Official Newsletter of California Fly Fishers Unlimited, a 501c(3) Non-profit - **February 2018**

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Memo from the CFFU President - Dave Lentz

Donate flies for American Fisheries Society

Thanks to all the CFFUers who staffed the Club's booth at the ISE show and shared our fly fishing enthusiasm to several new members who joined during the ISE show. And special thanks to Rich Wilson (and helpers) for set-up and take down of the booth, a big job. Also, in the youth section, Gary Howard's team of CFFU volunteers tied mucho wooly buggers with loads of kids—thanks!

February features—CFFU Chili Chefs will dazzle us with their spicy creations at the monthly meeting.

New members have a gathering to learn about the club and all that is available as a CFFU member, Feb. 7 and for those new to fly fishing there is the Fly Fishing 101 Class with Tim Landrus and also, some beginning fly tying classes.

For those with fly tying skill already you have an opportunity to donate flies you have tied to California-Nevada Chapter of American Fisheries Society. Our donated flies help AFS support fisheries students to attend their AFS annual meeting as the flies serve as raffle prizes at AFS's fund raising banquet. We have been supporting AFS with this fly donation for several years. I will be collecting donated flies at the February meeting and for each dozen flies donated you will get a ticket for a drawing of a coveted Western Native Trout hat (by Rep Your Waters).

Dave's Big Fish on Crowley Lake

February 2018 Speaker - John Squires

Program: "Not-so-famous" Adventures in Alaska

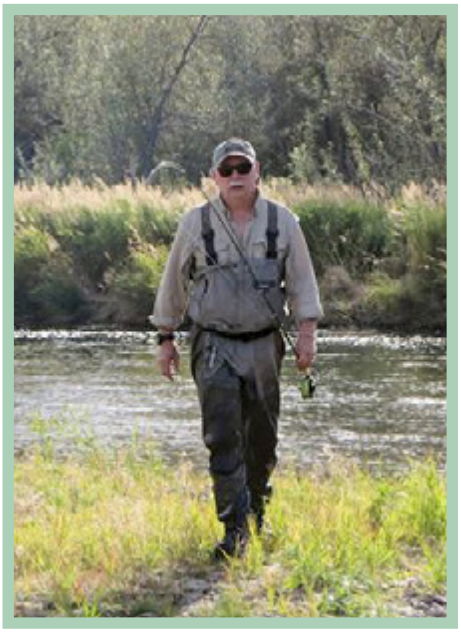
By Trevor Segelke

Our presentation for February will be an Exposition of "Not-So-Famous" Adventures in Alaska.

John Squires is a registered Alaskan guide, long-time fly fisher, writer, and owner of **Against the Flow Adventures**.

Against The Flow Adventures specializes in taking a limited number of clients to fly fishing float trips on some of the not-so-famous rivers in Alaska. The focus is to provide a total wilderness experience.

In this presentation John will discuss floating and fishing the Koktuli River. A small river in the Bristol Watershed and ground zero of the Pebble Mine controversy. Topics will include the status of the proposed mine, species of fish available, timing of runs, tackle, flies, fishing methods, and dealing with such issues as bugs, bears, and inclement weather. Come join us to hear of another possible adventure in Alaska.



CFFU Calendar - FEBRUARY 2018

DISCLAIMER: Dates on this calendar are subject to change. Check the CFFU website for the most up-to-date event schedules. CFFU Calendar LINK

FEBRUARY	EVENT	INFORMATION LINK
6	Board Meeting	CFFU Website (LINK)
6	General Meeting & **CHILI COOKOFF**	
7	New Member Meeting	CFFU New Members
15	Tech Thursday	Tech Thursday
19, 22, 23	Beginning Fly Tying	Beginning Fly Tying
20 & 27	Fly Fishing 101	Fly Fishing 101
23-25	Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show	Pleasanton Show
28	Social - "Outings"	Socials
MARCH	**EVENT**	**INFORMATION LINK**
3-4	Yuba River Outing	Yuba Outing

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - MAJOR EVENTS		
May 22	Spring Barbecue	Spring Barbeque
October 13	President's Outing	President's Outing
November 11	Annual Fundraising Dinner	Annual Dinner

Outstanding Catch - Craig Williams

Craig Williams with a beautiful Putah Creek rainbow.

Fish in the Classroom - Volunteers Needed!

By Brandie Herron

It's that time again at CFFU...Fish In The Classroom egg delivery. I personally get excited each and every time an egg delivery comes around. The heart of the deliveries is our volunteers. Our volunteers are what this program depends on and we need your help two times a year. Helping with the program also gets you credit towards a president's pin and admission to the president's outing. The exact date for the delivery has yet to be determined, but we know it will be during a weekday morning in mid-February. We really need the help from those of you who are retired, or do not work during the day.

Our volunteer force has diminished over the years and is jeopardizing our participation in the FITC program. I was forced to coordinate with 12 teachers to arrange egg pick-up at my home. Most of the teachers expressed their students' disappointment in not getting to talk with the person delivering their eggs. The kids are the reason we as a club do this. I've received many silly questions from kids, such as "How do you tell a boy and girl fish apart?" Every time I leave the classrooms I feel better about myself and know that what I'm doing is all worth it.

The eyed stage of salmon eggs, ready delivery to FITC Schools

The OTTERS - Tying Gary's Ant

After meeting for breakfast at Denny's, the OTTERS adjourned to Gary Howard's place to Gary's Ant. The OTTERS meet every Thursday morning at 10:30. Come tie with us or just watch, learn and join the fun. See the listserv for the locations of the OTTERS upcoming meetings.

February Demo Tyer - Ty Espinosa

Ty Espinosa will be tying a variation of the Birdsnest Pattern. The tying demonstration starts at approximately 6:15 p.m., prior to the February General Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Outing to Rancho Seco

By Bill Ozawa

Rancho Seco Park and Lake offers lots of opportunities to fish, sometimes catch fish, and picnic. It also has a great seven mile trail that features vernal pools and spring wildflowers.

A few of us brave souls, Dick Angus, his friend Sturmer, Don Wallace, Chuck Odell, Robert Rountree, Mic McPherson, Wayne Reimers, and I went to Rancho Seco yesterday to try our luck. It was cold and overcast when we arrived with only a slight wind, but the weatherman predicted warmer temps in the afternoon. So with high hopes and fly rods in hand we cast off to conquer the elusive trout. We spread our crafts to the east and west ends of the north side of the lake. Our thoughts were that the south side was usually crowded with the bait and hardware fishermen and that usually makes fly fishing more of a challenge. Well after a couple of hours of frustration, Chuck Odell had a fish on, horah, things were going to change, and our hopes began to rise. Oh no! Fish off with a broken tippet, so no luck with catching. After another hour or so, we decided to challenge the shore guys, so we packed up or paddled our craft to the south shore, and surprise, surprise, surprise! There were only a few people there and they weren't faring much better than we were. Then after working our way across the lake, the sun disappeared, and the wind picked up. So much for the warmer calm weather report! Dick and Sturmer were wise and went home instead of moving. A short time later the rest of us followed suit, and we called it a day. All except Mic, who came later, and wanted to stay a while longer. He probably caught a ton of fish after we gave up, but you'll have to check with him. So, our trek to Rancho Seco resulted with one bite, a lost trout and a lot of exercise. No frostbite though, so that was a good thing. Gotta look on the bright side, no? Maybe better luck next time.

Report from the ISE Youth Fair

By Gary Howard

I would like to thank the tyers that helped us this year: Stan Stolt, Rich Wilson, Tim AuYoung, Dick Angus, Ken Nordeste, John Coldiron, Glenn Yee, Dave Tevlin, Carol Tevlin, Mic McPherson, Greg Van Koersel, Gary Eastman, Tim Landrus, Ken Gieser, Robert Rountree, and Lanny Garman. We all had a great time and the youth each took home a fly they tied.

Report from the High Hill Mentor Outing

Panda strikes with 2 trout

On January 16th we held our quarterly Casting Clinic and Mentor Outing at High Hill Pond. Thanks to Chuck Honeycutt and Forest Oldham for providing the casting instruction and Jim Walker and Glenn Yee for organizing the outing. About 18 members attended. We drove out of the Sacramento fog and were surprised to have a beautiful sunny day. The camaraderie was wonderful, but the fishing wasn't great. Rich Wilson managed to catch a clam and only six fish were caught. Two were caught by Meloney Welborn' s five-year-old granddaughter using a bobber, chartreuse PowerBait and the spinning pole her grandma bought her for Christmas.

Panda proudly stands next to one of the two trout she landed at High Hill.

Rich Wilson proudly displays his amazing catch, an Asian Clam. He refuses to share his secret clam-catching fly.

REMINDER

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES BEFORE FEBRUARY 29TH.

Quote of the Month

"The nice part about fishing all the time is that an angler can spare moments for just sitting and watching the water. These spells don't even have to have a purpose, but it is hard not to discover some secrets during such interludes. The fisherman without a schedule doesn't need to rush about, casting furiously in a hunt for every possible trout. For this reason, he usually catches more of them." Gary LaFontaine, Trout Flies: Proven Patterns

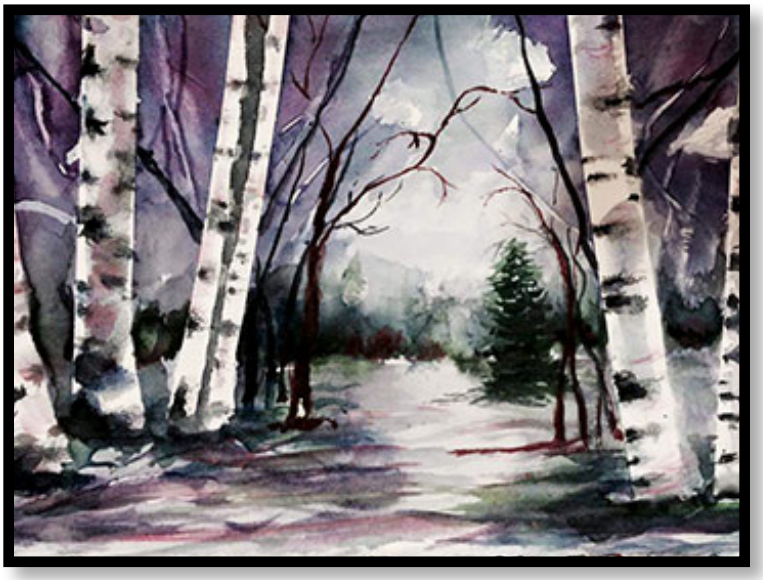
POSTCARD from Montana

Hello from the Nevada City Outdoor History Museum

Visit the Nevada City Outdoor Historical Museum on your next trip to Montana. It was once a part of the 14-Mile city that had mining towns along the gulch. It's ninety miles (by road) from Yellowstone Park. Visit their website. NEVADA CITY LINK.

Congratulations

Stan Stolt - CFFU Angler and Artist



Beautiful painting of still-life study of Birch Trees on Stan's property in Northern Minnesota. We noticed Stan's painting on Facebook and wanted to share it with CFFU.

CFFU Anniversaries

YEARS IN CFFU	MEMBERS
10	Ron Adams
	David Jones
	Jake Mater
	Betty Pfeifer
	Keith Pfeifer
	Michael Wall
	Mary Wall
	Craig Williams
	Tom Wood
20	Jim Ford
	G. Lee Ridgeway
	Floyd Ross
	Howard Ross
	Chris Spurrell
30	Dell Clark
40	Mike Monroe
	Richard Trimble

Memorable Stories, Days on the Water or Great Shots

By Ken W. Davis

Help! This New Feature is designed for CFFU members to share a memorable event, or an image with a short story. They do not have to be recent. This is one of mine from 1992. Please send one of yours for a future edition.

It's almost embarrassing when I tell people that my family lived on the Kenai River for 25 years and I only visited them in Alaska three times. We went to Denali, to Homer and most other destinations that are drivable from Soldatna. On one trip, I was working for an International Photo Agency and attempting to fulfill an assignment to capture some eagle images. I figured that around the Kenai River there might be a chance to get some great photos. Only one problem! My niece's friend, a local guide, said I was not going in his boat unless I had a rod. (He probably said pole.) Damn, I had to fish! I figured after twenty minutes these fish nuts would not even notice my camera aimed at the eagles. That idea ended after ten minutes on the water - I caught a fifty-pound King Salmon. Wow, I admit it, I was elated and screamed like a two-year old.

The real story started a few minutes later when we watched a crew boat a fish a few hundred feet away. We knew it was big, but...when we arrived back at the dock and saw the 95 pound 8 ounce salmon I was ready to throw my minnow-sized Chinook back. Too late, and worst of all, the only camera I had was loaded with a telephoto lens. I had to race back to my sister's house and get an appropriate lens. Back at the dock I had to beg the guys to pick up that monster just one more time as I knew the Photo Agency would probably want a shot. They did and the rest is history. This remains the second largest Chinook caught on Rod and Reel at 95 pounds 8 ounces.

Please Support our Funders!

FLY FISHING SPECIALTIES
Wild Rivers to Blue Waters
6360 Tupelo Drive, Citrus Heights, CA 95621

CFFU Conservation - Auburn Ravine Salmon Camera Project

Memo from Keith Pfeifer, CFFU Board Member and Conservation Director:
In 2016, the CFFU Conservation Committee authorized $5000 to Friends of Auburn Ravine for video monitoring and support equipment to quantitatively document the movement of winter-run salmon, and possibly steelhead, in Auburn Ravine. This project is significant because it provides data to county resource management groups and state regulatory agencies for future upstream spawning habitat improvements.

The Auburn Ravine Camera Installation Site.

James Haufler, Friends of Auburn Ravine

Thanks to a generous grant that **California Fly Fishers Unlimited** provided in the summer of 2016, the Salmon Camera project sponsored by Friends of Auburn Ravine (FAR) is now in its second season of operation. It is located along a heavily used walking path in Auburn Ravine Park in Lincoln. It is the first installation of its type in this area. The grant was used to purchase cameras, recording equipment, a custom-designed power system, multiple disk drives, lights, and plenty of wire! The California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) provided technical expertise, and a computer to operate the recording equipment. They also designed and installed housings for three underwater cameras, and a 17-foot high steel "bridge" across the stream to support an overhead camera.

On the streambed, they installed five 60" square white plastic panels so that salmon swimming by could be better seen from the overhead camera. After the cameras began recording in October 2016, CDFW staff visited the site three times each week to check on the equipment, and to clean the camera lenses and the plastic plates.

FAR recruited and trained 20 volunteers to screen the recordings, count the salmon, and document their observations on the standard data sheets used by CDFW at similar installations. The volunteers use the overhead camera as their "spotting scope". When they see a silhouette of a large fish on the overhead camera they shift to the underwater cameras to verify that it is a salmon.

In the 2016/2017 season, the volunteers documented 326 salmon using the Salmon Camera system. A quality check conducted by CDFW showed that the volunteers made no counting errors, and only a few "time coding" errors. Due to the many days of high muddy water in that season, some salmon probably went past the cameras when the water was too muddy to see them, so we estimate that at least 400 salmon came up Auburn Ravine in the 2016/2017 season. When we reported this to Nevada Irrigation District, they said this is exactly the type documentation they need to help them build consensus to improve fish passage in Auburn Ravine!

Continued on Page 9

Auburn Ravine Salmon Camera Project...continued

Using the 60" square white plastic panels as a reference, the volunteers reported that the salmon they observed were all over 24 inches with some up to 37 inches in length!

Due to the light rains that we have had so far this season, the flows in Auburn Ravine have been too low to attract as many salmon as we had last season, but the cameras are still recording 24 hours per day 7 days per week, and we are even making some improvements: FAR designed (and CDFW installed) improved housings for the underwater cameras to reduce the problems we had last season with debris blocking the cameras. CDFW was so impressed with this improvement that they are considering adopting it for their other sites.

A salmon as viewed with one of the underwater cameras.

A FAR volunteer, who happens to be a software expert at Hewlett Packard Enterprise, has developed an App called **Fish Spotter** that will dramatically reduce the time it takes a volunteer to scan a day of Salmon Camera video. The software is being tested now, and we hope to be able to roll it out to the volunteers in the next few months.

Looking to the future, there will be some work to do to keep this system functioning properly:

1. The 60" square white plates will have to be replaced this fall. They have been scratched up by passing debris so they are now more green and brown than white even though CDFW still cleans them 3 days per week.

2. To make the using the **Fish Spotter** software as easy as possible for the volunteers, the existing recording equipment will need to be replaced with recording equipment that uses a new file format.

3. To increase the public's awareness and appreciation of the salmon of Auburn Ravine, an interpretive sign should be installed at the site.

There are now 35 people on the Salmon Camera volunteer roster, but there's always room for more, so if you would like to join our team of salmon scanning superstars, and can give about 3 hours per week to the effort, please call **Friends of Auburn Ravine** on 916-672-9672.

Our web site is: www.auburnravine.org

Follow us on **Facebook** at "Friends of Auburn Ravine"

Please Support CFFU Donors

SCRIBNER BEND VINEYARDS

Link to Scribner Bend Website

Kiene's EST. 1984 Fly Fishing

Link to Kiene's website

Interview with Ty Espinosa

(Owner of TY ROAM Handcrafted Hiking and Wading Staffs)

By Laurie Banks

Laurie: I see you joined CFFU in 2010. Were you fly fishing before that time? What prompted you to join the club?

Ty: I started fly fishing about the same time I joined the club. A friend that I played racquetball with introduced me to fly fishing. He taught me to cast, then introduced me to CFFU. I met a lot of good people, recognized the value of membership and decided to join.

Laurie: You tie some beautiful flies.

Ty: About the same time I started fishing, I started tying flies, I took a free class offered by Mike at American River Fly shop. I tie traditional patterns, but I also tie variations and embellish them to come up with unique patterns. You get to be creative; that's what I like about it. Also, I was still working and found that tying flies was a great way to decompress and express my creativity.

Laurie: Rosie has become quite the fly fisher.

Ty: Yes, she started about 3 years ago and now she's catching bigger fish than me!

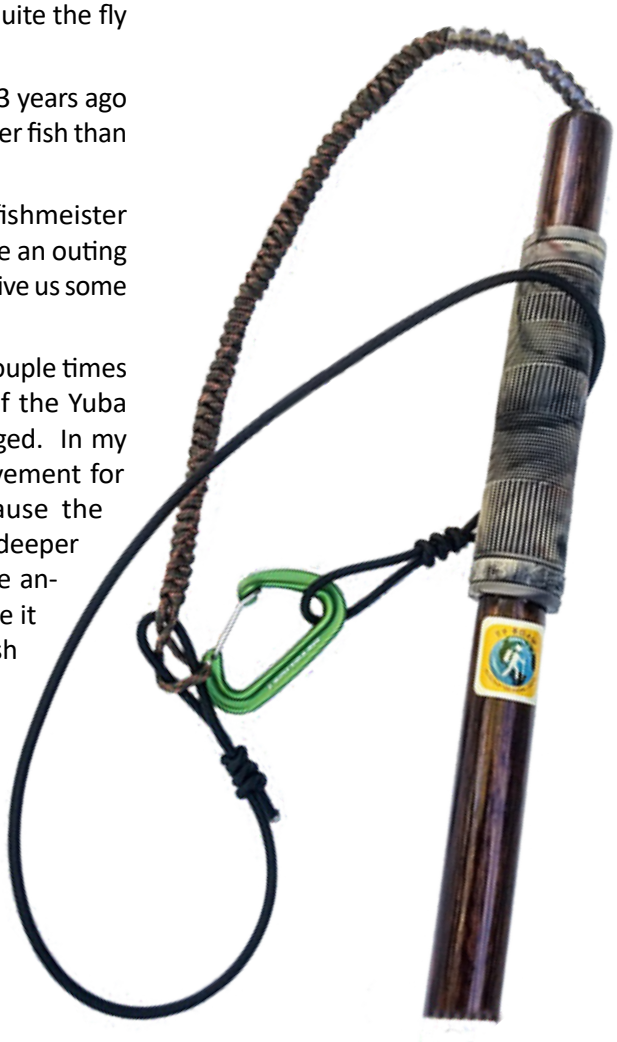
Laurie: You have been a fishmeister on the Lower Yuba. We have an outing there next month. Can you give us some hints for fishing the Yuba?

Ty: I have already been a couple times this year. The landscape of the Yuba River has completely changed. In my view, I think it's an improvement for those in drift boats because the water now has more and deeper channels. But, for the wade angler, the changes have made it more challenging. The brush and bugs have been flushed from floods of 2016 - 2017. They will need to reestablish themselves. I would fish Blue Wing Olive patterns, Caddis patterns and midges depending on the time of year. Also, don't be afraid to swing wet fly patterns and streamers. If I see a hatch or rising fish I fish dry flies, but 90% of the time I enjoy nymph fishing. I fish with a traditional rod, Spey and recently have taken up Tenkara.

Laurie: Tell me about your company **TY ROAM.**

Ty: I have always enjoyed woodworking. I wasn't impressed by the wading staffs I saw sold in the fly shops and I thought to heck with it; I'll make own.

I started in 2016 as a hobby and then got more serious about it when I retired in 2017. I did extensive field testing as an avid wade angler, learned a lot from the field testing, and kept making refinements. I'm very pleased with the evolution and now have it down pretty good. I also designed my TY ROAM logo, created my online store on Etsy.com, and now focus on building my brandname and marketing. It's a small independent enterprise that continues to evolve. Building a growing volume of wading staffs, I've standardized the process for both consistency and efficiency. The biggest challenge has been the time and energy involved with wholesale sourcing for all the material such as: hardwood planks, tips, tubing, various wood stains, para-cord, rubber end caps, carabiners, grips, etc. I strive to control cost as a small independent enterprise while still obtaining premium materials at wholesale prices. I want my product to be associated with high quality. My T**Y ROAM** motto is: *"Beauty and function by design, build to endure the rigors of the outdoors"*. It's also been fun participating in festivals and events as a vendor.



Laurie: Do you have any more thoughts?

Ty: The greatest gratification I derive is seeing others use one of my **TY ROAM** hiking and wading staffs and seeing one smile while catching a fish using one of my flies - priceless.

Laurie: What's next for **TY ROAM**?

Ty: Well, I have a prototype for a wooden handheld fishing net in the works using repurposed materials, it's looking pretty cool - Stay tuned! To view one of my wading staffs you can visit my online store at Etsy.com and search: **TY ROAM**. Many "Thanks" to CFFU for the great fellowship and providing the spark that has led me to this continuing journey and to my wonderful spouse Rosie for her support, encouragement, and best partner one could have.

My "Go-to Fly" by Gary Howard

Gary's Ant

I first thought of this after reading an article by Gary LaFontaine. In the article he said he would lay out a piece of white cloth on the ground when he was in the High Country to see what kinds of insects were being blown in. Insects are picked up by the rising air in the lower elevations, as the temperature rises, and dropped in the high country as the temperature cools. Most of the insects he found on his cloth were ants.

I have always liked the Parachute type pattern. When the hackle is tied parallel to the surface of the water I think it looks more like legs of the insect. At the time (2003) I could find no pattern for an ant that was tied in the parachute style.

I wanted to tie my ant in the parachute style, buoyant, and with a pearl tinsel under body. I liked the color of the pear tinsel as an under body. I decided on deer hair for the body because of its buoyancy and it can be compressed for the segmented part of the body.

This fly is my favorite in the high country. It has outpreformed any other fly I have used. I have not had the same success with this fly in lower elevations, I have caught fish with it in the lower elevations, but its performance is best above 9,000 feet.

Fly Fishing Legends - Gary LaFontaine

Editor's Note: Growing up in Connecticut, Gary LaFontaine caught his first fish at age eight using a fly. At age 15 he published his first fishing article. In 1963 he attended the University of Montana majoring in Behavioral Psychology. He and his wife Ardyce lived in Deer Lodge, Montana where Gary worked as a guard at the Montana State Prison. He later took up a post in the children's ward at the historic Montana State Hospital in Warm Springs, Montana. A renowned fly fisherman whose devotion to the sport made him a popular author, publisher and speaker, died of complications from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, at 56 years old. His five books, including "Challenge of the Trout" and "Trout Flies: Proven Patterns," are considered classics about the sport. He also spent untold hours - on and under the water - observing insect activity and trout behavior, knowledge he used to invent ingeniously effective fly patterns. But most of all, he fly-fished 150 to 200 days a year until his disease was diagnosed and eventually rendered him unable to fish.

Boozer, the Wise River Club Mascot - Gary LaFontaine's Hangout

Editor's Note: Gary Howard mentioned Gary LaFontaine in his history of Gary's Ant. Mr. La Fontaine wrote several books and was a renowned tyer. Special to me was the fact that he, as written in "*The Dry Fly*," was a regular at the Wise River Club...one of my favorite bar / restaurants on the green planet. After robust discussions about the "best flies," he would scuba dive in the Big Hole River and watch how trout reacted to the flies cast by his fishing partners.

The dog in the image was the "bar mascot" for the Wise River Club. Of course, his name was Boozer. Unfortunately, Boozer met his demise in the road not far from where I took this picture. Was Booser present when Gary and his cohorts discussed flies and how to fish them? Chances are, Booser was privy to some of Gary's secrets.

R.I.P. Boozer and Gary LaFontaine.

Boozer and the Wise River Bar and Cafe is in Wise River, Montana, near the Big Hole River. They offer a great hamburger and a display in the bar of antlers collected from a "pet" elk over the period of its life.

Vintage Fly Corner - The Griffith Gnat

By Rob Scafe

Now I know EVERYONE that fly fishes has used the Griffith Gnat. But – do you know it origin?

Here again is another Michigan fly. This one is from the fabled Au Sable River located in the upper half of the lower peninsula of Michigan. This river has three main stems the south branch the north branch, my favorite, and the main branch. George Griffith fished this river from as far back as the 1930s and had a cabin on the river named "the Barbless Hook". It was here on July 19th,1959 he and 15 others gathered to start what has become one of the largest conservations organizations in the world, TROUT UNLIMITED. George was the chairman in the early 1960s and was a driving force behind Trout Unlimited along with Art Neumann. I bet you didn't know that!

Well, George and his buddies fished the river in the authentic 24-foot flat bottom guide boats the dates back over 100 years. They fished with the Griffith Gnat. George didn't even tie the first one. They used it because it worked. There was no name for it. He and his friend, Bob Summers, by agreement, called it the Griffith Gnat. George had the name recognition. They fished it mostly in size 14.

George gave some to Ernie Scwiebert who mention the Griffith Gnat in his 1973 book **Nymphs**. He said he was given some in the early 60s by George and they sat in his fly box for a year before trying them on a day nothing else was working. The fly turned an otherwise dismal day into one of catching instead of just fishing.

Many of the noted fly anglers have endorsed the Griffith Gnat as one of the top 10 flies in their fly box. Hopefully you will have some in your box.

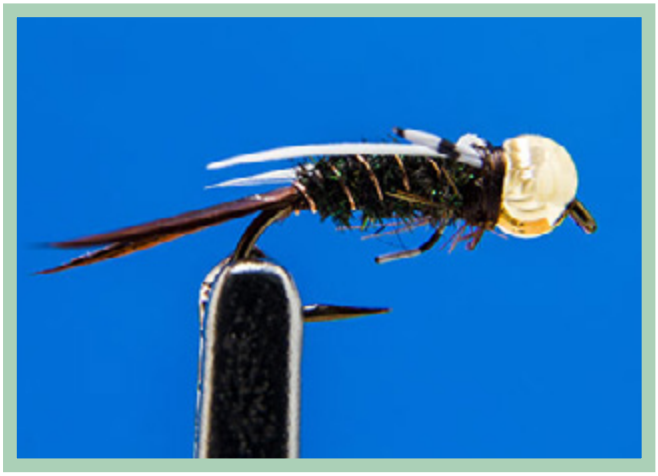
Materials	
Hook:	Standard dry fly hook 12 -24
Thread:	70 denier for larger flies to 8/o for small flies.
Body:	Peacock Hurl
Hackle:	Grizzly

The Au Sable River at the Gates Resort. Two of the modern Au Sable River canoes are tied to the bank.

Fly Tyers Exchange - Submitted by Don Wallace

Photos by James Simon

Bead Head Prince Nymph



Rob Scafe tied a Bead Head Prince Nymph on a size 12-18 TDE 3399A or 3761, 6/0 brown thread. The head is a 5/32 gold bead. The body is weighted with 11 turns of .015 lead. The tail is brown goose biots. The body is 3 strands of peacock herl with a fine BR copper wire. The legs are rubber **Sili Legs** barred black and white. The wings white goose biots.

January's Demonstration Tyer - Sam Yee

Sam's Articulated Clouser

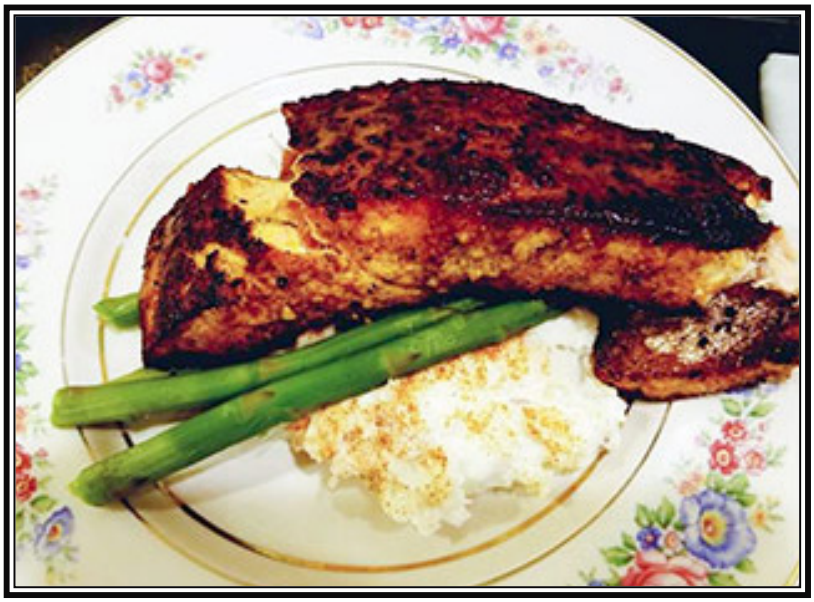
1. Apply flashabou to the hook shank.
2. Decide if you want the hook point up or down.
3. Apply white bucktail to the bottom of the hook.
4. Apply darker color or yellow bucktail to the top of the hook.
5. Decide how big a fly you want.
6. Use spinner wire available for "do it yourself" spinners. One end has a round loop (front).
7. Use jewelry pliers (round long-nose pliers) to form a loop about .25 inch diameter the correct length for the front of the fly.
8. Once you have formed the second loop for the hook, slide the hook on to the spinner wire and wrap the tag end around the shaft of the wire about 2 times to form a loop.
9. AFTER sliding the hook on to the spinner wire use a rubber band to hook the hook bend and around a place on the vise that will allow you to rotate the hook.
10. Place the hook that has the hook attached in the vise, loop the rubber band on the vise to keep the hook out of way tie white bucktail on bottom, dark bucktail for a lateral line or schappen feathers for lateral line and or par marks.
11. UV flashabou on the outside of the white bucktail spaced on the sides, bottom and opposite sides create a flashy belly.
12. The dark lateral line and the yellow, olive or dark bucktail on the top. This may also be tied fleye fly style reversed and folded back. Dark on top, white on bottom, with dark lateral line or grizzly hackle.

    Link to excellent videos on Hollow Fleyes:
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNZxW-tUH7WM

    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fh3E5iUvcR4

Anglers in the Kitchen - Ty Espinosa's Salmon Recipe

I start with fresh salmon from the Sun Fish market on V and 19th street downtown Sacramento. I mix together paprika, cayenne and black pepper, sea salt, Pappy's seasoning, garlic powder and onion powder then distribute it into a flat dish. Peel the skin off the fish and press both sides into the seasoning mix. Heat a stainless steel pan with olive oil on med-high heat. Cook the salmon about 4 minutes flip and cook another 4 -6 minutes. I cover the pan on the second 4 - 6 minutes to cook the inside and drizzle the top of the fillets with cilantro lime dressing. You have to eyeball it and adjust the cooking time depending on the thickness of the filets. This is great served over garlic mashed potatoes (hint: add Best Foods mayonnaise) and grilled asparagus.



A home-made New Year's Eve dinner for Rosie. Blackened salmon served over asparagus and garlic mashed potatoes; paired with a nice glass of wine.

Biology on the Fly - Skwala Adult

By Ken W. Davis

Skwala adults are fascinating insects. Unlike many of their stonefly cousins they are somewhat cryptic. When they emerge, they crawl out among the rocks rather than climbing on top to complete their cycle. You will typically not find the remnant shucks on riverside rocks.

But you might find "Mating Groups" of Skwalas (image left), on the river bank willows before the willows leaves are open. The female Skwalas are significantly larger than the males because they have to produce and carry a significant number of eggs that are tightly packed into a ball.

Contrary to what is often found on the internet, Skwalas are "univoltine," which means they only produce one brood per year. In other words, the nymphs that emerge every spring are just one year old. That is another significant difference between Skwalas and Golden Stoneflies which can be up to three years old before they emerge.

Remember, you will usually find the adults streamside, in the riparian plants,, caught in foam lines and just off the bank where they release their eggs.

Adult female Skwala stonefly carrying a tightly packed ball of eggs.

Fly of the Month - Bullet Head Skwala Stonefly

By Jim Berdan

This time of the year you can usually find the Skwala Stonefly on the Lower Yuba River. This pattern is a female and can be identified by the black egg sack at the end of the body or abdomen. For more information Google Lower Yuba Skwala Stonefly.

Hook:	Hook: TMC 200R, Size 10
Thread:	Danville Fly Master, 70 Denier, Tan
Egg Sac:	2.0mm Foam, Black
Rib:	Krystal Flash, Black
Dubbing:	Olive
Wing:	Cul de Canard, Natural Mallard
Head & Collar:	Deer Body Hair, Tan
Legs:	Medium Rubber Legs, Black
Indicator:	2.0mm Foam, Orange

STEP	IMAGE	TYING INSTRUCTIONS
1.		**Photo 1:** Pinch the barb. Start the thread behind the hook eye and wrap towards the bend, stopping just above the barb and return the tread to the 1/3rd point behind the eye. Cut a strip of black foam, 1/8" in width and about 2" in length. Tie in the foam at the 1/3rd point and secure the foam to the shank with thread wraps, ending just above the barb as shown, and tie in the Krystal Flash rib
2.		**Photo 2:** Fold the foam forward and tie down with one or two wraps, trim the excess and secure. This forms the egg sack. With the olive dubbing, dub the body, or abdomen, and end with the thread at the 1/3rd point. Next rib the body with open wraps and tie off at the 1/3rd and trim the excess.
3.		**Photo 3:** Select three Cul de Canard feathers for the wing and tie in at the 1/3rd point. The wing should extend to just past the egg sack. Trim the excess and secure with thread wraps.
4.		**Photo 4:** Cut about a pencil diameter amount of deer hair from the hide, clean and stack, and tie in just behind the hook eye with the tips extending over the eye about shank length. Trim and tie down the butts to form a thorax.
5.		**Photo 5:** Dub the thorax with the olive dubbing and end with the tread at the 1/3rd point.

STEP	IMAGE	TYING INSTRUCTIONS
6.		**Photo 6:** Fold the deer hair back to form the bullet head and secure with thread wraps as shown. Do not trim the deer hair tips.
7.		**Photo 7:** Tie in the rubber legs as shown.
8.		**Photo 8:** Cut a strip of orange foam and tie in as shown. This gives the fly a high visible indicator. Whip finish and apply head cement.
9.		**Photo 9:** Profile view of the fly.
10.		**Photo 10:** Underside view of the fly

QUESTION FOR YOU

Is the proper spelling Tyer or Tier?

Fishing the Yuba River - The Skwala Hatch

By Jon Baiocchi, Guide

Hatches of aquatic insects have cycles of low and high periods depending on population numbers from scouring effects of high flows in a particular watershed. As most of you are well aware, the Yuba River received several flooding events during the winter of 2016/2017. All the bugs were greatly affected, but in the last few months there have been good hatches of mayflies, and during the past two weeks the Skwala stonefly has been hatching as well. For us fly anglers, this is great news!

A somewhat overrated hatch, many guides, and fly shops make the Skwala stoneflies sound like a huge bug, which is entirely not the case. Nymphs and adults are roughly 19 to 24 millimeters. The female is much larger than the male for she must carry the eggs that will perpetuate the species. The fully mature nymph becomes active during the early months of winter on the Yuba River and will begin migrating to the idle side water directly below major riffles. Water temperature, lunar cycles, and the angle of the sun trigger the nymphs to ermerge from the side water onto the shore, preferably under large cobblestones with living space beneath them. At this precise moment the nymph undergoes a complete metamorphous and splits its nymphal shuck and emerges into an air breathing winged adult. Right away, males follow pheromone scents left by females where they meet, greet, and mate. A typical Skwala stonefly may live up to a month (if not consumed by a trout or a bird), reproducing several times.

Fishing the adult pattern is not only the most fun way to approach the hatch, but often the most productive. After sunning themselves, the female crawls from the shore line during mid-day and out onto the water where she floats placidly down the bubble lines of currents and lays her eggs. Males often do the same, but searching to find another mate. Making presentations with your dry fly imitation in the side water and bubble lines is a key area to target. When trout key in on the Skwala, they will swim over to prime lies in the side water from noontime to late afternoon, and wait for the food source to drift down to them. There are two ways to present your dry fly. The first would be what I call "searching", where the angler makes an upstream presentation, and as the fly floats downstream the angler strips in line to keep slack to minimum. You will want to work a 30 x 30 feet piece of water casting near to far. Once this section of water is covered, it is time to move upstream to a new untouched section of the river to dissect. The takes can be subtle, or splashy, so keeping a sharp eye on your pattern is an absolute must. Making sure the fly drifts drag free is important too, it must not move or act unnaturally. The other way to present your Skwala adult pattern is when you have spotted an active rainbow rising and eating on the surface. Your best approach is a downstream presentation, with the fly floating first followed by the leader and the fly line. For the side water, a short downstream cast is laid out well above the target area. Then a "bump feed" is used by flipping the tip of the rod up and down, while release line off the reel with your line control hand. You must keep slack line to a minimum, but keep enough slack line so the fly drifts drag free. When setting the hook with a "fly first" presentation, it's best to do so with a 45 degree upward angle so the hook is buried in the upper side of the fish's mouth.

For a good follow up read on the Skwala stonefly, checkout my article "The Skwala Hatch" in the December 2014 issue of **California Fly Fisher**.

The Unit Skwala pattern as tied by Jon at the January 25th Tech Thurs. This pattern was originally tied for the Skwala hatch on the Bitterroot River, MT, but works well on the Yuba River.

Visit Jon's Fly Fishing blog:
http://jonbaiocchiflyfishingnews.blogspot.com/

Jon's Website Fly Fishing Guide Service for the Northern Sierra:
http://baiocchistroutfitters.com/

CFFU Club Meetings

First Tuesday of each month.
Richard Conzelmann Community Center (PDF Map Link)
2201 Cottage Way, Sac., CA 95825

General Meeting Schedule:

6:15 p.m.: Fly Tying Demo
7:00 p.m.: Program Presentation
8:00 p.m.: Club Information

CFFU Membership

New Member: Individual: $40.00

New Member: Family: $55.00
(Includes spouse and children under 18 years old.)

New Member: Junior: $25.00 (Under 18 years old)

New Membership Dues:
(Includes $10 initiation fee.)
After September 1, annual fees are pro-rated through December 31.

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CFFU RENEW Membership Online: (PDF Link)

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Please visit the CFFU Website for information about the Officers, Directors and Club Committee Leaders

LINK to CFFU Leaders

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