

GCFF NEWSLETTER – May 2021



GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Tuesday June 1, 5:30 PM

Covid Safe GCFF Picnic

Bring Your Covid Vaccine Card, Update Your Club Dues, BYO Food/Drink & Join Us for an In-Person Picnic/Celebration!

Start at 5:30 by reconnecting with old and new friends, and plan on eating about 6:30.

Western Gateway Park (Penn Valley)
Covered Picnic Area #2
(Just to the left of the entrance
off Penn Valley Drive)

This will be a picnic but no shared food. Bring your own food, drink, utensils, etc. There are large picnic tables, but you may want to bring a folding chair or a blanket.

Also, there are large grassy areas if you want to bring a rod and practice your Spey casting!
To simplify check-in, please [RSVP to Tom Grant \(tomkatgrant2@gmail.com\)](#). More info to follow:

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From your Editor:

Please send stories and/or pictures for next month's newsletter to your Newsletter Editor, **Lee Coffee** (leecoffee13@gmail.com). I would love to hear from you with ideas, suggestions, or written and photographic material. **Please get your submissions to me by June 15 and/or let me know when something is coming.**

Tip of the Month from Your Editor:

Here are a couple of useful & free smart phone apps.

1. **Windy** – Up to date detailed wind info for anywhere in the world. I use it for Stillwater fishing on local lakes & reservoirs to see if I am likely to get blown away. Detailed hourly info up to 10 days in advance for wind speed and direction, temp, barometer pressure, moon phases, sunrise/sunset and much more. It has search function as well as detailed maps showing weather stations.
2. **Lake Monster** – This app uses infrared satellite data to reveal surface temps of lakes and reservoirs. Another useful tool for Stillwater fishing to see when is ice out and when are lake temps too high to safely fish.

President's Message:



Hi everyone.

It was pretty exciting to hold our first in a long-time clinic, a Spey casting session on the Yuba River, and fishout, a beautiful morning on [Lower Scotts Flat Lake](#). Seeing club members face to face with no mask was terrific. I had such a good morning at Lower Scotts Flat Lake, although I didn't catch any fish, I went back the following Monday. I can't think of a more peaceful way to spend a morning than on a beautiful surface like glass mountain lake. The only sounds one hears are the songbirds and an occasional conversation of people living in the few cabins nearby. Oh yes, I did catch fish Monday. This time of year, with the moderate temperatures, reasonable river flows, and long daylight hours is my favorite. I have fished with several other club members in the last few weeks. It occurred to me recently that most of the

local friendships I have are with club members. While the weather remains stable, call a club member friend, and arrange to go fishing together.

As you heard at our May general meeting, plans are coming together for our first in a long-time face to face general meeting on June 1st. The meeting agenda is primarily social. It is a bring your own food event. Participants must show proof of COVID-19 vaccination with the final injection at least two weeks prior. Please, if you haven't already done so, take a photo of your vaccination card and email it to Tom Grant at either tomkatgrant2@gmail.com or text to 530-263-2492. The details of the June 1st meeting are elsewhere in the newsletter. I am looking forward to seeing club members and catching up. I believe March 2020 was our last gathering at the fairgrounds.

I had a conversation with Wendy at the Nevada County Fairgrounds to understand their outlook on opening up the Ponderosa Building for meetings. They are governed by California's COVID-19 regulations. On June 15th, an update is expected from the governor's office. Wendy was hopeful the regulations would be such that the fairgrounds could open up for face-to-face gatherings. So, while we need to wait until after June 15th, I feel pretty good about our September 7th general meeting taking place at the Ponderosa Building. (GCOFF typically does not meet in July and in August the county fair precludes our use of the grounds.) Let's hope for some regulation loosening on June 15th.

I hope to see you and say hello, face to face, with no mask on June 1st. Be well.

Sincerely,

Be well and stay safe!

Larry Strauss
GCOFF President
The tug is the drug!

GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Tuesday June 1st at 6:30pm PDT

Gold Country Fly Fishers Picnic

Every fully vaccinated member of GCFF (with dues up to date). You can get dues current by paying on our website: <https://www.goldcountryff.org/join> or sending a check to GCFF, PO Box 2988, Grass Valley, 95945. [Here is a good reference](#) for CA regarding outdoor gatherings amid present Covid situation.

To simplify check-in, please RSVP to Tom Grant (tomkatgrant2@gmail.com), and, if you haven't already, send a photo of your vaccination certificate to Tom. Also let Tom know if you're planning on bringing a guest and send him a photo of their vaccination certificate.

Following CDC and local guidelines, and ensuring that all who attend are vaccinated, masks will not be needed at this function, but if you feel more comfortable wearing one, please do.

[Western Gateway Park \(Penn Valley\)](#), Covered Picnic Area #2 (just to the left of the entrance, off Penn Valley Drive). ([click here](#))

GCFF will conquer Covid! Even during the stages of lockdown, the club has had great guest speakers (via Zoom) and added new members! GCFF continues to be an important part of our fishing fellowship. This is a chance to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones as we look beyond the pandemic.

Coming up for the July Meeting: Laurie Banks and Ken Davis have prepared a 45-minute Zoom presentation about the [Western Native Trout Challenge](#). They recently chased 18 native trout species in their native ranges across twelve western states. If you have enjoyed pursuing the California Heritage Trout Challenge or any of the Cutt Slams you will appreciate this "Mother of all Slams". This Zoom presentation is designed to get people excited to pursue this challenge and introduce fly fishers to this program. Ken and Laurie will cover information about the challenge, tips to complete all levels, using the WNTC website, locating and identifying fish, planning your trips, equipment and flies, safety, and teamwork.

Fish-out Reports

By Tom Grant

As you have heard, due to Covid-19 we are now slowly and cautiously getting back to doing regular fish-outs. **To attend fish-outs you must be a paid-up member, with a signed liability waiver, and will be asked to provide proof that your vaccinations were completed for more than 2 weeks.**

Fish-outs coming up – Details will be sent out separately.

Sign-ups: <https://www.goldcountryff.org/fish-out-events-registration>

- **Shad on the Lower Yuba, with Larry Uno:** Lower Yuba Shad “walk and wade” Jun 09, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM Marysville, Plantz Rd, Marysville, CA See details on the website.
- **North Yuba, with Lee Coffee and Rocco:** "The other Yuba"- small water with hot Rainbows in beautiful North Fork Yuba canyon. Choose your style and have fun! - dry only, dry dropper, nymphs, and perfect for Euro Nymphing! See website to sign-up. June 23, 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM Indian Valley Rd & Hwy 49
- **Fuller Lake, with Tom G. and Larry Lefmann:** Week-day pm fish-out on Fuller Lake in early July. We plan to schedule the date when we expect trout to be planted at Fuller by CA Fish and Wildlife. Look for the date and details in next month’s newsletter.

To have more fish-outs we need destination ideas and leaders/volunteers. If you have an idea for a fish-out and/or would like to be a fish-out leader please contact Tom Grant or Mike Connor. We will also be reaching out to last year’s leaders to build-up our 2021 Fish-out schedule.

GGFF’s First Post-Pandemic Fishout

LUK Lake on May 7th: A pay to fish lake managed by The Fly Shop
Mike Connor



Luk Lake was the site for GCFF’s first official live get-together following the COVID pandemic. Five of us brought over 50 fish to hand, mostly rainbows 13 – 18 inches, quite a few bass about the same size and some blue gill. We braved a bit of wind to enjoy an otherwise perfect day on the 65-acre lake.

The trout, which we understand were planted last fall, were surprisingly active in the 64-degree water. They were on the bite and made some long runs and jumps when hooked.

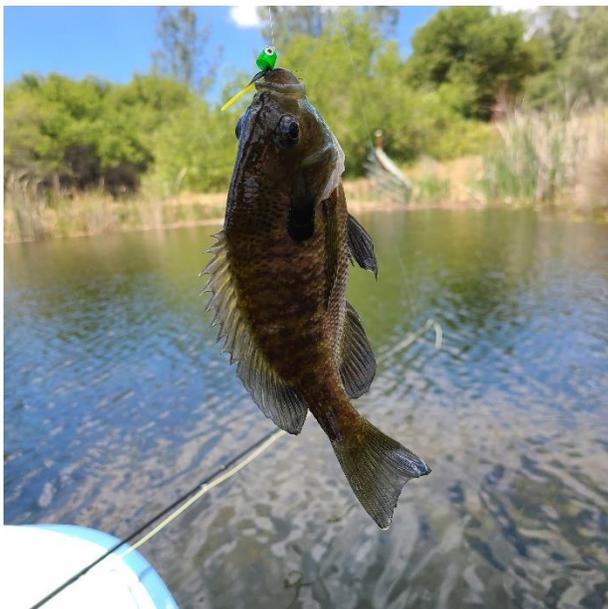
We all had selected the half-day option for fishing Luk, and in early afternoon we gathered in the shade for lunch, beverages, and a welcome chance to socialize.

Lower Scotts Flat Lake on Friday May 14:



Four GCFF members met at Lower Scotts Flat Lake in search of brown trout. Activity was slow that day, but the browns were biting, and several were landed. This Lake is not only close-by but also can be very quiet and peaceful. It's a good lake to hone your trout Stillwater skills.

Jackie's Pond: At Lakewood was held May 21 – Frank reported, “We all had a good time and caught bass and nice size blue gills” It was a beautiful day with just enough cloud cover and breeze to fool a lot of fish!



Pyramid Lake Damsel Hatch

Unofficial Damsels Fish-out - Ladies, Ladders, and Lahontans

Diane Berg & Robin Denegri et al

An unofficial Damsel gathering: Six of us decided to camp at Windless for 3 days and enjoy our status of being fully vaccinated and finally getting together to fish with friends. Cicely Brookover, Diane Berg, Jeanne Romero, Pam Kline, Debbie DiSanto, and Robin DeNegri...3 RV's and 2 dogs.

The fish were all around us and mostly ignoring our offerings.... unless we were using the Midnight Cowboy! The white beetle was sometimes taken but the Woolly Bugger caught more fish. I think Jeanne netted the largest and Debbie probably netted the most. Debbie also spent a lot of time fishing. Time on the water works...

The lake is low, and many were just standing waist deep in the water and casting from there. The fish were so close to shore some people were sitting in chairs at the water's edge! and casting from there! Moss is beginning to accumulate, and the daytime temperatures are rising. We chose our ladders to stay warmer. The lake is still very cold.

The permit system at Pyramid limits 10 camping permits per beach per night, except for Pelican that takes a few more. That did keep the crowds down but...hopefully by next Fall things will open up and one can camp longer. And get fishing permits for more than 3 days!



Great Day Bass Fishing on Oroville with Ryan Williams

Easily netted 20+ each. Many double hookups.
Cicely Brookover... in front Robin Denegri in back



It looks as if the Damsels have out fished the guys this month!



Donald Liljeblad – On Lake Shasta
Tricked Some Nice Bass

**New Member – Don Forbes Landed This Ripe Steely Buck
(undisclosed location in Alaska)**



**So many great submissions this month!
Sorry if I missed some.**

Conservation and Education Committee

This past month we have taken a big step in the right direction towards all of us getting back to a new normal. The club is now offering a few fish outs to members with new Covid 19 guidelines in place. We will also be holding our first social outdoor gathering next month with some guidelines in place. Check the newsletter for more details.

Last week we also received some good news from the Wolf Creek Community Alliance that they received a grant from the Rose foundation. The grant will allow WCCA and GCFE as a partner to do native fish surveys on Wolf creek, South Wolf creek and Cherry creek. This will be a hands-on project for our members, we will be catching fish and recording size, species, water temp and locations. The purpose of this study is to determine if there is a sustainable local native trout population in this watershed. We are currently in the process of putting together locations and protocols for the study. The current plan is to start sometime in June gathering up small groups of our members to help with the survey. We will be sending out a signup list in June for those of you who would like to participate.

Frank Rinella
Drew Irby
Wilton Fryer

WARNING NOTICE from Jeff Mathews – Yuba Water Agency

Stretch of lower Yuba River closing to watercraft for habitat enhancement work.

The north channel of the river will be closed from Daguerre Point Dam to 6,000 feet downstream until December 1, 2021. Signs will be placed at popular entry points along the river, alerting boaters of the closure. The south channel will remain open to shallow-draft watercraft.

"We understand that the closure is inconvenient for people who enjoy fishing and recreating on the Yuba River, but it is crucial for everyone's safety and critical for the work we are doing to improve salmon and steelhead habitat to have the intended impact," said Jeff Mathews, Yuba Water's habitat enhancement project manager who is helping lead the effort.

Warning: Black Swan Preserve parking. Be aware a GCFE member's car was recently vandalized in this public parking area, when his catalytic cover was cut off. This pond has plenty of black bass, so members often park there to fish.

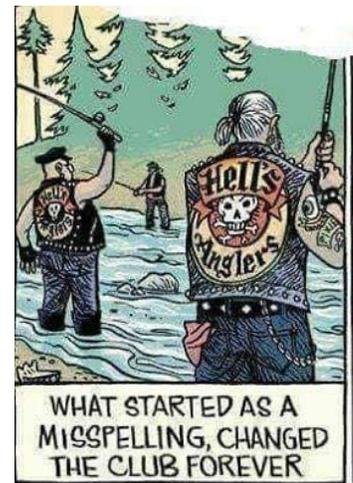
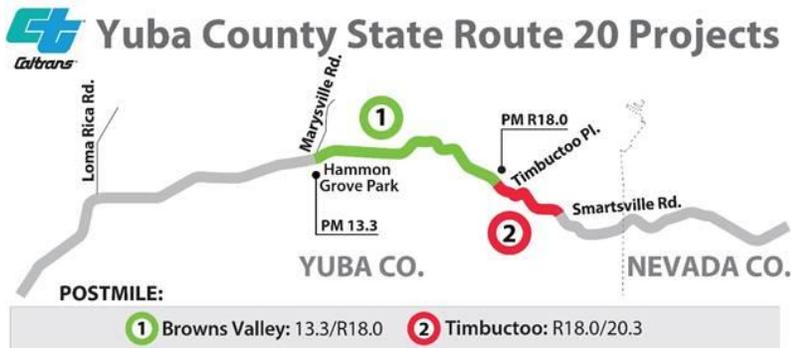
Hwy 20 Construction Updates:

For all you Yuba River fishers who have noted the construction on Hwy 20 west of Lake Wildwood make note of the upcoming changes.

State Route 20 (Browns Valley, Yuba County) between Marysville Road and Timbuctoo Road: East- and westbound motorists may expect intermittent one-way traffic control from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday and 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday for drainage work.

<http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>

<http://fixyuba20.com/>



Northern California Council, FFI Report, May 2021

By Mark Rockwell, NCCFFI President
I will be away seeking Tarpon in the Keys

In Memoriam

We lost 2 longtime GCOFF this month

Allen Gere – GCOFF since 2001 was a longtime friend to many members and served our community for 20 years in conservation and education. Here is a memorial written by Allen's wife Regan:

Dear Friends and Family,

Allan Gere passed away Wednesday, April 14, 2021. He was challenged with two life ending diseases for the last 25 years and very nearly beat them both. The doctors without hesitation called him their “miracle man.”

Born in San Francisco in 1940, he was a lifelong 49er fan and saw his team win in person at four Super Bowls. He graduated from Lowell High School and San Francisco State University.

He served the youth of Marin County as an elementary teacher and as a resource specialist for middle schoolers with learning disabilities for a total of 30 years. Ever creative, he loved building lesson plans that involved active learning and field trips to the outdoors.

We moved to Nevada City in 2000 because of his underlying illnesses. He had vacationed in the area in the 50's, visiting his aunt and uncle. And he fell in love with this area for the streams and trees.

As a practicing Buddhist (sgi-usa.org) for 33 years, he resonated with the philosophy of profound respect for the earth, living creatures, and a deep empathy for individuals.

Nevada County became the staging ground for his fly-fishing passion and our many international trips. Allan continued to serve our local youth when he organized and led annual Scout fly fishing merit badge outings. He acted as Conservation Chairman for Gold Country FlyFishers for many years. Allan also volunteered with the South Yuba River Citizens League for 20 years to improve and maintain our Nevada County streams.

There are boxes of squirt guns and rubber spiders that he loved to bring out on unsuspecting friends. Perhaps you were a “victim” of these and his humor. And maybe there is an extra turkey in your freezer because Allan snuck it in your grocery basket when he met you at the local grocery store.



He is survived by his loving family: wife: Regan, sister: Carol Desmond, nephew: Bruce Desmond with daughter, Carley, and nephew: Lance Desmond with wife, Susan and son, Logan.

This summer or fall, if covid is under control, perhaps you'll join me at our community lake to celebrate his tremendous life.

Regan Gere

In Memoriam: Jon Baiocchi 1965-2021

Jon Baiocchi - Jon was also a longtime member of GCFF as well as a guide/instructor and friend to many of us. Jon passed suddenly while guiding in one of his favorite areas in Plumas County. This is this nice obituary of Jon written by his sister Tina:

Where to begin?

Fly fisherman, naturalist, guide, educator, author, speaker, skateboarder, professional snowboarder, BMX, and motocross racer...

Jon Francis Baiocchi passed suddenly on Thursday morning, April 22, 2021 while guiding on his beloved Middle Fork of the Feather River, near Cromberg. He was 55.

Jon's remarkable and unconventional life began on November 15, 1965 in San Jose, California, two years prior to his parents, Bob and Lois Baiocchi, relocating their young family of six to rural Paradise to live closer to nature and native fisheries. Under the instruction of his father and elder brother, Jon had a rod in his hands by age 6 and was guiding professionally by 30 as "Baiocchi's Troutfitters".

The Jack London of the family, Jon's was a life well-lived. He recognized this and was grateful for it.

Jon is survived by his brother Joel, sisters Christina and Teresa, niece Luci Grace, nephew Justin, and an anthology of reports, videos, writings, and musings on fly-fishing and all things flora and fauna.

A memorial is being planned and will be announced as soon as possible. Correspondence can be addressed to the Baiocchi Family at: P.O. Box 917, Mendocino, CA 95460

"I would rather be ashes than dust!
I would rather that my spark should burn out in a brilliant blaze
than it should be stifled by dry rot.
I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow,
than a sleepy and permanent planet.
The proper function of man is to live, not to exist.
I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them.
I shall use my time."

~ J. London

Catch This!

by Roger Stover

SPECIAL EDITION.

Our Friend, Jon Baiocchi

News of Jon's passing a couple of weeks ago hit me hard. In fact, I didn't believe what my friend was telling me and asked him to confirm that it had happened. Sadly, it had.

I miss Jon, and I know many of you do, too. It was my privilege and joy to know Jon, and to share some really great days on the water with him. My first day with Jon was in early spring and we floated the stretch of the Lower Yuba above Parks Bar Bridge in my Flycraft boat. I didn't know what to expect. I mean, Jon was a well-known guide and here I was taking him down the river just for a day of fun between friends. Jon insisted on rowing the whole day, typical for such a generous and enthusiastic guy. We caught several fish, on nymphs, soft hackles and... you guessed it, Skwala dries.

What struck me very personally about Jon was his openness to learning new things, even from a relative novice. One morning during the salmon spawn I took Jon to a spot that I had done well at a couple days



previous. We were both hooking fish, but I was using my "Yuba-fied" nymphing technique and scoring much more often than he was. Jon asked me what I was doing, and I showed him my rig and how I casted it, and he asked if we could set his rod up like mine. We did and, in no time, Jon "got it". We fished for about 5 hours that morning, hooking and landing over 40 beautiful rainbows, many over 16". If you know Jon, you know that he became a proponent of what he called Long Line Nymphing from that day on. And again, typical of Jon, he went out of his way to give me credit for showing him this method. I know, because I've met other anglers on the river who, once hearing my name, would say, "Oh, you're the guy Jon Baiocchi told me about..."

For this month's Catch This, it seems only fitting to feature a few videos of and by Jon Baiocchi. In these you'll see and hear and remember why he was such a special man.

[Welcome to Baiocchi's Troutfitter](#) – Jon talking about his business and love of fly fishing.

[Bugs on the Yuba](#) – Jon teaching a workshop on aquatic insects in the Yuba River.

[Back-to-Back Sundays on the Yuba River](#) – GoPro videos taken by Jon while fishing. Nuff said.

Rest in peace, dear friend.

FLYPAPER by Ralph Wood

FOX POOPAH



The Fox Poopah was originated in the early 1990's by Tim Fox a guide for the Redding Fly Shop. It has become a standard caddis pupa imitation on the Lower Sacramento river and still has a prominent place in the Fly Shop's yearly catalog. The pattern has become popular across the country.

The two best recommended patterns are tied with either olive or tan(amber) bodies. The olive body imitates the spotted sedge, and the tan represents the brachycentrus. Smaller sizes (16 to 18) in tan tied on Tiemco 3769 do a good job of imitating the turtle caddis (glossosoma) which is a prevalent caddis on the North Yuba.

Fox Poopah

Hook: Tiemco 2302, 2312 #12-#16, smaller sizes Tiemco 3769 #16-#18
Thread: 8/0 to match the body
Underbody: Pearlescent tinsel
Body: Vernille (olive, tan)
Ribbing: Gold wire
Legs: Partridge
Thorax: Ostrich Herl (usually black)
Antennae: Wood duck

1. Start thread behind the eye of the hook and wind back to between the hook point and barb. Catch the gold wire ribbing as you wrap back.
2. Tie in the pearlescent tinsel and advance the thread to thorax position. Wrap the tinsel forward and tie off.
3. Cut off a short piece of vernille. Lightly singe the butt end of the vernille to make a rounded end (see fly photo).
4. Tie in the vernille with the singed butt to the back. The butt should extend just

beyond the hook bend. Use the wire rib to lock the rest of the vernille against the hook shank and tie off.

5. Cut the excess vernille using a slanted cut. No square ends here, please. Smooth out the tie off.
6. Tie in beard style legs extending to the hook point. At the same spot tie in two strands of wood duck flank extending over the back to cover slightly beyond the body.
7. Tie in the ostrich herl and form a neat, full thorax. Wrap a small head and whip finish.

I like to fish the fly as a dry dropper in pocket water. If you need to get the fly down further in the water column, tie the pattern using a bead head. Also works well as the top fly pattern in an indicator set-up. I use the top position since the Fox poopah represents an emerging caddis and I prefer that the fly drifts closer to the surface.

Gold Country Fly Fishers

Post Office Box 2988
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Officers and Board Members:

President:	Larry Strauss
Vice President:	Bill Burden
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Director:	Lee Coffee
Director:	Rich Tortosa
Director:	Carol Kramer
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Newsletter:	Lee Coffee
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New Member Orientation:	TBD
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Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge:	Bob Winters & Frank Rinella
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Damsels – Women Fly Fish Too:	Diane Berg
General Meeting Dinners:	Mike Connor
-Drinks and Snacks:	Larry Uno
-Raffle:	TBD
-Setup and Take-down:	Lee Coffee & TBD
Library:	Mark Hermes
NCCFFI:	Frank Rinella



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.