Neal Brunckhurst, Gery Anderson, Barbara Driscoll, Frank Rinella, Dave Bear, Stan Sanderson

Meeting called to order at 6:00PM

March Meeting minutes reviewed and approved

Treasurers Report (Neal B.) Budget as of March 2009 reviewed and accepted

Federation of Fly Fishers Raffle: decided by Board to offer ticket sales to general membership possibility of winning fishing trips to Montana and Chile

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) meeting was attended by several GCOFF members. Local utilities (PG&E and NID) up for renewal of 30 year license. A chance to insure water availability for healthy fisheries into the future.

UC Davis Sierra Research Center requested a donation of \$100 for a Porta Potty. Board approved

California State Parks Kids Fishing Derby. Board voted to provide help and financial assistance. To pass sign-up sheet and hat at meeting

Board decided to email reminder to members who are not paid up with 2009 membership dues.

Members Survey: Mark R. to review potential questions for survey
Name tags (Neal B.)

Hats (Neal B.)

Updated Fishing Buddy request form was presented by Don Steffa.

Meeting adjourned 7:00PM

FLY TYING AND FLY CASTING LESSONS

Casting

May 12 9:00 am to 12:00 noon; call Sam Higginbotham at 477-7537 to find out the location.

FlyTying

This month's session will be held on Tuesday May 12 at Sam Higginbotham's house, 13835 Seven Cedars Drive in Grass Valley. **Call Sam (530-477-7537) on the day of tying if you plan to attend.**

Fly of the month: *Poopah*

Hook: TMC 2312- 2302 in size 12--14--16
Thread; 8/0 to match body
Body; Vernille, olive or tan, ribbed over
Legs; Partridge
Thorax/head; ostrich herl
Antennae; Wood duck



Dave Bear and Ed Tom picked up some nice 'bows at Collins Lake



Grover T. Middleberger was lucky enough to find a keeper shark during a recent trip to New Zealand. We don't know if he landed it with his 6 wt fly rod since he hasn't reported in yet.

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
- Webmaster: Terry Hobart
- Newsletter: David Bear

Financial supporters of the Gold Country Flyfishers

(Hold down Ctrl key and click to see websites)

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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

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.gcff.org

Gold Country Flyfishers
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Grass Valley, CA 94945

