



GCFF NEWSLETTER – November 2020

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING ON
Thursday November 5, 2020**

Via ZOOM at 6:30 pm PDT

CLUB ELECTION of 2021 Leadership

**A Presentation by
Mike Malekos**

**Founder and Administrator of The
Casting A Rise Foundation**

Join us by clicking on the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84149861103?pwd=eTNoaFJNNkV4MkVEMlc5ZTU5NWd5UT09>

Meeting ID: 841 4986 1103

Passcode: 798502

Looking forward to seeing you there!

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From your Editor:

Please send stories and/or pictures for next month's newsletter to your Newsletter Editor, **Lee Coffee**. He would love to hear from you with ideas, suggestions, or written and photographic material. **Please get your submissions to him by November 20 and/or let him know when something**

Lee a few years ago



President's Message:



Hi everyone.

It has been a busy couple of weeks. The weather has started to cool off, a welcome relief. The unusual state of politics in our country, state, and county causes me too much anxiety. I'd much rather be fishing. While November 3rd, election day is just around the corner, I continue to worry about the future; what our country and community will be like after the election. A neighbor here in Lake Wildwood said it well, "after the election, we'll all still be neighbors."

I have not been fishing as much as I would like. A couple of things have happened which have reduced my time getting lines wet. The first is my boat (which has yet to receive an appropriate name.) While joining up with Dave Ackerman on Bullards Bar reservoir, Dave in his boat and me in mine for social distancing, my engine just stopped. The day had heated up to about 95°. Since Dave and I were just about done for the day anyway, he offered to tow me in, a pleasant but long ride back to the docks. Thank you again Dave. Turns out the cable from the battery to the solenoid has a flimsy crimp connection and the battery cable just fell out of the lug. I was glad to have an issue with a simple solution; purchase a new lug and get it crimped on with the proper tool. Just a week later, Dave and I headed to Bullards again. This time, as I was motoring along, the engine began to sputter; not just misfire but no power then back again. I was able to cruise at slow speeds but every time I would give it some throttle, it would act up. I let Dave continue away from the marina while I stayed close... just in case. I believe a carburetor rebuild is in order. Lee Coffee appropriately stated, "one becomes quite a good outboard mechanic when one owns a 1970s vintage outboard motor."

The second thing keeping me off the water is a bum left knee. I'll bet there are few of you who share my pain... so to speak. I had an MRI just yesterday so I'm not sure what the therapy will be. However, I was advised to be cautious which has ruled out walking and wading the Lower Yuba River; and just when the water clouded up a bit from draining Lake Wildwood. It seems the egg bite, if not already happening, should begin shortly.

I look forward to hearing the fishing reports at our November general meeting.

Speaking of the November general meeting, I trust you saw in recent emails that the November and December meetings are scheduled on Thursdays, November 5th, and December 3rd. The club's annual Holiday Fund Raiser is typically on Thursday, so that one was easy. November 3rd is the national election day. The board chose to not hold the meeting on election night. We did a poll at the last general meeting and there was strong support for moving the meeting. Please double check your calendars.

Thursday, November 5, 2020, 6:30 to 9:00PM

Thursday, December 3, 2020, 6:30 to 9:00PM

A few members have asked why I wanted to serve as president for a second year in 2021. Our VP and next president, if elected, Bill Burden and I had been discussing 2021 leadership and our experiences in 2020. The club held only three face-to-face general meetings in 2020. Being the master of ceremonies at the general meetings provides me a great deal of enjoyment. I felt shortchanged by not having the opportunity to MC more meetings in 2020. Bill, on the other hand, was looking forward to meeting and getting to know more club members during 2020. Since I was interested in more face-to-face meetings and Bill wanted more member exposure prior to taking on the role of president, he and I agree we would put our names back in the hat for serving in our current officer positions in 2021. The board, who served as the nominating committee this year, were supportive. Extending our terms another year did increase the recruiting efforts since our current past president, Jimmie Marchio, had chosen to not service as director for 2021 and Richard Fetterman chose not to serve as secretary in 2021. I do thank them for their past service to the club. The board did a terrific job assembling the 2021 leadership slate. I believe the slate for 2021 is superb and I look forward to serving, if elected, with them next year. However, as I understand the status of a safe, efficacious, and widely available coronavirus vaccine, the club will most likely have Zoom general meetings for most of 2021. That's OK. We're getting better at orchestrating the meetings and we have access to speakers from across the country because we don't have to pay or share travel costs. Our speakers present from the comfort of a space of their choosing. Dave Ackerman continues to do a terrific job identifying and retaining quality speakers for our club. Thank you, Dave!

Please, should you have ideas for our Zoom meetings, please send them my direction.

Be well and stay safe!



Larry Strauss
GCFF President
The tug is the drug!

NOVEMBER 5TH FEATURED SPEAKER:

Mike Malekos shares small stream tactics, profiles select California trout fishing destinations, and evaluates essential gear



For November's meeting we welcome Mike Malekos. Mike is the Founder and Administrator of The Casting A Rise Foundation. Casting A Rise raises money for charitable, educational, and nonprofit organizations through fly fishing. Please take a look at www.castingarise.com and consider supporting this impactful 501(C)(3) organization.

Mike is also a contributing Columnist at California Fly Fisher magazine. His "Snapshot" articles are short, informative pieces discussing how to fly fish various fisheries within our state. Through his commentary Mike shares how to get there, how to fish there, and most importantly, why he fishes each body of water the way he does. The written synopsis of his fly-fishing experience is intended to shorten an angler's

learning curve and to serve as a starting point for someone who has never visited the profiled fishery. Among other things, Mike touches on the area, equipment selection, and how he found fish to behave.

During his presentation, Mike will share his views regarding essential gear, small stream tactics, and profile several Northern California blue-ribbon trout fishing destinations Gold Country Fly Fishers should consider visiting.

HOW TO JOIN OUR ZOOM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 5, 2020, 6:30 pm

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Dial in: +1 669 900 6833

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Conservation Education Committee Report By Frank Rinella, Drew Irby, Wilton Fryer



REDD ALERT

The egg bite is happening on the Yuba so we thought this would be a good article to read from Landon Mayer on protecting spawning habitat. The link is from the Angler's Covey website.

<https://www.anglerscovey.com/blogs/anglers-blog/2020/10/18/protect-the-spawn>

Catch This!

By Roger Stover

Select articles and videos to improve your game.

Let's start with a good laugh

Hank Patterson has some of the funniest fly-fishing videos I've ever seen, and this one is right up there. He takes a gear review to an unexpected conclusion. I'll leave the rest to you to enjoy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yqDV28K1Ok>

There's more than one way to...

If you know me, you know I'm a devotee of nymphing, specifically "euro nymphing". Yes, I know this may be a misnomer, but it is what the guy I learned it from—Devin Olsen—calls it, so who am I to change it? Anyway, the basics aren't overly difficult to adopt and start using successfully. But there are many ways to evolve the technique, and Domenick Swentosky of Troutbitten.com explains some in this article.

If you've not visited troutbitten.com before, take a look around. Just a ton of useful information on fly fishing. Unrelated to the article linked here, I recently adopted a method he describes in another article and it has absolutely improved my nymphing, especially at distance.

<https://troutbitten.com/2020/06/07/tight-line-and-euro-nymphing-leading-vs-tracking-vs-guiding/>

It helps to understand the impact of stream flows

If you were on our club Zoom meeting in October, you experienced an excellent presentation by some folks at the Yuba Water Agency, mostly about our club home water, the Lower Yuba.

They explained many of the factors governing the management of the river flow, not the least of which is protecting—even enhancing—the fish habitat. In this article by Allen Gardner of The

Catch and the Hatch, you will learn some excellent ways to put knowledge of stream flow to your advantage, on any river or stream.

<https://avidmax.fliesforsale.com/mastering-stream-flows/?ffst=8k4rl-bnia>



On the Klamath River below Iron Gate Dam in Jerry Austin's drift boat with Larry Uno on the oars.

Fish on!
Roger

Northern California Council, FFI November 2020 Report By Mark Rockwell, President

Like so many of you I and our Board are anxious to get the election over, and as I write this article I sense my anxiety over all that is "up-in-the-air" at the moment. Our Council is preparing for our Board Election which FFI members should receive next month via Survey Monkey. We are still unable to really plan for 2021 due to the impacts of COVID-19. We do know the International Sportsman's Exhibition in Sacramento (ISE Show) has been cancelled for 2021, and we are waiting to hear the status of the Fly-Fishing Show in Pleasanton. We will advise everyone as soon as we know. We are still planning on the Yuba Fest for 2021 and will advise on that as well. Our hope is that conditions will improve after the first of the year, and we can get back to some semblance of normal. We all need to see each other, have some fun together, and re-connect our relationships.

Klamath Dam Removal

As many of you may know, we have run into a snag on removing the 4 dams on the Klamath River. We did receive a license transfer order from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), but it kept PacifiCorp on the license instead of moving the sole licensee over to the Klamath River Renewal Corp. (KRRC). This caused PacifiCorp to be unsure about moving forward due to possible liability and cost concerns. We are currently in negotiations with them on how we can move forward with what FERC has allowed. Oregon, California, Tribes, and a Representative of the NGO community are working to find a solution. What this is causing is doubt we can still make our January 2022 removal start date. Representative Jared Huffman has introduced legislation in Congress to put pressure on PacifiCorp to move forward (HR4447) or suffer liability for the negative impacts their dams are causing to water quality and fishery loss, as well as put in place new requirements for licensure if the walk away from the current

agreement. We have until December to find a solution. Everyone is trying, but PacifiCorp remains a less than ideal partner.

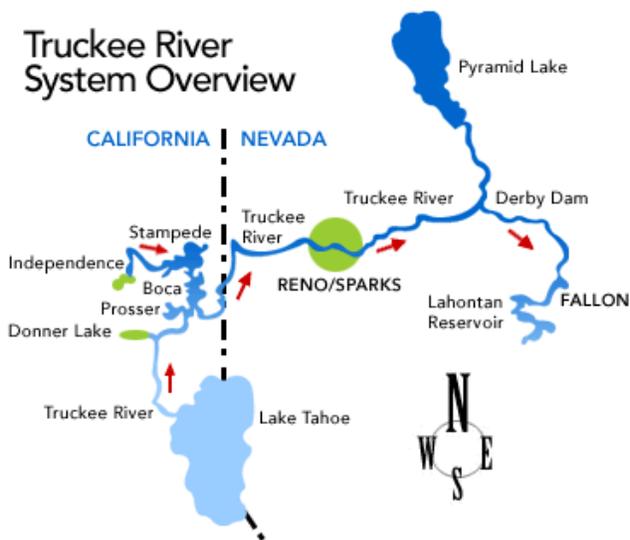
Report on Cutthroat in Pyramid Lake & Truckee River

Our Nevada Conservation VP, Tom Smith, has been following some new changes for Pyramid Lake & spawning Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in the newly available lower Truckee River in Nevada. We are very lucky to have both the new Pilot Peak strain of CT now in Pyramid Lake, but we also now have the availability to have these fish use the lower 40+ miles of the Truckee to spawn in, which was blocked by a new dam 20 miles below Reno in 1905. The article below is one that covers the details of these new changes for the Truckee River and Pyramid Lake and will hopefully excite you into making a visit to this wonderful fishery just north of Reno, Nevada.

Tom Smith has a note of interest: *“Something that has been forgotten by most is that the diversion of water from the Truckee River back in 1905 not only lowered the lake level at Pyramid, it completely dried up a sister lake, Winnemucca Lake. That lake is now a dried salt and sage brush flat that is just over the mountain range from Pyramid Lake on the way to Gerlach. It also contained the famous Cutthroat Trout. The Truckee River split just past Nixon, Nevada, and formed both lakes.”* Google Earth

Link: <https://earth.google.com/web/search/Winnemucca+Lake,+Nevada/>

Here's the article:



Return of the Lahontan Cutthroat

by Mark Warren, Retired Chief of Fisheries, Nevada Dept. of Wildlife

The Truckee River is 121 miles in length, originating from the California side of Lake Tahoe and terminating at Pyramid Lake, located within a Paiute Indian Reservation. Along its route, it passes through Truckee, California, then turns west and flows down into Nevada and through Reno/Sparks before journeying on to Wadsworth - 30 miles east of Reno. Here it takes a turn north and heads into Pyramid Lake.



In 1905 the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) built a dam 20 miles downstream of Reno/Sparks to divert water to a storage reservoir (Lahontan Reservoir). Lahontan Reservoir, which holds 290,000-acre feet of water, also receives water from a sister river, the Carson River. It was the dream of the Bureau of Reclamation to use this stored water to open up the area around Fallon, Nevada (60 miles east of Reno) for agriculture, and enticing people to move to the area and start farming, which they did. The downside was that with the diversion of water out of the Truckee River, Pyramid Lake dropped 100 feet in elevation over the next forty years. As a result of this drop, the Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) were not able to navigate the delta that formed at the river terminus and they disappeared in the early 1940's. Years later the Nevada Department of Wildlife reintroduced cutthroat back into the lake where they have been thriving ever since but supported through stocking.

Trying different strains of cutthroat, the US Fish & Wildlife Service (US FWS) experimented with a fish from a stream in Eastern Nevada, in the Pilot Peak area. This strain appeared to be linked to the original Pyramid Lake strain. A few of these fish were moved to the Lahontan Federal Hatchery just outside of Gardnerville, Nevada, spawned and the progeny stocked back into Pyramid Lake. These "Pilot Peak" fish as they are called, proved to adapt very successful and have reached sizes of up to 26 pounds in the last several years.

Hoping to allow the cutthroat access to the Truckee River and spawning ability, the US FWS and the BOR constructed a fish ladder at Derby Dam in 2001. Once the fish moved upstream and spawned, there was a chance of a wrong turn at Derby Dam on their return to Pyramid, ending up in the Truckee Canal and eventually Lahontan Reservoir. Therefore, the fish ladder was not utilized until a screened diversion was built on the Truckee Canal. In 2020 the fish screen was built at a cost of 34 million dollars.

It is the nation's largest horizontal fish screen. In the past several years a few of the cutthroat were observed spawning in the Truckee River below Wadsworth, Nevada, several miles upstream from Pyramid Lake. With the new fish screen in operation, large cutthroat trout, many over 10 pounds, will be able to spawn 50 miles or more upstream of the lake.



FFI EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES By Frank Rinella

The FFI is planning several webinar classes and clinics. These classes are all free and the schedule is listed below. This looks like a great resource for all our members! Please contact Frank for details.

Fred DuPre -
Legends Of
Fly Tying

Al Beatty	4-Nov	Wednesday	7:00 PM
Gretchen Beatty	11-Nov	Wednesday	7:00 PM
Peggy Brenner	18-Nov	Wednesday	7:00 PM
Scott Sanchez	25-Nov	Wednesday	7:00 PM
Jim Ferguson	2-Dec	Wednesday	7:00 PM
Mike George	9-Dec	Wednesday	7:00 PM
Gary Borger	16-Dec	Wednesday	7:00 PM
Dave Whitlock	23-Dec	Wednesday	7:00 PM

Jeff Currier -
Global Travel

	30-Dec	*alternate date for Dave Whitlock	
So You Want To Be A World Traveling Fly Fisher with Jim Klug of Yellow Dog	10-Nov	Tuesday	7:00 PM
Fly Fishing the Red Sea of Sudan with Rob Scott, founder of African Waters	24-Nov	Tuesday	7:00 PM
Fly Fishing Slovenia - Search For the Marble Trout	8-Dec	Tuesday	7:00 PM
Fly Fishing The Himalaya for Golden Mahseer with Misty Dhillon, founder of Transformative Travel	29-Dec	Tuesday	7:00 PM
Amazing Diversity - Fly Fishing In South Africa	12-Jan	Tuesday	7:00 PM
Oman - Fly Fishing for the Fish of a Lifetime with Nick Bowles, founder of Ocean Active	26-Jan	Tuesday	7:00 PM

Tom Logan -
Conservation

Biology, Distribution, Habitats and Conservation Needs of Black Bass Species of the Genus Micropterus	5-Nov	Thursday	7:00 PM
Sometimes To Save A River, You Have to Buy It	19-Nov	Thursday	7:00 PM
Golden Trout of the Sierras, Distribution, History and Conservation Needs	3-Dec	Thursday	7:00 PM
Arctic Grayling Historic Distribution, Conservation Needs and Restoration in Michigan	17-Dec	Thursday	7:00 PM
The Role and Importance of Partnerships to meet Conservation Challenges of Today	7-Jan	Thursday	7:00 PM
Fish, Wildlife and Wetland Conservation - Relevance to Climate Change Solutions	21-Jan	Thursday	7:00 PM

Patty Leuken
- FFI Women
Connect

	Zappy Hour! Live on Zoom Roasting Hour with Heather Hodson	19-Oct	Monday	7:30 PM
	Tying Tips and Using Zoom with Al & Gretchen Beatty	20-Oct	Tuesday	7:30 PM
	Tying Tips and Using Zoom with Al & Gretchen Beatty	27-Oct	Tuesday	7:30 PM
	Tying Tips and Using Zoom with Al & Gretchen Beatty	3-Oct	Tuesday	7:30 PM
*FFI Online Season 2 Content	Gary Discussing Fishing the Baja	9-Nov	Monday	7:00 PM
	Tying Tips and Using Zoom with Al & Gretchen Beatty	10-Nov	Tuesday	7:30 PM
	How to Design a Dry Fly with Sherry Steele	14-Nov	Saturday	1:00 PM
	Zappy Hour! Live on Zoom Corie & Mary Ann promote Expo	16-Nov	Monday	7:30 PM
	Tying Tips and Using Zoom with Al & Gretchen Beatty	17-Nov	Tuesday	7:30 PM
	Fly Tying with Sherry Steele	1-Dec	Tuesday	7:30 PM
	Celebrating Women in Fly Fishing - A Virtual Expo	5-Dec	Saturday	10 AM - 6 PM
	Celebrating Women in Fly Fishing - A Virtual Expo	6-Dec	Sunday	10 AM - 6 PM
	Fly Tying with Patty Leuken	8-Dec	Tuesday	7:30 PM
	Zappy Hour! Live on Zoom with Santa Claus	14-Dec	Monday	7:00 PM
	Fly Tying with Peggy Brenner	15-Dec	Tuesday	7:30 PM
	Holiday Jingle Hour Open Tie Night	29-Dec	Tuesday	7:30 PM

From your editor:

Yuba Water featured video

Expanding fish habitat on the lower Yuba River

Last month we had Curt Aikens, Senior Executive Advisor for the Yuba Water Agency tell us about the wonderful fish enhancement work that YWA is doing on the Lower Yuba. I checked out their website and found this awesome video that shows the progress of what's happening down there! **CLICK ON THE VIDEO LINK BELOW:**

Yuba Water works with local, state, and federal agencies, environmental groups, and others to protect wild salmon and steelhead trout in the lower Yuba River. Learn more about Yuba Water's multi-partner, multi-benefit Hallwood Side Channel and Floodplain Restoration Project to restore and enhance fish habitat in the lower Yuba River. https://vimeo.com/454102951?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

PHOTO GALLERY



Last week a few of us went up to Sawmill Lake: Karen and I and Wayne and Zandi Holloway. It was a great day to be out on the water float tubing and be social distancing. The fishing was ok not great, we all got fish, but we had to work for them. The fish were all big and were down deep. We had a great shore lunch using two tables. It was a fun relaxing day with good friends.

Frank Rinella



Bill Burden:

North Yuba caught with Tenkara gear

Lower Yuba, fat fish, took a Killer Bug I tied.



FLY PAPER

By
Ralph Wood

Zug Bug



The Zug Bug was originally developed in the 1930's by Clifford Zug in Pennsylvania and was first used in the Catskill Mountain region. In the 1940's the pattern's popularity had spread to the Western Mountains as far as Yellowstone Park and the Sierra Nevada.

The use of peacock herl and peacock sword gives the fly an alluring appeal. As has been said many times peacock is a fish catching material. The Zug Bug was designed to imitate either a caddis larva or a cased caddis. Now it is used in both running water and streams and has proven to be very effective as an attractor. In rivers use it as a pattern in a two or three fly rig under an indicator. In lakes I use it as a trailer to a leach or wooly buggler on an 18 to 24-inch length of leader material. Cast, retrieve, dead drift or swing this versatile pattern. Often you will find the Zug Bug listed as one of the top ten nymphs you should have in your boxes.

Zug Bug

Hook: Tiemco 5262 sizes #10-#16, or any comparable 2x long
2x heavy hook

Thread: 6/0 to 8/0 black

Tail: Peacock sword (3-5 fibers)

Rib: Flat silver tinsel

Body: Peacock herl (If you like you can build up the underbody)

Hackle: Brown, tied beard style

Wing: Mallard dyed wood-duck extending 1/3 of the body
(represents a wing case)

1. Lay down a thread base from just behind the eye to the bend of the hook. Tie in the peacock sword fibers.
2. Tie in the flat silver tinsel on the far side of the hook with the silver side facing you. Then tie in three to four thick strands of peacock herl and wind them to the front of the hook. Clip off the excess.
3. Wind the ribbing forward and tie off. Clip off the excess.
4. Strip off a bunch of fibers from the brown hackle and tie in beard style under the hook shank. Clip excess.
5. Take a small mallard breast feather and strip off the fuzz. Using the tip of the feather make a small triangle and then clip off the tips. Strip off the balance of the feather and tie the triangle in covering one third of the body. Clip excess feather.
6. Build a thread head, whip finish and cement.

Now go fish!

Gold Country Fly Fishers

Post Office Box 2988
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Officers and Board Members:

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

Committees and Chairs:

Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge:	TBD
Conservation:	Frank Rinella, Drew Irby, Wilton Fryer
NCCFFI:	Frank Rinella, Clay Hash
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
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:	Debbie DiSanto, Pam Kline,
New Members:	Tim Ackerman, Robin Denegri
Newsletter:	Lee Coffee
Trout in the Classroom:	Robin Denegri, Larry Uno
Website:	Tom Grant, 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.