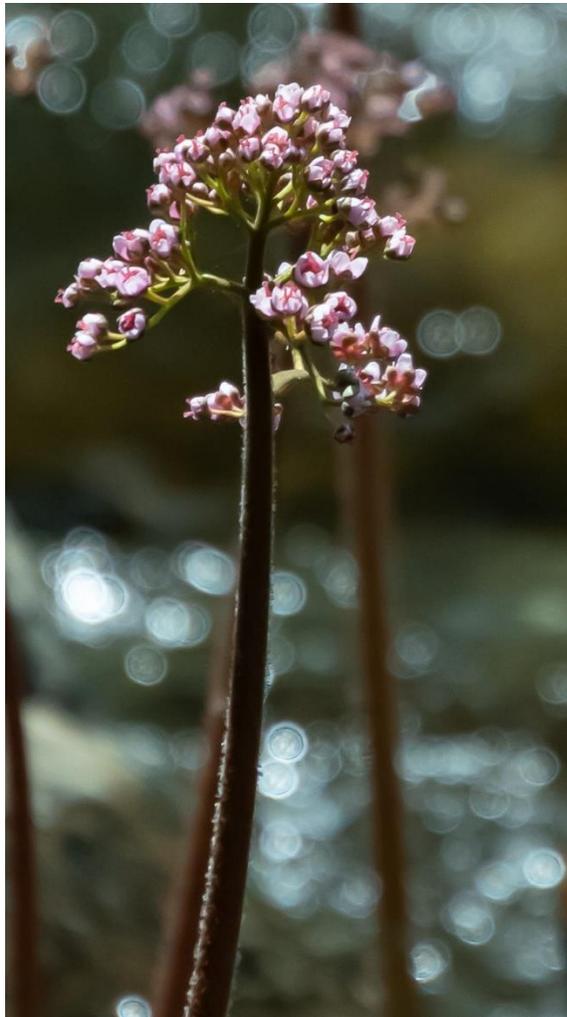




GCFF NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2020



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President's Message:

Hi everyone. What a year to be president of GCOFF. I really miss the monthly meetings. How are you all feeling about the state and county directives? I believe Nevada County has been fortunate in having a relatively low number of COVID-19 cases, most of those being in the eastern portion of the county. It says to me that the stay-at-home directives have worked! It is a conundrum of public health management that is trying to get ahead of the crisis by implementing tough guidelines and then having us, the population impacted by the tough guidelines, not seeing an outbreak in our communities, saying, "why are we doing this? Nothing has happened!" Well, that means the directives worked. But it is a tough sell. Given what I understand, I can't see that our communities will be able to get back to normal until there is a safe and effective vaccine. Retail businesses are clamoring to reopen but who will be their customers? Who are the risk takers? I can't see my household venturing out to restaurants, sitting six feet apart but breathing the same air as other patrons... and air travel, forget about it. So, when will our club gather for a meeting? I'm afraid it is many months away. There are those who believe the war planning statistic of acceptable casualties should be, well, acceptable. That, for me, is a difficult concept. People look at the U.S. population, about 330 million, and say, "200,000 deaths; that's not so bad." What are your thoughts on that?

As I write this, we're going into Memorial Day weekend, the traditional start to the summer season. Vacations, swimming at our favorite beaches, decades of traditional visits to family venues, fishing in our favorite streams or venturing to explore new ones. Who is going to be doing this? I find it concerning that the U.S. has about one third of worldwide deaths due to COVID-19. What would it take to unite our country against a foe? My mother, who turned 92 last week, and I talk about the state of mind of the U.S. population.

We are so detached from our military forces. In World War II, everyone was involved. What would it take to get everyone involved and united in fighting a foe? The country is so divided on issues. I didn't serve in the military. My father did and all uncles of his generation did, but my respect for the military was born many years ago when, in Scouting, I participated in the annual Memorial Day honor of putting American flags on hundreds of graves in Golden Gate National Cemetery on the San Francisco peninsula. Still today, I thank veterans and active duty for their service to our country. I know that numerous of our club members served. You are a special breed in today's world, and I thank you for your service.

So, while we see a loosening of guidelines, please continue to be vigilant in protecting yourself and others. When in public places, please wear a mask. The mask you wear, protects others! Wearing a mask tells others, "I care about you and wear a mask to protect you. Please, wear a mask to protect me."

GOLD COUNTRY FLY FISHERS LOSES ONE OF ITS OWN

Sadly, one of our Past Presidents, John Kusanovich, succumbed earlier this month to the Leukemia he had been bravely fighting. I believe those members who knew John have been told of his passing. GCFF's condolences were sent to his family in the following letter.

May 20, 2020

Dear Kusanovich family,

This morning club member Mike Conner informed club President, Larry Strauss of John's passing.

The newer members of the club, of which I count myself, did not have the opportunity to fish with John on his favorite water's, the Yuba River and Pyramid Lake. However, we all owe John no small measure of gratitude for sharing his knowledge and joy of fishing these waters that we all enjoy today.

John's work during his active involvement with Gold Country Fly Fishers – including his serving as President - continues to this day – advancing the art of fly fishing. For this we all owe John, and his friends such as Mike much gratitude.

In John's memory we will continue to grow his legacy.

From the Board of Director's and all our members, our love and condolences.

Richard Fetterman, Secretary
GCFF, PO Box 2988, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Remembering John Kusanovich

by Mike Connor

John Kusanovich was a Gold Country Fly Fishers member for several years. He loved to fish the Yuba, as many of us do, fishing from shore or from his pontoon boat. He also enjoyed fishing Pyramid Lake. He fished with several club members including Herb Busboom, Sam Higginbotham and myself. He was active in Gold Country Fly Fishers throughout his membership, serving as president in the early 2000's.

I remember an incident John had when floating the Yuba in his pontoon boat. He had attached a rope to the boat and his leg so he wouldn't lose it if he went overboard. Well, the boat went over; he went out, got tangled with the rope and boat and into a serious situation in the river. He finally managed to get untangled. John was a large man. It is good that he was, as

he managed to serve as an anchor for the boat, crawl to shore, and prevent anything more serious from happening. It was one of those cases where after you realize the danger is over, you have to laugh at the sight of a large, wet man crawling to shore with his attached pontoon boat trying to float away down the river.

Letter from your Editor:

Just a reminder that your newsletter needs content. A good way to stay connected even while isolated is your newsletter. I am hoping to see some fantastic stories and/or pictures. I can help you and would love to hear from you. **Please get your stuff to me by June 19 and/or let me know something is coming.**

Thanks and Stay Healthy,
Sheila Ryan Weintraub



Sheila caught a beautiful little Rainbow (7 inches) here in this pond on a small Sierra stream, but he was camera shy and didn't stick around for his photo.

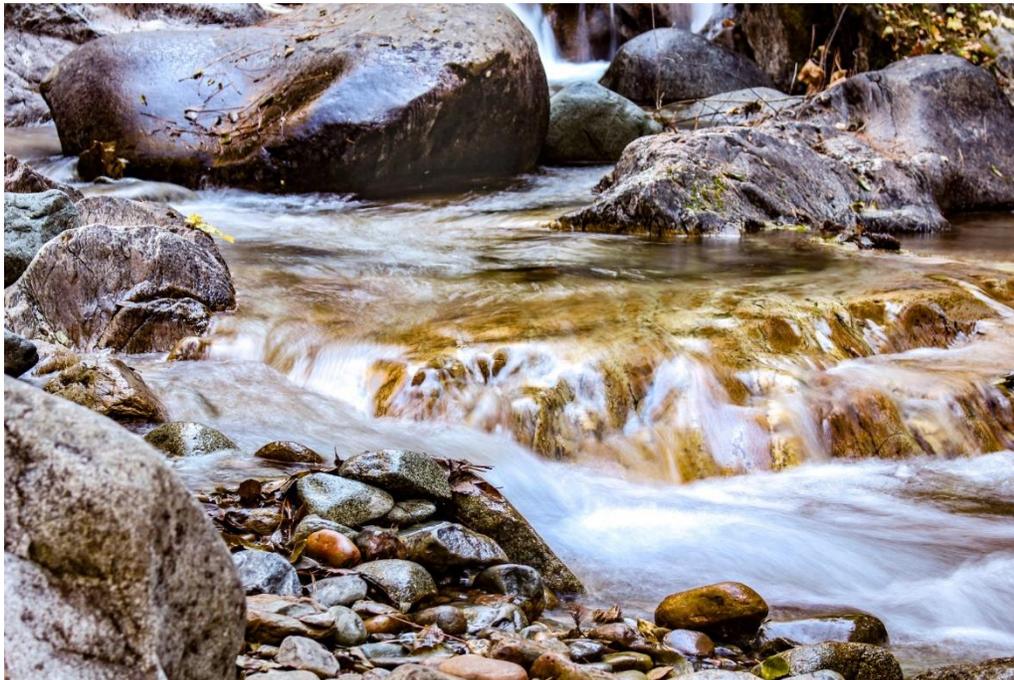


Will of Santa Rosa took this photo of Dave Earl on Friday, May 15, with a nice shad from the Yuba River



Here's a largemouth bass caught at Scott's Flat earlier this month by Dave Earl. He used a white balanced leech float-n-fly.

Tom Grant went fishing in May too, but, unbelievably, no reports of any catching has so far been received. He is smiling, though, and it does look like he's reeling something in,



Jimmie says he caught 14 trout in this small Sierra stream, but he didn't take photos of his catches. Hmm, well, he is an experienced fisherman and so maybe we should believe him.

Remember When? By Mike Connor

With weather conditions as dry as they are this year, we forget what the Yuba and other regional rivers can look like when we get lots of moisture. The first photo was taken on January 5, 1997, with the Yuba flowing at what was estimated at about 120,000 cfs. Contrast that with the view on January 16 of this year of the Yuba with 721 cfs.



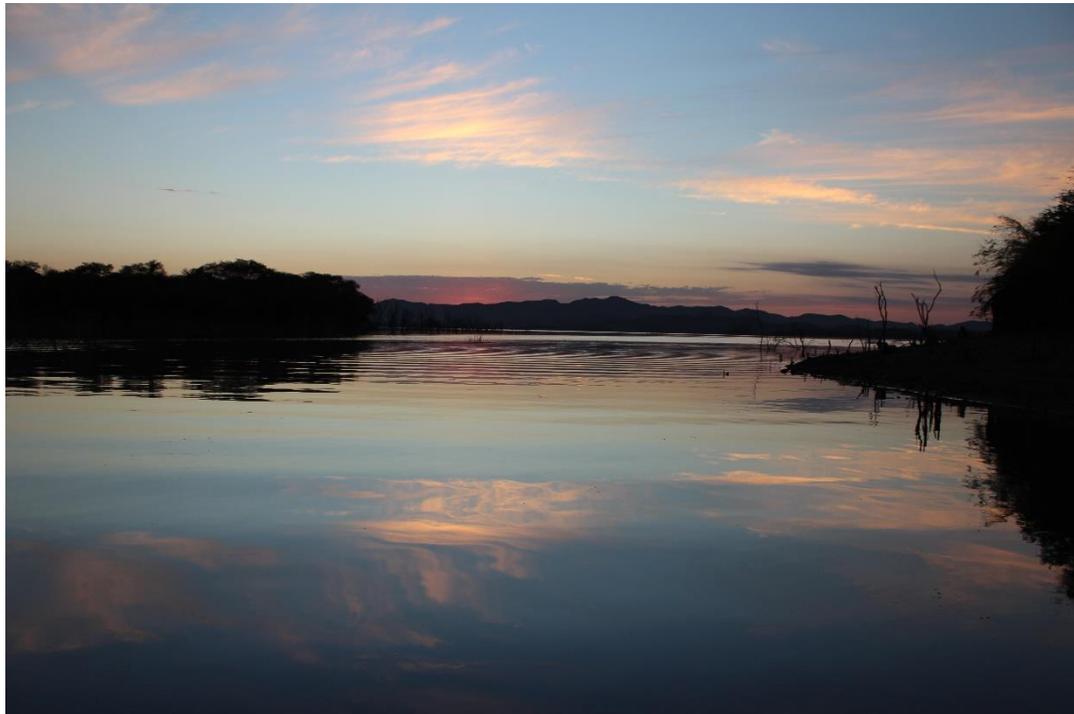
This is what Englebright Dam looked like on approximately January 5, 1997. The flows were actually down a little from the high point on January 1 and 2. Flow rates had to be estimated because all the gauges were either washed out or over topped; estimates went as high as 150,000 cfs.



Trent shared three photos from a fishing trip a few years ago to Lake Picachos, bass capitol of Sinaloa.



Now that's what I've learned is "structure"!



Wouldn't we all like to be there this evening?

FLY PAPER
by
Ralph Wood

The Mallard Shrimp



I think every West Coast fisherman needs a couple of shrimp patterns in his fly box. For years, when I lived in Marin County, I spent many hours along the shores of Tomales Bay catching flounder, jack smelt, leopard shark, stripers, halibut and the occasional coho. The beaches at Bolinas, Stinson and Dillon were a surf perch heaven with the occasional striper thrown in for good measure. Shrimp patterns caught a lot of fish for me in those days.

Shrimp patterns were useful along the North Coast steelhead estuaries. I vividly remember one day just below Fernbridge on the Eel River, a Horner shrimp pattern netted two beautiful Jack Salmon and three steelhead in an afternoon's fishing. We also used shrimp patterns in the Gualala and Russian River tidewaters.

In those days, the only shrimp patterns we were aware of were the Horner shrimp, General Practitioner, and a pattern Cal Bird tied for his own use. Recently, while rummaging around on the internet, I ran into a pattern called the Mallard Shrimp. It is quick to tie, uses a minimum number of materials and looks terrific. I confess that I haven't tried the pattern yet, but I am looking for some decent weather and a break in the Covid-19 virus to drive out to the Stinson Beach area, see my son and try my luck. The surf perch should be in now and the run usually lasts until June, and that is also a great time of the year to catch flounder.

The Mallard Shrimp

Thread:	6/0 Tan
Hook:	Mustad 3908C salt water or any 1X long heavy wire hook
Flash:	One doubled strand of silver or pearlescent Flashabou
Feelers:	Mallard, Gadwall or Pintail flank tip fibers
Body:	You can use the fluff from the flank feathers or a white creamy dubbing
Eyes:	Black mono eyes
Back:	Fibers from a wrapped flank feather pulled back and fixed with Loon thin epoxy

1. Wrap the thread from behind the eye of the hook to the bend and tie in the flash material (one strand doubled).
2. Tie in the tip of your flank feather. I like to use a fairly long feather and separate out the tip and save the balance to use for the back wrap.
3. Dub a ball at the point you tied in the feelers. If you use the fibers that you normally discard from the flank feather, use dubbing wax as the stuff is difficult to dub. The dubbing ball supports the eyes in a more upright position.
4. Tie in the eyes. You can melt the ends of a piece of 40-50 pound mono making a ball on either end. Use as is or dip the balls in black lacquer or paint and let dry. I used Stonfo plastic eyes V Type on the example.
5. Dub the balance of the body leaving enough room to wrap the flank feather 3 or 4 times. Use the same dubbing as the ball.
6. Tie the rest of the of the flank feather or new one if you don't have enough. Wrap (with the concave side of the feather facing the bend) 3 or 4 times. Whip finish and cut the thread.
7. Pull the wrapped fibers back to the bend of the hook. Make sure they are surrounding the hook although there should be a few more fibers along the back of the fly. Once you get the fibers the way you want don't let go of them. Using Loon UV clear thin finish put a line along the back from the eye of the hook to just behind the eyes of the shrimp. Hit it with the light. Now you can let go. You can put another line of Loon over the first line to get a shiny back.



THE NEWBIE GOES FLY FISHING

by Sheila Ryan Weintraub

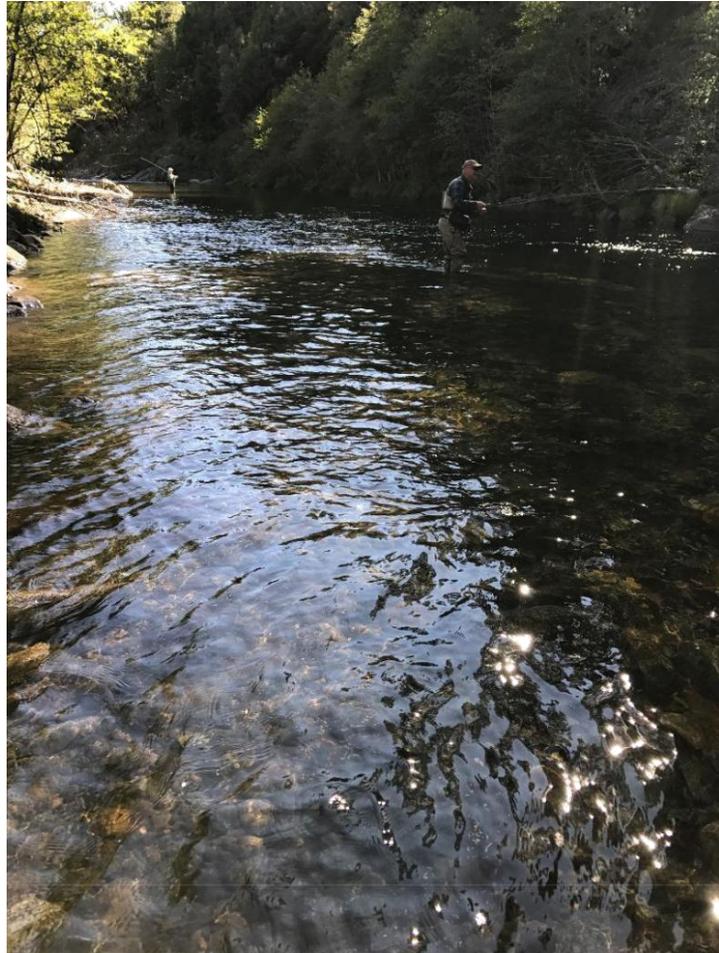
This story was originally written and published in the Tri-Valley Fly Fishers' newsletter, The Barbless Hook, in 2017.

Have you ever seen fluffy little ducklings lined up in a row behind their mother floating easily down the river? That's what it feels like to wade into new water with a new rod and new waders behind new friends. I just don't look as cute or float so well. Lucky for me, I didn't fall in, but there were rescuers nearby if

needed. The cold water swirling around my waders and boots as I made my way into the North Fork of the Stanislaus Saturday morning was refreshing. I could have stayed there all day even without catching a fish. My volunteer guide and host for the weekend, Tom Vargas, led the way into the river upstream from the Sourgrass bridge and showed me where to stand. He fished a dry fly, and I tried to swing a soft hackle. He got some bites. Neither of us caught a fish. He said the water was running stronger this year than in past years and that could be a good thing or maybe not so good.

Catching a fish was supposed to be the goal, but I was happy just being in the water surrounded by fresh-smelling greenery and fishing with new friends. Tom was getting bites, so I accepted the dry fly he offered and promptly lost it in a wood and rock mess on the opposite shore.

He generously provided another, and I moved downstream. I don't think it was the flies. I thought it was me, but no one was having much success, so maybe it was the fish. We moved, at Tom's suggestion, to the old Boards Crossing bridge and walked upstream away from the dog walkers and bait fishers hanging out under the bridge. We continued to have no success, but it was a beautiful day in a beautiful place, and I wanted more.



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Sunday morning, Mitchie and I persuaded a tired and sore Kent (it wasn't difficult) to go fishing some more. He had been intrigued by talk Saturday of Beaver Creek and got driving directions to get us there. We got lost. It's easy to mix up a "stay left at the fork" with a "go right at the fork," isn't it? Thanks to the Verizon network, my phone had service and we eventually found our way to Beaver Creek. Kent had caught a fish Friday afternoon, but Mitchie had caught nothing and was determined. I was happy just to be on the water. On this water, I could see a nice-sized rainbow hanging out just below the surface and feeding on whatever floated toward



him, even twigs and leaves. Easy peasy, right? There was a boulder between him and me and there was a broad, low-hanging tree above. Casting so the fish didn't see the rod and the tree didn't take the fly was not going to be easy, but Kent showed me a new cast: the bow and arrow. With some practice, I was able to land Kent's dry fly (I was loaded with soft hackles but could not find a proper dry fly on my person anywhere) in just the right place and did get a bite. One bite in the midst of a trillion scare-the-fish-away casts, but it was a bite, and this fish was determined to come back. When I got tired and decided to move upstream where I could swing a soft hackle, Kent took over with the bow and arrow. By that time, I'm afraid, the fish had moved downstream where Mitchie was waiting, and she caught one.

I spent a lovely weekend in a beautiful place with some good and generous fly fishers. What could have been better?

Gold Country Fly Fishers

Post Office Box 2988
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Officers and Board Members:

President:	Larry Strauss
Vice President:	Bill Burden
Past President:	Jimmie Marchio
Secretary:	Richard Fetterman
Treasurer:	Mike McKinley
Director:	Diane Berg
Director:	Frank Rinella
Director:	Lee Coffee
Director:	Rich Tortosa

Committees and Chairs:

Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge:	TBD
Conservation:	Frank Rinella, Drew Irby, Wilton Fryer
NCCFFI:	Frank Rinella, Clay Hash, Larry Strauss
Fish-Outs:	Tom Grant, Mike Connor
Classes, Clinics, Workshops:	Clay Hash
Fly Tying:	Sam Higginbotham
Holiday Party:	Bill Burden, Peter Burnes
Damsels – Women’s Program:	Diane Berg
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Fishing in the City – Kids’ Day:	Frank Rinella
Meeting Programs:	Dave Ackerman
Meeting Dinners:	Mike Connor, Diane Berg
Meeting Drinks and Snacks:	Larry Uno
Monthly Raffle:	Tom Page, Jerry Austin
Membership:	Pam Kline, Debbie DiSanto
New Members:	Tim Ackerman, Robin Denegri
Newsletter:	Sheila Ryan Weintraub
Trout in the Classroom:	Robin Denegri, Larry Uno
Webmaster:	Peter Burnes

MISSION STATEMENT

The Purpose and Objectives of Gold Country Fly Fishers are to:

- Support the “Catch and Release Ethic”;
- Support fly fishing for the recreation of members;
- Promote and support the conservation of our waters and fisheries;
- Provide assistance to members in the skills and techniques of fly fishing;
- Publicize and promote fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying and other related topics;
- Represent fly fishers through liaison with sports and conservation organizations.