

# GOLD COUNTRY FLYFISHERS

November 2009

## President's Message



By Mark Rockwell

After watching the movie, **Rivers of a Lost Coast** for the fourth time, my sense of gratitude for our club conservation committee has really grown. It isn't that I have ever taken the committee for granted, because I have not! However, they work so smoothly, and so quietly, it is easy to miss all they do. Here is a partial list of their activities:

- Boy Scouts fly fishing merit badge program
- Annual Yuba River clean up
- Fishing instruction for handicap children
- Tribute Trail Restoration
- Catching fish for identification and toxin measurements
- Trout in the Classroom
- Stream monitoring with SYRCL and FDC
- Participation on the Yuba-Bear Watershed Council
- Participation with the Nevada County Fish and Game Commission
- Advocacy on several issues – regulations, game wardens, Yuba River access, no motors on the Yuba, and others.
- Writing the Conservation Corner for the newsletter

My experience as the V.P. Conservation on the Northern California Council, FFF, has shown that work on conservation is a daily effort by those involved, and requires tremendous dedication to our outdoor resources and wildlife. Our club committee, chaired by Allan Gere, has grown from a small group working on a few issues, to one that is fully engaged in important local watershed protection, and engaged with all the major local groups.

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Their focus is to promote conservation in our community and schools, engage in meaningful restorative activities, maintain a presence in local government decision making, and to help keep our fisheries healthy. They meet every first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m., prior to the club meeting. They have become a big voice in the community, protecting our interests and the watersheds we love. **Please take the time to walk up and thank them for all their work and effort.** They are doing great work!

I just finished watching the PBS special on the National Parks, done by Ken Burns. I was so impressed by the programs, and truly do agree that our National Parks are one of America's great accomplishments. What struck me while watching was that nearly every park had an advocate, starting with John Muir and Yosemite, who felt passionately about protecting the land, and worked tirelessly until that was accomplished. I remember the fisherman in the movie, **Rivers of a Lost Coast**, lamenting that they missed the need for conservation, and the fishery was lost. Well, fortunately, our conservation committee is carrying the flag for fishery conservation here in the western Sierra. We should be very proud of all of them! I, for one, say, **Thank You Very Much!**

*Mark*

## MEETING & PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Gold Country Flyfishers will be **Tuesday November 3rd** at the Senior Center in Nevada County Fairgrounds – Grass Valley. Use Gate #2. The Board & Conservation meetings start at 6:00pm and the General Meeting starts at 7:00pm.

### Program

Steve Cooper, Trout fishing on the Owyhee River in Oregon

## Programs



By Trent Pridemore

## Gold Country Flyfishers Programs

### Upcoming Programs:

We have exciting material ahead for our last program of the year and into 2010. Steve Cooper will return two years after a fascinating and thought provoking program on Grand Ronde Smallmouth Bass fishing. In November's presentation he will discuss the Owyhee River (as Steve says...one of the West's best kept secrets). This is a "Trout Program". We are talking about 20 inch plus fish that can be reached in one day of driving!

Be sure to help us with a good turnout for our last program of the year.

**January:** Ken Davis returns after several years. Remember his spectacular insect photography!!!! We will get new entomology material and an update on the Mud Snail and other invasive pests. This is another enthusiastic and dynamic speaker who is one of the most knowledgeable on the circuit.

**February/March:** We are looking at Programs by Bill Mitchell on the wrap-up of the ongoing scale studies on our Yuba River fish. His visit two or more years ago was fascinating and enlightening on the dynamic of our home river.

**March** may bring a perspective of the Nevada Irrigation District and all aspects of water politics as well as recreational interests.

**April** is scheduled for a Free Hamburger Night that will be combined with guest fly tying, table clinics on local rivers and a swap meet...no junk allowed.

Your input is always welcome!

*Trent*



## Fishout Schedule



By Mike Williams

### Schedule for 2009

| Date               | Location  | Fishout   | Leader                       |
|--------------------|---|-----------|------------------------------|
| October 29         | Lower Yuba River<br>Nymphing Clinic<br>Hammon Grove | Trout     | Frank Rinella                |
| November<br>8,9,10 | Henderson Springs                                   | Trout     | Wayne Holloway               |
| November<br>TBA    | Feather River                                       | Steelhead | <b><i>Need Volunteer</i></b> |
| December 5         | Lower Yuba River<br>UC Davis Property               | Trout     | Mike Connor                  |

## Christmas Party Reminder

The Gold Country Flyfishers' Annual Christmas Dinner and Celebration will be held on **Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>** at our regular meeting place, the **Senior Center at the Nevada County Fairgrounds**. All GCFE members and close family members are invited and encouraged to attend. Reservations are required. Key additional items of information are:

- Opens for socializing: 5:00 PM (BYOB)
- Pre-dinner entertainment by one of our own members
- Dinner : 7:00 PM
- Cost: \$10 per person; \$15 per couple
- Main Entrée: provided by GCFE funds
- Side dishes: Provided by attendees according to first letter of last name
  - A-F appetizer
  - G-K salad
  - L-R side dish for entrée
  - S-Z dessert
- Raffle of fantastic prizes donated by national/regional/local fly shops and vendors/manufacturers
- Silent auction for even more fantastic equipment and vacation trips

## Fishout Report

By Mike Williams

### October Fishouts



*Note: Thanks to Don Steffa for offering to assist Mike Williams with coordination of Fishouts. Mike can be contacted at ( [river-angler@att.net](mailto:river-angler@att.net) ) and Don at ( [ez1flyfisher@hotmail.com](mailto:ez1flyfisher@hotmail.com) )*

Thursday October 29<sup>th</sup> we have our Lower Yuba Nymph Clinic at Hammon Grove. Led by Frank Rinella, this will be another opportunity for you to get out and learn about nymph fishing. We'll have some of our best river guys there to work with you. The technique is simple and easy to learn. You'll be surprised, after you practice it for a while, how well it really works. Plain and simple, I catch my best fish when nymphing. The fish are on the egg bite now. This works well with the nymph system. We plan to go over knots, line and rigging, indicators, bugs, talk about the Redds and spend time on the water. We'll meet at 4:00 pm in the back parking lot closest to the river. Rain or Shine! See you there.

I want to thank Alan Gere and the conversation committee for donating equipment for our fishouts. I now have 3 #5 weight outfits. They can be used for clinics or fishouts, fishing either rivers or lakes. We have floating lines for the moving water and camo intermediates for lake fishing. I will bring them to the clinic and have them available if someone needs a loaner that day. This is an opportunity for you to get out and use good equipment even if you don't have your own yet. Call me, or shoot me an e-mail if you want to use one of these.

For November we have the Henderson Springs Trout outing led by Wayne Holloway. Call him if you want details, although I think that it is full now. Thanks Wayne, for leading another fishout.

I still want to have an outing for Steelhead on the Feather in November if we have enough interest. I do need a volunteer though. Someone needs to step up and volunteer for this.

Mike Connor will host a Lower Yuba River fishout at the UC property on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>. This is close enough to the opener, and should be a good time to be on the water, weather permitting. More details and a sign up sheet will be available at the upcoming meeting.

Thanks go out to Don Steffa for helping out with the fishout business at the monthly meetings. I haven't been able to attend these lately and do appreciate Don's help.

*Mike*



Don Steffa, Ed Tom, and Isaac Reiswig III had a great trip recently to the Owyhee River in Oregon, where they "had trouble keeping the big browns (and a few rainbows) off their lines". 'Looks like their stories may have been true!

## Conservation Corner

By Allan Gere



### CONSERVATION VICTORY

San Francisco-based Trust for Public Land recently purchased 595 Acres of oak woodlands and 2 miles of Yuba River frontage. This land located 15 miles outside of Marysville was slated to be bulldozed for a large home development. As many as 60 homes were planned next to the Yuba River.

The Trust intends to turn the land over to the University of CA Sierra Field Research Station for salmon studies and restoration work before eventually opening it to the public. See SF Chronicle article front page Mon. Oct 19, 2009.

### MY KIND OF SHOP

“Do you have any olive, chartreuse woolies?” “How’s the fishing in the Lower Yuba?” “My waders are shot, what do you recommend?” “What are the flows in the river?” “What flies are working?” “Are the pmd’s coming out?”

When I was a boy, I remember pictures of gentlemen sitting around a pot bellied stove with a cup of coffee or (something else) in a Middle America small town general store. There were happy, smiling faces and it looked like they were enjoying conversation with trusted neighbors and friends. Well, there is no pot-bellied stove, but there is a place of trust and friendship that offers a haven for the fly-angler.

Nevada City Anglers is a place that one can get great advice, quality equipment, and even share a tall fishing tale with amiable owner & club members, Tony Dumont or associate Frank Rinella. They are always there to listen and put up with a *slow learner* angler like me. In fact, I wonder if I would still be fly fishing if there was not a Nevada City Anglers. They help me buy the “hot flies,” and find out what the flows are. My fishing needs are met (my rods and reels have Tony inscribed on them), my jokes are tolerated, even laughed at. And I leave the shop with renewed confidence that today is the day for that “big one.”

I remember winning a Sage fly rod donated by Nevada City Anglers at a club raffle. Wow, a double win... because the raffle ticket proceeds go to the club treasury and part of that money goes to **conservation** projects spearheaded by my conservation council.

I remember hearing from one of our speakers how so many local fly shops have closed their doors in these tough times. We are so fortunate to have our own fly shop right here in Nevada City. Next time you are near 417 Broad St.,

### Want Ad

If you're interested in buying a Float tube (Outcast Fat Cat) with fins and air pump, call: Doug Evans or check with him at the meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. He'll have the gear there.

## Minutes from Gold Country Flyfishers Board Meeting October 6, 2009

(taken by Dave Bear)

In attendance: Mark Rockwell      Mike Connor  
                          Trent Pridemore      David Bear  
                          Steve Allen              Frank Rinella

Meeting called to order at 6:00PM

September 2009 meeting minutes reviewed and approved

Financial Report (Neal B.) Budget as of 9/1/09 reviewed and approved. Balance \$5,797.54.

Discussion on amount of balance. Reserve is not too large for a non-profit. If any excess, return to members in form of social events

Membership stands at 140

Election of officers

Vote next meeting

Slate still open. Some nominees suggested

Request for nominees from membership

Program Chair – Trent to continue for another year. January will have a "Headliner"

Christmas Party:

Will be held Saturday December 12 at regular meeting place. Round tables. Start at 5 Pm (social) 6:30 dinner. Tim Aeschliman to provide 15 or 20 min background entertainment program.

Donor Request letters not yet out. Need to expedite. Mark to get letter to Wally Holtan for sending out. Frank to get list of donors from Ed Stember and pass on to Wally

Next two newsletters will contain reminder of party (Dave)

Vickie to prepare flyer for handout at next two meetings

Price to be \$10 individual and \$15 per couple

Main course to be prepared by Vickie and attendees to bring side dishes

Shirts (fishing shirt with club logo; discounted price from Sage or Simms)

Too early to get for 2010. Frank to report back in Spring

Meeting adjourned 7PM

### FLYTYING and FLYCASTING

By Sam Higginbotham

Fly tying Wed November 11th at 13835 Seven Cedars Dr. G.V. 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Fly of the month: CADDIS EMERGER. Call Sam before you come (and for material details).

Fly casting training has been suspended until Spring due to lack of interest

**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  
Programs: Trent Pridemore  
Fishouts: Mike Williams & Don Steffa  
Raffle: Tim Colbert  
Library: Len Valente  
Casting/Flytying: Sam Higginbotham  
Webmaster: Terry Hobart  
Newsletter: David Bear

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(530) 346-2782

[acclaimsigns@hughes.net](mailto:acclaimsigns@hughes.net)

# 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)

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

