



GCFF NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2020

Cancellations

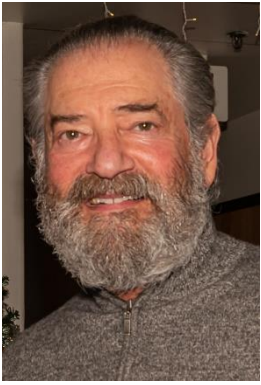
- Clear Lake and all other Fish-outs through April at least
- Know Your Watershed, March 29
- General Membership Meetings April 7 and May 5
- Fly Tying with Sam in April
- Weekly Fly Tying at Reel Anglers through April at least
Note that Reel Anglers is open for business but will be accepting only phone orders and on-line (soon) with curbside delivery.
No one will be allowed inside the shop.
- Reel Anglers Fly Shop customer appreciation BBQ, May 1st
- Fly Fishing 101, May 16 and 17
- Scouting Fly Fishing Merit Badge

Please also note that, in view of recent hacking attempts, all email addresses and telephone numbers have been removed from the newsletter. You may reach members by checking your membership list or by email through an information request on the website. A list of all officers, directors and committee chairs is at the back of the newsletter.

INSIDE

Cancellations	1
President's Message	2
Help Wanted	3
Dave Earl with Crappie	3
Damsels – Women Fly Fish Too	4
Jerry Austin and Larry Uno on the Delta	4
Soft Hackle or Wet Flies by Jimmie Marchio	5
Fly Paper by Ralph Wood	6
Some thoughts by Frank Rinella	7
Steelhead Fry – Trout in the Classroom	8
Club Officers, Directors, Committees	9
Mission Statement	9

President's Message:



Hi everyone. Wow! To say our lives have been altered in the last few weeks is a huge understatement. As announced via email, the club's April 7th meeting was cancelled in accordance with the directives from state and federal agencies. In the last few days, we heard from the administration of the Nevada County Fair. The club was

informed that the fairgrounds, including our meeting room, the Ponderosa Building, will be closed for all of April and May. So, our May 5th general meeting will not be held at the Ponderosa Building. The club will not be charged for the two meetings. So, alas, there will be no general meeting in May either. Please check our website, www.goldcountryff.org. We will try to keep the information up to date.

I trust you are all taking the novel coronavirus seriously. There are four in my household: my 91-year-old mother, my chronically ill wife, and my 40-year-old son. I'm rather stressed and concerned people in our community may not be complying with directives. Granted, we live in a sparsely populated, some would say rural, area. While this may slow down possible infections, as of this writing, it by no means grants us a pass to ignore the directives. Tuesday morning, Nevada Co issued a CodeRED alert calling for all residents to stay at home. When at the grocery market today, a gentleman was coughing and not covering his mouth. We are putting a huge amount of trust in our neighbors to do the right thing. One could argue, as many I'm sure do, that walk and wade fly fishing is like taking a walk. I mean, who wants to fish within six feet of our partners anyway? Oh, that may be those shoulder-to-shoulder gear guys going for salmon near the outflow of the Feather River afterbay. I just don't know that we would be setting the proper example for our neighbors. I was upset today to see golfers on the course here at Lake Wildwood. I believe it is probably best, as good stewards of our environment, which includes those humans around us, to comply and not go fly fishing. This is my opinion and it has changed from days ago when the first person confirmed to have the corona virus was reported.

If you don't have it already, here is Nevada County's community guidance website, <https://mynevadacounty.com/2962/Guidance-for-the-Community>

<https://www.goldcountryff.org>

Please consider your choices with care so we all stay healthy and can come together at future Gold Country Fly Fisher meetings.

On a lighter subject, we now have 60 club members who have signed up and logged into the club's website. That's terrific! As you recall, due to hacker mischievousness, the club may need to restrict certain sections of our website to only those members who log in to the website. You will see this **Log In** button on the right side of the website. Simply click on it and fill in your name and email address. Once we see your request, your credentials will be turned on... simple.

The board will consider what sections of our website should go private. Recently, a hacker accessed the newsletter where we display numerous email addresses of our officers, board, and committee chairs, and started sending emails which were over my name as president. Several recipients notified me because they looked suspicious and several were taken in by the email even though it did not come from my email address. Of course, the bogus emails were asking for money in some form or another. Fortunately, no one acted, but I did get a few who asked for additional information so they could comply. So, you see, it is important that we restrict certain data from public eyes. We will most likely remove email addresses from the newsletter but try to keep most of it public.

Please stay healthy. I hope to see you in a few months.

Help Wanted

The club continues to seek club members to help manage and operate club activities and programs which have been part of Gold Country Fly Fishers for many years. For example, the club's support for the Scouting Merit Badge for Fly Fishing may not happen unless someone steps up to coordinate the program. In general, I believe that if a program, whether a new idea or a legacy program, does not have enough human resources stepping up to help, it should be put on the shelf. We have several club members who have been doing the same job for years. These club members desire to help the club in different areas but feel stuck because no new volunteers came forward. These club activities and programs are destined to be put on the shelf. We ended last year with close to 200 club members. If everyone helps a little, our club can thrive and continue with current programs and consider new programs beneficial to our club. Watch our website,

emails, and newsletter for areas where help is needed and please volunteer where you can.

Larry Strauss
GCFF 2020 President

HELP WANTED

Your General Membership Meeting
Dinner Committee needs help
with setting up, taking down, and
ordering and delivering food.

If you can help, please contact
Mike Connor

HELP WANTED

Social Media,
Community Outreach, and
Our Website

If you can help, please contact
Larry Strauss

HELP WANTED

Trout in the Classroom
is looking for volunteers

If interested, please call or email one of
the Committee chairs:

Robin DeNegri
Larry Uno

HELP WANTED

SCOUTING FLY FISHING
MERIT BADGE

Needs help for next year

If you can, please be in touch with

Frank Rinella
or
Bob Winters

Early preparation is necessary.



Dave Earl with a Crappie caught at Clear
Lake before it was closed.

DAMSELS – WOMEN FLY FISH TOO

On March 11, Tom Page held a casting get together for the Damsels. Susan Schimmel, Melissa Bruce, Pam Kline, Debbie DiSanto, Cicely Brookover and Robin Denegri spent a very productive hour plus at Condon Park with Tom. No matter how new to fly fishing or how long one has been casting there are always new things to learn and pesky bad habits to try to undo. We will have more casting get togethers.

Next month we had planned to have a Damsel get together to learn about rods, reels, lines, boots, waders and the gear that is available for our sport. However!

You all know by now our official activities and meetings are on hold. Casting get togethers can happen within the health safety guidelines. Outdoors and definitely six feet or more apart! A possibility we will explore. In the meantime, go fishing!

Robin Denegri



Jerry Austin, left, and Larry Uno, above, fishing on the Delta.

Soft Hackle or Wet Flies

by Jimmie Marchio



Orange Partridge

HOOK	Sizes 14 or 16
SILK	Orange
BODY	Orange silk
RIB	Fine gold wire
LEGS	Brown speckled feather from the back of a partridge

NOTES ~ Some modern authorities believe only a lighter shade of orange silk should be used. Historically, various shades orange silk were used, both waxed and unwaxed.

In recent years I have found myself enamored with traditional soft hackle flies. Not sure why this is. Perhaps it comes from the connection of soft hackles to the beginnings of fly fishing. Earliest records tell us that wet flies came first. In fact, wet flies have been dated back to more than 2,300 years ago in China. Before floating dry flies, streamers, terrestrials or any other fly imitation....they were catching trout....many trout. It seems they always have, and always will.

To get a sense of how soft-hackled wet flies have evolved, we must look at what was considered radical at the time the fly was first invented and fished. While some are content to fish mainstream fly patterns at any given time, there are certain anglers who are always thinking about new possibilities with feather and steel. These fishermen pushed the boundaries of what was "acceptable" at the time. Sometimes fellow anglers caught on quickly to these new flies, while at other times, it took longer for the un-conventional to become conventional. Nothing stays the same forever and it keeps the game interesting. Often these evolutionary flies were designed because anglers wanted to show fish flies that fish hadn't seen before, thus giving those fishermen an added advantage.

A hotbed of soft hackle/wet fly development was in England during the late 19th century. Many patterns were developed for fishing both rivers and stillwaters. Some of those patterns are still used today although many of them fell out of fashion long ago. Fortunately, there have been books published about those fly patterns and their development so one may recreate and fish them if one wishes. Should you wish to know what those books are please feel free to contact me. I am happy to share the information with you.

To perhaps whet your appetite for these flies here is one of them and its recipe.

The Orange Partridge (or Partridge and Orange) is one that still has some popularity today and is still successfully fished. It is tied in what is known as the English North Country Style of fly tying. The long hackle makes it a spider style of fly. It originally was created to imitate stoneflies. It also can imitate species of caddis.

FLYPAPER

By Ralph Wood

CARP – the Headstand



In 1995 Barry Reynolds and John Berryman co-authored Beyond Trout, a Fly Fishing Guide (available on Amazon). The last chapter deals with fly fishing for carp. In it, Reynolds describes his first meeting with a carp, a fly rod and a green Woolly Bugger.

Two years later in 1997 Barry Reynolds, Brad Befus and John Berryman wrote Carp on the Fly, a Fly Fishing Guide (available on Amazon). The book revealed the entire package on carp: Where they lived, how to find them, what they ate, how to present the fly and the necessary tackle.

Carp are no longer the great untapped fly fishing resource they were in 1995 and 1997. As a sport fish they have smarts and lots of physical power. Carp have become known as a great fish at which to throw your fly. You can sum up a carp's living circumstances as follows: They will live almost anywhere; they eat almost anything and, be it hot water in the summer or cold water in the winter, they will be active. Best of all carp can be found in almost all our lakes.

The fly we are going to discuss is called the Headstand and was developed by Lance Egan. Some of his trout nymphs have become so popular that you might have one of his designs in your fly box. This pattern is meant to be presented to tailing carp or to wary fish that are hunting for food along the bottom. The fly is gently twitched to show movement.

Headstand

Hook:	#8 Tiemco 2457
Thread:	Tan 6/0
Tail:	Gold variant rabbit strip fur
Eyes:	Medium silver bead chain
Hackle:	Brown rooster
Body:	Rust Antron dubbing (Sparkle dubbing if you have it)
Legs:	Barred pumpkin/green-orange Sili Legs
Wing:	Peacock sword
Head:	Fluorescent orange Antron Sparkle dubbing.

1. Secure the hook with the eye pointed down so you can begin your thread wraps at the rear of the shank. This way it is easier to mount the tail.

2. Cut a thick tuft of fur from the rabbit strip and tie on to the rear of the hook shank. Tail should be ½ inch long. Then trim the butts at a long angle and reposition the hook in the vise.
3. Build up a smooth thread base to the hook eye. Wrap the thread back from the hook eye and mount the chain bead eyes with figure eight wraps. Add Zap-A-Gap to the tie in point and wrap the thread back to the rear of the thread base tying in a size 12 to 14 brown rooster hackle as you go. Leave enough bare hackle stem for one strap so you won't have fibers sticking out over the tail.
4. Form a slim dubbing rope with rust Antron and wrap a short tapered body to behind the eyes fatter at the front end of the body. Palmer the body with five wraps of the hackle. Tie off behind the eyes and trim the excess hackle.
5. Select a strand of Sili Legs and cut in half and tie on each side of the body. Trim the legs so they extend only slightly past the end of the dubbed body (they should be about ½ inch long).
6. Cut off about a dozen Peacock Sword fibers. (Try to keep the tips even and the fibers curved in the same direction). Turn the fly over with the hook point up and tie in the fibers behind the eyes extending as far as the outside bend of the hook. Trim the butts as close as possible and rotate the fly to the traditional position.
7. Dub the orange sparkle Antron behind, around and in front of the bead chain eyes. Whip finish and go catch a carp.

These are not easy fish to catch! They have a great sense of smell and can feel small vibrations in the water. They also have excellent audio sensitivity and have a high ranking for game fish IQ. They can hear you coming and will remember your fly and to top it off, they are picky. All in all, they are a worthy opponent.

In Lieu of a Conservation Education Committee Report, SOME THOUGHTS from our Chair:

What is a fly fisher to do in these crazy times when we all have been asked to stay inside and to practice social distancing?

We know for now and in our near future that all fly fishing club meetings and fish-outs are cancelled. We all need to keep within the State mandated guidelines so we can get through this COVID-19 crisis as soon as possible.

You CAN use this event as something positive and take a little time each day to work on your fly fishing skills: practice casting in your yard, fly tying, work on rigging and knots, clean your rods, reels and lines, or read up on your local aquatic entomology.

For now, with local libraries and most fly shops closed, the internet is one of our best learning tools. There are numerous websites and YouTube videos on just about any fly fishing topic you might be looking for. The Fly Fishers International website --flyfishersinternational.org -- is another great resource that maybe you haven't had time in the past to checkout. That website offers many resources under Conservation, Education, casting, tying and more. The new Casting Skills challenge guidelines are also on the site. You could practice on the skill levels so you will be ready to go through the testing as soon as we get back to regular club meetings.

And, please remember that if you ever need to just talk fish'n with someone, your fellow club members are just a phone call away.

We all need to take care of ourselves, our family, friends, watersheds and fisheries.

Frank Rinella
Conservation



Union Hills teacher Chris Thibodeau and Rocco Fasone checking the size of the Steelhead fry raised in our Trout in the Classroom program.

An enlargement of the tank below so you can find the fry.

They were released soon after to their home waters in the lower America river.



Officers and Board Members for 2020

President: *Larry Strauss*

Vice President: *Bill Burden*

Past President: *Jimmie Marchio*

Secretary: *Richard Fetterman*

Treasurer: *Mike Chapel*

Director: *Diane Berg*

Director: *Frank Rinella*

Director: *Mike McKinley*

Director: *Rich Tortosa*

Committees & Chairs

Scouting Fly Fishing Merit Badge: *TBD*

Conservation: *Frank Rinella, Drew Irby, Wilton Fryer*

NCCFFI: *Frank Rinella, Clay Hash, Larry Strauss*

Fish-outs: *Tom Grant, Mike Conner*

Classes, Clinics, Workshops: *Clay Hash*

Fly Tying: *Sam Higginbotham*

Holiday Party: *Bill Burden, Peter Burnes*

Damsels- Women's Program: *Diane Berg*

Library: *Mark Hermes*

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 Purposes 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.