



Promoting the Art, Recreation & Conservation of Fly Fishing Since 1975

# GCFF Newsletter – August 2019

## President's Message



Flyfishing stream etiquette recently came up during a conversation I had with friends because I told this story.

Some years ago, I was fishing a well-known Northern California river on a warm July evening. I was in the lower end of a large pool, working my way toward the head of the pool where there was a productive tail-out and then some rapids. I had just finished a drift and looked up to see a guy slip into the pool between me and the head of the pool. I was angry and appalled. He poached the water I was going to fish, right in front of me with no consideration that I was fishing up through that pool! He breached what is acceptable behavior on a trout stream.

So then, what is acceptable fishing etiquette? Stream etiquette might mean different things to different people. But I believe acceptable etiquette is common sense paired with ordinary courtesy. It's the "Golden Rule" applied to meeting others on the stream: "Behave on stream towards other anglers as you would have them behave toward you."

Many of us learned our various rules of behavior from a family member or friend as we were introduced to the sport of fly fishing. Many adult newcomers to the sport (such as some of you) arrive with no tradition to rely on for guidance, so misunderstandings can easily arise.

I could expound on this topic for many pages, but let me try to summarize some of the important points. Most of these rules revolve around common sense, courtesy, and consideration for others sharing the stream.

1. A section of water belongs to the first angler fishing it. It is inconsiderate to crowd him/her. DO NOT walk through the run being fished.
2. A slow-moving or stationary angler has the right to remain where he is. If you are moving, leave the water and walk around.

3. When encountering another angler, reel up your rig at least 40 yards before reaching that person, take a wide berth around and inquire if they are working up or down stream. Generally acceptable behavior is that the fisherman working upstream has the right of way over someone coming downstream.
4. How close is too close? Generally the answer is 30-40 yards.
5. Many streams flow through private property. Recognize that access is a privilege, not a right. Respect private property. Do not trample crops, disturb livestock, or leave gates open. (Gates should be left as you found them.)
6. Leave no litter at streamside. Get in the habit of picking up discarded monofilament, cans and other trash, carrying it out for proper disposal. Leave the stream better than you found it.

Hopefully this little dissertation has enlightened some of you and cleared up some questions you may have had. Should you have other questions regarding stream etiquette, please ask me or any other experienced angler. It is a topic we are always happy to discuss.

The weather is good, the streams are finally in great shape, we know about stream etiquette, so ***Let's Go Fishing!***

***Let's Go Fishing!***



Jimmie Marchio  
530-272-6746

*PS:*

*In the next couple of months we will begin the annual process of nominating and electing next year's officers and directors. Please take a look at the "ad" towards the end of the newsletter.*

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**Check Out the  
GCFF Website:**

<http://www.goldcountryff.org>

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## ***Program Notes – Dave Ackerman***

From Trent Pridemore:

Once again, it is time for our annual Free August POT LUCK -- Tri-Tip and Chicken BBQ. We lose our regular meeting hall due to the Nevada County Fair. This year's BBQ will be at Condon Park on Tuesday, August 6. Arrive early and bring your own table setting utensils and beverage of choice. The crew will be serving somewhere between 6:30 and 7:00 pm. (We always need help for set-up.)

Accurate signups help greatly and keep the expense for the Club down. If you haven't already enrolled, please sign up by e-mailing or phone call to me:

[Trenrpridemore@gmail.com](mailto:Trenrpridemore@gmail.com), phone 274-8770. We always accept late sign-ups, but help us by trying to do so early and giving us as much notice as possible if you have to cancel. Guests and prospective members are **WELCOME**.

Alphabetic POT LUCK dish assignments: A-F side dishes, G-N appetizers, O-Z Desserts.

This is a superb Pot Luck. Each year the dishes get better. Make it a tradition! Meet new members. No grazing on the appetizers until the gates open.

**REMEMBER: No meeting at Fairgrounds that month. You have to sign up on-line or by phone.**

[Trenrpridemore@gmail.com](mailto:Trenrpridemore@gmail.com)

274-8770

## ***Conservation Education Committee Report***

**Drew Irby & Frank Rinella – Co-chairmen**

### **The Conservation Corner**

The Conservation Education Committee cancelled its monthly meeting this month. We will resume next month, date tentatively end of August at Player's Pizza, TBD.

Our agenda and events calendar is simply empty right now and we are in the process of filling it back up.

Our September monthly meeting theme is watershed conservation and will be sponsored by this committee. We will be bringing in 5-6 groups to speak briefly on their missions to protect, restore and sustain local fisheries, riparian habitat, and their efforts to raise awareness about water issues and policies that affect our communities.

Groups include South Yuba Conservation League (SYCL), Sierra Streams Institute (SSI), Wolf Creek Alliance, Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT), Trout Unlimited (TU) and Cal Trout (CT).

Members, at the meeting: please take some time to visit their respective tables and collect information to better acquaint yourselves with what they are doing. They will also each give brief presentations.

This committee will also be planning on attending the second annual Yuba Fest in October down at Hammond Bar, lower Yuba River. The Northern Council of FFI will be leading the festival this year. Emphasis will be on youth education and women's introduction to fly fishing along with some streamside aquatic biology exhibits.

Be watching for volunteer opportunities in the coming months.

Compiled by Drew Irby—Co Chair, 7-22-2019

# **Fishout Report**

**2019 Fishout Committee: Tom Grant, Mike Connor, and Sam Higginbotham**



## **Fuller Lake Fish-out**

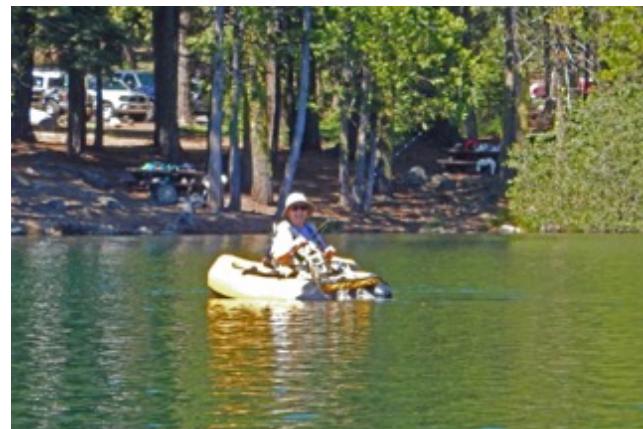
From Tom Grant

On Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup> we fished and barbequed at Fuller Lake. There were actually 24 members who had signed up in advance for Fuller, but many had to change plans, and we ended up with a congenial group of 14.



Fish and Wildlife had planted Fuller 30 days prior, but the fishing was slow, with just a few small rainbows landed. The week after Fuller was planted again. It's all about the timing!

Everyone seemed to really enjoy the food and get-together at the BBQ hamburger lunch. Unfortunately, we were then joined by a very large and loud youth-group from the Bay area with numerous kayaks. We discussed doing this fish-out again, but on a weekday to avoid the crowds, and have some quiet to enjoy this beautiful lake.





*Photos: Larry Leffernan, Tom Israeli, Bill Burden*

## Sawmill Lake Fishout

From Dave Earl

On Saturday July 7, Tom Grant, Rocco Fasone, Rick Utermoehlen and Dave Earl drove 1 1/2 hours to Sawmill Lake just outside of Truckee. Sawmill is managed by Tahoe Flyfishing Outfitters. This trip is not recommended unless you enjoy frequent hook-ups, large hard fighting fish and beautiful high mountain scenery.

We landed over 60 fish between us, many in the 4-5 pound range. Weather was great, just enough ripple on the water to keep the fish grabbing all day long.



*Photos: Dave Earl*

## Webber Lake Fishout

From Robin Di Negri



*Photo: Robin Di Negri*

Most mornings Webber Lake was glass calm and the small fingerlings grabbed any fly that passed by. Fun, but not the size we wanted. This is the third year Webber has been planted with Lahontan trout. Time on the water was the key to getting a fish into the net on the lake.

Perazzo Meadows was not undergoing meadow restoration so the meandering Little Truckee was accessible and fishable.

In spite of mosquitoes out numbering the fish, most caught fish in the area lakes, rivers, streams and ponds. The evening campfire get together was filled with lots of laughter, tall tales and the successes -- or not -- of the day that ended with dessert of brownies, apricot cobbler, whipped cream and ice cream.

## Fishout Schedule:

<u>Month and Dates</u>	<u>Locations</u>  <u>\$\$ - If \$ deposit is required</u>	<u>Species</u> T=Trout SH=Stlhhd B=Bass SD=Shad	<u>Limit</u> Y/N #	<u>Leaders</u>
Sept 14	SYCRL Yuba Clean-Up	--	--	Frank Rinella
Sept 27	Heenan Lake	T	N	Tom Grant
Late September	\$\$- Lonesome Duck Williams River, OR	T	<u>FULL</u>	Cicely Brookover
Sept/Oct	Gold Lakes Basin	T	N	Mike Connor
Oct 3-6 <sup>th</sup>	Wounded Veterans American River	--	--	Frank Rinella
Early October	Jackie's Lakewood Pond	B	Y-10	Ralph Wood
Oct 9 - 12 <sup>th</sup>	Rogue River Lodge Oregon	T	<u>FULL</u>	Robin Di Negri
November	Sacramento Delta	Bass	N	Dave Ackerman

All Fish-out locations and dates are subject to change due to weather, and other conditions. Sign up to attend fish-outs at <https://www.goldcountryff.org>

Leaders: To sign-up to lead fish-outs, call or email:

Tom Grant (530-263-2492 / [tomkatgrant2@gmail.com](mailto:tomkatgrant2@gmail.com)), or

Mike Connor (530-277-1507/ [jmconnor@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jmconnor@ucdavis.edu))

For the most recent (and up-dated) **Fish-out Schedule**,

[click this link to the GCFF website.](#)

## Photo Gallery:



Karen and Frank Rinella won a trip guided by Lance Grey on the Lower Sac. It was, Frank reports, a great trip, and included this fine fish caught by Karen. Thanks to Lance and all our raffle and auction supporters.

*Photo: Frank Rinella*

Tim Ackerman passing some time on the Lower Yuba.

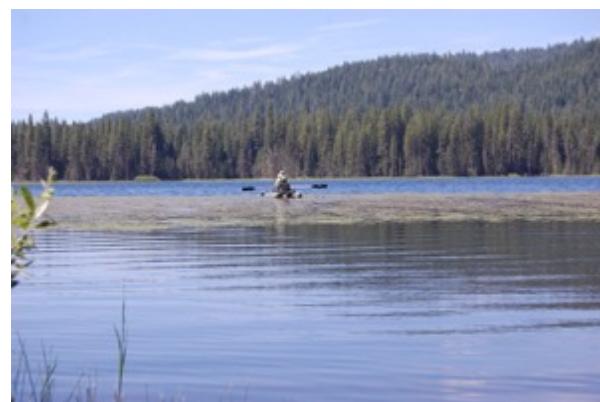
*Photo: Mike Chapel*



## **Photo Gallery:**



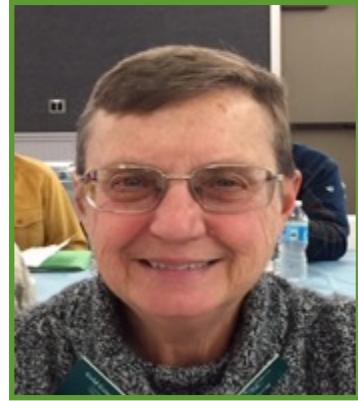
Almanor, Round Valley,  
McCoy Flat – Vern  
Kuschka.



## ***The Damselflies*** **With Diane Berg**

Hi Damsels,

Just returned from Webber Lake Fish Out. We had 12 people show up for the fish out. Fishing was challenging everywhere. But most attendees caught at least one fish. Our camp sites were just 50 feet from the lake. We had beautiful sunsets and views of the lake.



I caught my 3 fish on the Little Truckee. Webber Lake is the head waters for that river. Roads are also a challenge to get into the best fishing spots. There are a lot of small fish in Webber Lake which should grow fast which will improve fishing.

Next year plan to fish Webber Lake and the surrounding waters.

Keep your lines wet!

Diane

## **GCFF Loaner Program**

The GCFF club has accumulated loaner fly fishing gear for the use of its members. The club has 5 weight and 6 weight rods, reels and lines to match, as well as related gear.

These items are available for use in our instructional programs as well as when our members need to borrow it on a temporary basis.

To reserve a piece of equipment:

- Go to our web page at [www.goldcountryff.org](http://www.goldcountryff.org)
- Click on the Fishout tab.
- On the drop down you will find our Loaner Program.
- Click on Loaner Program, and a list of our loaner equipment will appear (see the Equipment Inventory below).
- Below the list there is a button Need to Borrow Some Equipment.
- Click on the button and it will take you to an email form to request equipment.
- The request will go to Ed Tulley who will contact you to make arrangements to get you the equipment you want to borrow.

### **GCFF Equipment Inventory**

5 ea. - TFO #5 2 pc 8' 6" length, rod and reel combinations with WF Floating #5 lines

1 ea. - Redington Crosswater #5 9' rod with either Redington or Cabelas reel, WF #5 floating or intermediate line

2 ea. - Redington Crosswater #6 9' rods with either Redington or Cabelas reel, WF #6 floating or intermediate line

2 ea. - Echo Solo #5 9' 4 pc. with floating lines, may substitute w/ other intermediate line.

1 ea. - #5 WF Rio Indicator Nymph line available

1 ea. - #7 9' 2 pc Fenwick Eagle rod and #7 WF Floating line 9 (reels can be used from above listed equipment)

1 ea. - Fiberglass Composite rod 9' 2 pc #6 make unknown (reels can be used from above listed equipment)

1 pr. - Orvis wading shoes w/felt soles (about size #9)

1 pr. - Cabelas wading shoes w/felt soles size #9

1 pr. - Fly Tech size #9 Canvas wading shoes

1 pr. - Glacier Glove size medium light weight waders

1 pr. - Cabelas medium regular waders about size #10

If you have equipment that is in good working order that you would like to donate to the Loaner Program, please contact Ed Tulley or any member of the Board of Directors.

# **FLYPAPER**

**By Ralph Wood**

## **NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN?**

Back in the nineteen-fifties wet flies were king. Very few semi-realistic or realistic nymph flies existed. Ray Bergman had presented a few in his magnum opus TROUT second edition published in 1952. William Blades in FISHING FLIES AND FLY TYING published in 1951 spent a chapter on nymphs and devised a way to use Ducco cement to make extremely realistic nymph patterns. Preston Jennings, John Atherton, Edward Hewitt, Charles Wetzel, Art Flick and others all contributed to the branch of fly fishing we call nymphing. But the patterns, although effective, failed to really inspire fishermen to try and fish these imitations.

The revolution that triggered the swift demise of the wet fly, I feel, was the 1955 publication of MATCHING THE HATCH by Ernest Schwiebert, Jr., at the time a college student at Yale. The public rapidly absorbed the book and the message within. The book has sold millions of copies over the last fifty years and became a seminal work on hatches both East and West at the time. Natural imitation became the watch word and wet flies began to disappear from fly bins across the nation.

I have not found in my research an exact time when the wet fly revival began anew. However, I began to see a few articles on wet flies in the fly fishing publications but most dealt with the beauty of the wet fly and the fun in tying these old patterns. So about fifteen years ago, I began to tie a few of these old-time flies just for the pleasure of it. That led to fishing some of these patterns in brook trout streams here in California and in the North Yuba for rainbows. They worked and worked well.

Then the books began to appear. Sylvester Nemes began his series of books with THE SOFT HACKLE FLY in 1975, Helen Shaw with FLIES for FISH & FISHERMEN in 1989, Dave Hughes wrote WET FLIES IN 1995 and Mike Valla published THE CLASSIC WET FLY BOX in 2012. During the same period, magazines like FLY TYER published articles by such tyers as Don Bastian showing how to tie these flies.

Why are wet flies returning after a hiatus of more than 60 years? Well, first they still work. They can imitate drowned insects, egg-laying adult caddis and, as I wrote in the April 2019 newsletter, as mayfly nymphs that emerge under the surface such as the Western March Brown.

I think that it is important to remember our roots. and the flies that have caught fish year after year.



COACHMAN

Thread: 8/0 black  
Hook: Mustad 3906B or any other 1x long shank wet fly hook. #10-16  
Tag: Flat gold tinsel  
Body: Peacock herl  
Hackle: Dark brown hen  
Wing: White duck or goose quill sections

1. Attach the thread one hook eye length from the eye and wrap to the beginning of the hook bend.
2. Tie in the flat gold tinsel (sized to hook) at the bend. Wrap down the bend approximately one quarter inch and back to the hanging thread. Tie off and clip the excess.
3. Tie in two to three peacock herls (depending on size of the hook). Wrap the herl counterclockwise around the thread to strengthen the body and wrap forward to the beginning of the thread base. Tie off the excess peacock herl and trim excess.
4. Tie in the sized brown hackle, fold and wrap two to three times, tie off and cut excess.
5. Cut a section from a right and left duck or goose quill. Match with the concave sides together. Place the two sections together over the hook shank. You can tie these in with the tips pointed down or up. I prefer the tips up. Now the tricky part. Pinch the feather slips and the hook shank between the thumb and index finger of the left hand. bring the thread up between the thumb and the shank and down the other side. Make sure that the thread is in the proper position, pinch hard and pull the thread down. Again, make sure that everything is to your liking then wrap the thread forward and make a nice head. Do not let any wraps go behind the first wing set thread wrap or you will ruin the set of the wings. Whip finish, clip the thread and the fly is done.

In the COMPLETE BOOK OF FLY FISHING Joe Brooks stated "My favorite wet fly is the Coachman #12. I can readily believe that a trout will see that white wing sooner than any other color....I am sure that when I retrieve that fly in short jerks, it looks exactly like the small minnows so often found in trout waters."

## ***Sam's Fly Of The Month***

By Sam Higginbotham

### **Stimulator**



(Not Sam's fly, exactly, but should look something like this – Yellow body, palmered hackle, elk-hair wing, orange thorax. Deadly attractor on local waters.)

- Hook - TMC 200R 6-12
- Thread - fluorescent orange
- Tail - Golden brown elk hair
- Rib - fine gold wire and blue dun hackle
- Body - Golden blend of goat (gold, amber, yellow and golden brown haretron)
- Wing - Golden brown elk hair
- Hackle - Furnace hackle wrapped over thorax
- Thorax - Fluorescent fire orange antron dubbing

#### **Fly Tying with Sam:**

Wednesday August 14  
6:00 to 8:00 PM

Please call ahead if coming: 530-477-7537

## **PROFILE OF THE MONTH:**

### **PROFILE OF THE MONTH: NITA KEEHN**

Nita Keehn has lived in Grass Valley for 25 years but has been fishing for only 20. She joined GCFF in 2001 in search of fishing buddies, but there were only two other women in the club then -- Ann Carlson and Anna Lee. Nita remembers that Robin Di Negri joined a year later. Today there are more than 30 women, but not all of them fish. Dues then were \$35 as they are today, but the dues collected in 2001 only totaled \$2,000. "The cutest forest ranger you have ever seen" was club President Rick Weaver, Nita smiled as she mentioned.

As a novice fly fisher, Nita liked going on group fish-outs so she could learn. On one such fish-out at Pyramid Lake, Nita arrived at water's edge just as Larry Uno was leaving. Unusual for him, he had not caught a single fish. He told Nita so and also gave her some fishing advice. Nita promptly caught the largest fish of her life on her own made-up red and black streamer fly. Larry took a photo which sits on Nita's desk still.



*Photo: Larry Uno*

Nita was in the middle of tying flies for herself and her friend who were leaving on the fishing trip of a lifetime when I interviewed her for this profile. Her friend is returning her mother's ashes to North Dakota, and invited Nita to accompany her with fishing stops along the way. First stop Yellowstone. They'll probably fish the Gallatin and maybe the Powder and/or the Little Powder too. "There was a time when I fished regularly every Friday with three friends, but life, death and work intervened. I miss those days."

She remembers fishing with her father for catfish in a slough in Yolo County and surf fishing in Monterey, all with bait of course. When she became a fly fisher, she became dedicated and took classes with Ralph and Lisa Cutter, back when Lisa Cutter ran a women's group on fishing.

After 45 years as an LVN devoted to home care of disabled children, Nita retired. When she worked, she often was free during weekdays, enabling her to do those Fridays with her friends. Now free to fish wherever and whenever she wants with the only limitation being her budget, Nita plans and saves for trips like the one she's on now to Yellowstone. Bring back pictures and stories, Nita – we are all eager to hear about your adventures.

## **GCFF Yahoo E-Mail Group**

The GCFF Email Group is an easy way for GCFF members to communicate with other members who want to go fishing, get information on local conditions and fishing spots, set up shuttles to drift our rivers, or find a fishing buddy, whatever.

Each member who is signed up can send an email which goes to everyone who has signed up for the group. It's also open to members to sell or find fly-fishing gear, or to announce issues of Fly Fishing interest or other Club happenings.

Only "on-topic" (Fly-Fishing Related) postings are allowed. Please – no political messages or off-topic postings.

You can adjust your settings to receive few or no emails but still have access to postings.

All GCFF members are welcome and no one is required to join, but the more members, the more we can share important information.

To subscribe, follow the link at the GCFF website: <https://www.goldcountryff.org/links>.



# **WANTED!!**

Candidates for the following positions:

**Vice-President  
Secretary  
Director (2)**

If you are interested in being a candidate for any of these positions or any other of the officer positions, please advise President Jimmie Marchio or any officer or current board member.

**THIS IS YOUR CLUB!!  
PARTICIPATE!!!**

**Gold Country Fly Fishers**  
P.O. Box 2988  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

**Officers and Board Members for 2019**

President: *Jimmie Marchio*

Vice President: *Larry Strauss*

Past President: *Clay Hash*

Secretary: *Sheila Ryan Weintraub*

Treasurer: *Mike Chapel*

Director: *Diane Berg*

Director: *Larry Uno*

Director: *Frank Rinella*

Director: *Tom Page*

**Committees & Chairs**

Boy & Girl Scout programs: *TBD*

Clinics & Workshops: *Clay Hash, Frank Rinella*

Conservation: *Drew Irby*

FFF: *Frank Rinella*

Fishouts: *Tom Grant w/Mike Conner*

Fly Fishing 101 Classes: *Clay Hash*

Fly Tying: *Sam Higginbotham*

Holiday Party: *Peter Burnes*

Ladies Program: *Diane Berg*

Library: *Mark Hermes*

Malakoff Kids Day: *Frank Rinella*

Meeting Dinners: *Ed Tolley*

Meeting Drinks & Snacks: *Larry Uno*

Membership: *Mike Chapel*

New Members: *Tim Ackerman & Robin Di Negri*

Monthly Raffle: *Tom Page; Jerry Austin*

Newsletter: *Bill Burden*

Programs: *Dave Ackerman*

Trout in the Classroom Coordinator: *Robin Di Negri, Larry Uno*

Webmaster: *Peter Burnes*

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## *Purpose and Objectives*

Support the “catch and release” ethic

Promote fly fishing 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 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

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***We're on the Web!***

***Visit us at:***

<http://www.goldcountryff.org/>