



# April 2024 Newsletter

## April 2 Meeting



**5:00 - Doors open. Demonstrations/Discussions/Sign-ups** available on fly tying, club fish outs, and skills development

**5:30 – Dinner:** Chinese, from Asia Gardens: General Chicken, Sweet and Sour Pork, Beef and Broccoli, Chicken Fried Rice or Vegetable Chow Mein. Make reservations [Calendar](#). **Not available at “press time”.** If that isn’t possible, text Carol Kramer at 510-910-2352 or email at [ackramermail@gmail.com](mailto:ackramermail@gmail.com) Put: “GCFF dinner” in the subject field.

**6:30 – General Meeting:** President Rich Tortosa and committee chairs discuss pertinent club business and up-coming club events.

**7:20 – Raffle.** Fund raiser and opportunity to win flies and fishing gear

**7:30 - Speaker: Jon Hubbard** A local native, Jon has fished and guided on some of the best waters anywhere, but now he focuses on the challenging, and rewarding, fish of Putah Creek. He’ll share with us what he’s learned about successful nymphing strategies for these selective salmonids. The focus will be on indicator and euro nymphing with a nod to swung flies and streamers as well. Rods, lines, and terminal tackle will be discussed as well as flies and basic entomology.

**8:30 – Adjourn** and cleanup

## Photos from March 5 Meeting



## GGFF Events – What’s Coming Up?

<b>Fly Casting Skills Development</b> - Forest Charter School Field, 10 am – 2 pm	Mar. 16	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Bullards Bar Fish Out</b> – Dark Day Bay Boat Ramp, 8 am – 5 pm	Mar. 23	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a> Date changed from Mar. 20
<b>Spey Fly Fishing Group</b> – Forest Charter School Field, 10 am – 2 pm	Mar. 23	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Conservation Education Committee</b> – Players Pizza, 12:00 – 2:30 GCFF	Mar. 25	Club members welcome; no host lunch. <b>Details, page 10</b>
<b>GCFF Board Meeting</b> – Trailblazers Craft Pizza, 12 – 2 pm. Members welcome. Meetings will alternate between Trailblazers and Players. This month it’s Trailblazers	Mar. 26	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>New Member Welcome/Orientation</b> - Briar Patch Community Room, 5:30 – 7:30 pm “This class will really jump start your fly fishing journey.”	Mar. 27	<b>Registration required</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Luk Lake Fish Out</b> – Private lake near Corning. Trout and largemouth bass, 9 am - 3 pm	Mar. 27	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>GCFF General Meeting</b> – Ponderosa Room Nevada Co. Fairgrounds, 5 – 8:30 pm	Apr. 2	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Lower Sacramento</b> float trip with guide – Redding. Large rainbows, 7 am – 5 pm.	Apr. 4	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Fly Fishing 101</b> Briar Patch Community Room, 9 am – 4 pm	Apr. 6	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Lower Yuba Fish Out #1</b> – 8279 Scott Forbes Rd., Browns Valley, 9 am – 6 pm	Apr. 6	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Lower Yuba Fish Out #2</b> – 8279 Scott Forbes Rd., Browns Valley, 9 am – 6 pm	Apr. 7	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Damsels, Women Fly Fish Too</b> – Briar Patch Community Room, 5:30 – 7:30 pm	Apr.10	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Fly Tying at Sam’s</b> - 13835 Seven Cedars Drive, Grass Valley, 6 – 8 pm	Apr. 10	<b>Details page 13</b>

<b>Euro Nymphing Group</b> – Briar Patch or on the water, 5:30 – 7:30 pm	Apr. 11	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Fly Casting Skills Development</b> - Forest Charter School Field, 10 am – 2 pm	Apr. 13	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Clear Lake FO</b> – Skylark Shores, 1120 Main St., Lakeport ,10 am	Apr. 14 - 16	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Intro to Tenkara</b> – Briar Patch Community Room, 5:30 – 7:00 pm	Apr.15	<b>Details and sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Scotts Flat Lake</b> – Cascade Shores boat launch, 14800 Lake Lane, Nevada City, 7:30 am – 2:00 pm	Apr. 16	<b>Details and sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Pyramid Lake Fish Out</b> 30605 Sutcliffe Drive Sutcliffe, NV, noon	Apr. 18 - 19	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Spey-O-Rama</b> – Golden Gate Park Casting Ponds, 8 am – 5 pm	Apr 19 - 21	<b>Details</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Spey Fly Fishing Group</b> - Briar Patch Community Room, 5:30 – 7:30 pm	Apr. 22	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Lake Wildwood Bass Fish Out</b> – Hideaway Park, LWW, 7:00 am – 1:30 pm	Apr. 24	<b>Details and Sign-up</b> <a href="#">Here</a>

## Announcements

### Dave Ackerman, Fundraising Committee

Fundraising this year will be the same as last year: a donation-based campaign from all our members. All year we will collect donations at each monthly meeting.

**Dig through your treasures to see if there is something you no longer need that could be of value to your fellow members.** And it doesn't necessarily need to be something for fly fishing; it could be a bottle of wine, camping equipment, a power tool, a gift basket or something nice for the home. We will have a donations table set up in the front of the room.

As of our last meeting we now have 21 items collected. We're looking for about 60 more! And thanks in advance for your donations!



## Attention New Members! – by Larry Strauss

Club leadership would like to make sure you, as a new member, have an opportunity to learn what our fly fishing club has to offer and, as important, we would like you to learn about what programs, classes, clinics, or fishing opportunities you would like to participate in as a member of GCFF.

We will be holding our third new member orientation on March 27th. The first such session was on November 28, 2023. The second was on February 7th. If you attended that, you are welcome to join us again should you wish.

Here is what Mike Dyer, who joined GCFF in August, said about the November session, "The Orientation class is an excellent way to discover how the club can help and teach you about all aspects of fly fishing. I was amazed by how much the club has to offer, and how friendly and helpful the instructors and members are. This class will really jump start your fly fishing journey."

The meeting begins at 5:30 pm and will last about 2 hours. Our plan is for the event to be primarily social in nature. Club leadership would like to meet you and we would like you to understand how the club operates and what resources are available to members. We will also answer any questions you may have about GCFF.

If you are able to attend on March 27th, please register on the club's website by selecting this button [Welcome New Members](#)

The community room at the Briar Patch Coop has limited capacity which is why we are offering several events for new members.

Should you have any problem accessing the website, please let me know and I will assist you. Should you have any questions, please reply to this email or feel free to call.

I hope to see you there.

Larry Strauss, [strauss.larry@gmail.com](mailto:strauss.larry@gmail.com), 414-851-1978

## Joe Garza

**Joe is offering a clinic related to his talk to the club on March 5.** The clinic will be on Thursday, April 4, from 8:30-1:00 and cost \$150. Contact Joe directly to register at J.A.G. Flyfishing. [www.jagflyfishing.com](http://www.jagflyfishing.com) . 530-570-0978

# President's Message

## Rich Tortosa, GCFF 2024 President

This is an exciting time for Gold Country Fly Fishers. Our club is stable financially and our last three general meetings have been very well attended with great enthusiasm.

Our New Members group continues to introduce our new members to the club's opportunities that come with membership. Their next meeting is on March 27 at 5:30 pm at the Briar Patch Coop. We have an abundance of social events coming up including Hamburger night in June, the Club's Barbecue and Fundraiser on August 6, the Nevada County Fair August 7-11, Yuba Fest October 5 and 6, and the Holiday party on December 3.

Our Fly Fishing Skills and Workshop Committee continues to be very active offering numerous opportunities for our members. This includes Flying Casting Skills and Development offered monthly, and Fly Fishing 101 April 6 and 7. One of our Members, Greg DeYoung, reached the NCFFFI Gold Level for Fly Casting at the Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show.

There is also the addition of some new groups including the Euro Nymphing group and the Spey group. The Euro Nymphing group meets March 13. The Spey Group meets March 23. There also are planned new future events including Introduction to Fly Tying, a Knots and Rigging class, and Bill Burden will be offering a Tenkara 101 class. The Damsels, "Women Fly Fish Too," will be offering women's only events including on April 10 a Knots and Rigging class at the Briar Patch Coop; on May 4, an On the Water Demonstration Float Tube/Flotation Gear clinic; and on May 25 a Fish Out at Jackie's Pond.

Our Fish Out Committee has arranged three fish outs for March: Sugar Pine Reservoir March 14, Bullard Bar Reservoir March 20, and Luk Lake on March 27.

Our upcoming Club speakers will be Jon Hubbard/Putah Creek on April 2 and Chris Leonard/Mammoth Lakes Area on May 7.

Please check the website to register for the above events.

Our Trout in the Classroom group is actively getting ready to release Salmon Fry with the students. And our Conservation Committee participated at the Enviro Fair at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival.

The Fly Fishing Film Festival returns to the Nevada City Theater on April 5.

As you can see, GCFF is a very active club, and our members have a plethora of events to choose from and to participate in. This further validates the value of our club membership.

## Fish-Outs

### John Ax, Fish-Outs Committee and Leader, Rancho Seco Fish-out

Six anglers made the trip down to Rancho Seco Regional Park on February 21. The weather was great, sunny and in the 60's; it was a refreshing change from all the rain we've been having. The venue was very nice with plenty of parking, picnic tables and they even have flush toilets!!! It was a perfect day with one exception...no fish in the net! The lack of action was surprising due to the experience of those who participated and the fact that the lake had been planted recently. It's a good reminder to all of us that there are no guarantees when it comes to catching fish. That's why we call it fishing not catching, right? Everyone agreed that it was still a great day on the water and we should try our luck there again in the future.



### Coming Fish-Outs, Tom Grant, Fish Outs Chair

As you can see from the following, we have several fish-outs planned for this spring and into June. Please look at the details and register on our website. Most of our fish-outs are free to members, but some require a pay-to-fish fee (i.e., Luc lake), others a guide fee (Pyramid and the Feather.) The Fish-Out committee met March 6 and added several more outings for May and June, and many are now posted on the website for your review.

Attending fish-outs is one of the best ways to not only improve your fly-fishing skills, it's also a great way to meet and socialize with fellow club members.

## GCFF Fish-Outs Through June

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Locations</b>	<b>Fish Type T -trout B-bass</b>	<b>Already Posted to website</b>
May 18 New Date	Sugar Pine Reservoir, Foresthill	T & B	Y
March 20	Bullards Bar	B	Y
March 27	Luc Lake	T & B	Y
April 4	Lower Sac Float	T	Y
April 6-7	Lower Yuba / UC Property	T	Y
April 14	Scotts Flat Lake	B	Y
April 14, 15, 16	Clear Lake	Crappie	Y
April 18-19	Pyramid Lake	T	Y
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Lake Wildwood	B	Y
May 10	Feather River Middle Fork	T	Y
May Tbd	Scotts Flat Lake	B	N
May Tbd	Deer Creek / Lower Scotts Flat	B/T	N
May Tbd	Lake Berryessa	B	N
May 25	Jackie's Pond Damsels – Ladies only event	B	Y
June 1	Lower Yuba #1 Weekend... With a Pre set-up meeting	Shad	Y
June 2	Sawmill Lake #1 (Northstar)	T	Y
June 5	Lower Yuba #2 Weekday	Shad	Y
June 10	Stampede / Boca Reservoirs	B / T	N
June 14-15	Bucks Lake	T	Y
Late June	Lake Almanor, Hex Hatch	T & B	N



# Conservation Education Committee

Frank Rinella, CEC Co-chair, calls our attention to these events:

## Bear River Community Celebration Day

Saturday, April 6, 2024 • 10 AM to 2 PM  
(rain date: Sunday, April 7)

Bear River Public Fishing Access • Colfax, California

### A Vision for the Bear

*Help preserve and restore this beautiful river  
for public recreation and inspiration*



All the Friends of Bear River are gathering to **Celebrate the Living Water** that brings us all together at the River of the Roundhouses, **K'umim Seu.**

JOIN US at the Bear River for a variety of fun and enlightening activities.

**Please bring food for yourselves and your family for lunch and snacks.**

Photo ©Gary Moon



## Rancho Seco Recreational Area Trout Derby

April 6 & 7 Win Cash Prizes plus a Fishing Kayak, Fishing Equipment and More  
Thousands of pounds of trout up for grabs

For Kids and Adults

Click [For further information](#)

## **Conservation Education Committee meeting**

### **Co-chairs Frank Rinella, Rick Weaver, Wilton Fryer**

The meeting is set for Monday March 25 at Players Pizza in Penn Valley. 12 to 2:30 pm. No-host lunch 12 to 12:30, meeting at 12:30

Our guest speaker will be Colin Lauback from Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, lead biologist in charge of the research group on the lower Yuba River.

Colin is the guy who actually gets his feet wet and knows the lower Yuba. The research team has been collecting data on the lower river's salmon and trout/steelhead populations for over 10 years. The sampling and data collections include salmon redd counts, carcass counts, water temperatures and flows, bug life, and monitoring the Viki system in the ladders at Daguerre Point Dam. We invited Colin to our meeting to give us his over-view of the river and so he could address your questions or concerns about the river and fishery.

The main agenda will address the latest information on the closure of the south side road below Hwy 20 and any new information on the Nature Like Fishway at Daguerre Point Dam.

## **Trout in the Classroom**

**By Debbie Bond**

Trout in the Classroom is continuing with the spring 2024 season for steelhead eggs and eventual release. Tanks were set up February 13 - 16 at 4 different local schools by GCFF volunteers, and then eggs were delivered to the classrooms on February 21.

All the participating kids, grades 1 through 4, are enjoying hands-on fish parenting!!! As of the first couple of days in March, the eggs have hatched and are growing from alevins to fry in preparation for their release into the American River sometime in the next few weeks. Looking forward to the release date...

Thanks to all the volunteers who connected with Robin DeNegri at our March general meeting.

Tap on this link for a cool time-lapse video of a steelhead egg hatching into an alevin in one of GCFF's tanks. Thanks to Chris Thibodeau, 3rd grade teacher at Union Hill Elementary School:  
[Steelhead egg hatching](#)



**Steelhead eggs maturing in one of GCFF's Trout in the Classroom Tanks**

## **Damsels**

**By Debbie Bond**

Hi GCFF Women Anglers!

After discussion at the Damsels February "Meet and Greet" get together, and a review of the sign-up sheets available at the information table at the March 5 general membership meeting, the committee has created our events clinics for April and May 2024.

We will start by offering two basic clinics and one "Fish-Out" for women only. Make sure your 2024 dues are paid so that you can be a part of the learning and fishing opportunities we are offering to our women anglers - our Damsels.

By signing in on the CE GCFF website ([gcff.clubexpress.com](http://gcff.clubexpress.com)) and then going to the calendar, you can register not only for these clinics, but also for any others that you would like to participate in that are being offered to the general membership. Any dates that are "Women Only" will be listed as such on the calendar. If you need help with the online registration, feel free to reach out to any of the Damsel Committee Co-Chairs saying that you'd like to attend an event, and we will be more than happy to help you through the process.

These upcoming clinics, and the fish-outs, are free events! Let us know, and register, as soon as possible - especially for the Knots and Rigging class set for April 10th. Look forward to seeing and fishing with you. If you need equipment, let us know and we will do the best we can to help provide loaners - we just want you to come and have fun!!

1) Damsels "Knots and Rigging Class"

April 10, 5:30 - 7:30 pm at the Briar Patch Community Room. Bring your rod, reel, line if you have any. The clinic will provide hands-on instruction on how to set up your gear, tie your basic knots and when to use them. Materials will be available for tying practice. Our classroom instructors will be from our GCFF Mentors group - both men and women, depending on who is available. The class itself will be for "Women Only". **Registration is required.**

2) Damsels "Float Tube Clinic"

May 4, 8am - 3pm. Location will be decided on but will definitely be at a local, easily accessible waterfront. Introduction to the use of float tubes and other single person watercrafts, personal flotation devices (PFD's), and equipment pieces used when fishing from a float tube, will be taught. Bring your waders or other water-proof clothing of choice, including shoes and a PDF vest if you have one. Instructors and Mentors will be from our experienced women's group. This is a "Women Only" event. **Registration is required.**

3) Jackie's Pond Fish-out

May 25, 8am - 3pm. Jackie Caswell, who is part of our Damsels group, has a wonderful fishing pond on her property in Grass Valley. She has opened a day for a "Women's Only" fish-out. Come and practice what you learned on the 4th, or if you already know how and have equipment - let's go fishing! This is a limited access location so sign up early and once we know who would like to join us, we will work out the final details, especially if someone needs equipment. There are fish to be caught here! This is a "Women Only" event. **Registration is required.**

Plans for upcoming clinics and events are being organized and we are always open to suggestions and wishes! Some of the ideas we are working on are a women's fly tying evening, Fly Casting Development Clinics, getting together with other women's groups from other fly clubs, and just plain ol' getting together and fishing.

Still working on a survey to determine what is on the top of everyone's list, but figured it was way past time to get this adventure started! Please join us and remember --

"Women Fly Fish Too!"

# Fly Tying at Sam's

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 – 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
13835 Seven Cedars Drive, Grass Valley

## Pheasant Tail Nymph



**Hook:** Nymph Standard to 2XL, #12-#20

**Thread:** Brown, 6/0 or 8/0

**Tail:** Pheasant Tail Barbs

**Rib:** Fine Copper Wire

**Abdomen:** Pheasant Tail Barbs

**Thorax:** Pheasant Tail Barbs

**Wing Case:** Pheasant Tail Barbs

**Legs:** Pheasant Tail Barbs

Call Sam at (530) 957-5086 so he'll know how many are coming.

## Photos



Rancho Seco FO. We tried everything. Here is John Ax fishing a balance leech.



# Editorial

**Mike Connor**

The following offers some interesting thoughts about our sport of fly fishing and our fly fishing club. It also demonstrates the power of artificial intelligence (AI). All the information was gleaned from the internet, so we must be doing a good job at publicizing our club on line. After a question as to what AI can do, a friend asked his son-in-law if AI could write a piece on why someone should join Gold Country Fly Fishers. The man lives in the Bay Area, is not a fisher and had never heard of GCFF, but he has an AI app on his phone. Ten minutes later he texted us back the following:

## **The Gold Standard: Why Joining Gold Country Fly Fishers is Essential for Anglers**

Fly fishing is more than just a pastime; it's a way of life—a communion with nature, an art form, and a lifelong pursuit of the elusive catch. For enthusiasts in Gold Country, the heart of California's fly fishing scene, joining the Gold Country Fly Fishers (GCFF) is not just an option but a necessity. Here's why every fly fisherman should become a part of this vibrant community:

**Knowledge Sharing:** Within GCFF, wisdom flows like the rivers we fish. Whether you're a seasoned angler or just starting out, there's always something new to learn. From casting techniques to entomology, members eagerly share their expertise, helping everyone improve their skills and deepen their understanding of the sport.

**Conservation Efforts:** Fly fishermen are stewards of the environment, and GCFF takes this responsibility seriously. Through partnerships with local conservation organizations and hands-on restoration projects, members actively contribute to the preservation of our precious watersheds, ensuring that future generations can enjoy the same pristine rivers and streams that we cherish today.

**Community Connection:** Fishing is inherently a solitary pursuit, but it doesn't have to be lonely. GCFF provides a sense of camaraderie that enhances the fishing experience. Whether it's swapping stories at monthly meetings, organizing group outings to favorite fishing spots, or simply sharing tips and tricks on the club's online forums, members forge friendships that extend beyond the water.

**Access to Exclusive Resources:** Membership in GCFF opens doors to a wealth of resources that are otherwise inaccessible. From guest speakers and workshops to exclusive access to private waters, the club provides opportunities for members to expand their horizons and explore new facets of the sport.

**Advocacy and Representation:** As a collective voice for fly fishermen in Gold Country, GCFF advocates for the interests of anglers on issues ranging from access rights to environmental policy. By joining forces with like-minded individuals, members can effect positive change and ensure that fly fishing remains a thriving tradition in our community.

**Education and Outreach:** GCFF is committed to nurturing the next generation of fly fishermen. Through educational programs, youth initiatives, and outreach efforts, the club inspires a love of the sport in young people and introduces them to the joys of fishing responsibly and ethically.

In conclusion, joining Gold Country Fly Fishers isn't just about catching fish—it's about becoming part of a passionate community dedicated to the pursuit of excellence, conservation, and camaraderie. Whether you're a seasoned veteran or a novice angler, there's a place for you in GCFF. So come join us, and let's make some memories on the water together

## Programs/Speakers

### **Mike Pease, Programs Chair, speakers for 2024**

March 5	Joe Garza	Lower Feather River
April 2	Jon Hubbard	Putah Creek
May 7	Chris Leonard	Fly Fish Mammoth Area
June 4	Ethan Bush	The American River
July 2	No Meeting	
August 6	Annual BBQ Social	and FUNdraiser
September 3	Jim Litchfield	Pyramid Lake
October 1	Mike Pease	The Art of Mending
November 5	Gary Bulla	Baja Epic!
December 3	Holiday Party	

# 2024 Officers and Committee Chairs

## GCFF Board of Directors

President	Rich Tortosa	Director Year 1 of 2	Carol Kramer
Vice President	Scott Berry	Director Year 1 of 2	John Ax
Treasurer	Larry Strauss	Director Year 2 of 2	Dave Ackerman
Secretary	Debbie Bond	Director Year 2 of 2	Debbie DiSantos
Past President	Clay Hash		

## GCFF Committee Chairs

Fish-Outs	Tom Grant	Scout Merit Badge	Bob Winters
Classes, Clinics	Clay Hash		Frank Rinella
Meeting Programs	Rich Tortosa	Trout in the Classroom	Robin Denegri
Newsletter	Mike Connor		Larry Uno
Communications	Bill Burden	Fund Raising	Scott Berry
Membership	Debbie DiSanto	Damsels	Diane Berg
	Pam Kline	Meeting Dinners	
New Members	Larry Strauss	Food	Carol Kramer
Website	Larry Strauss	Dinner set-up	Diane Berg
Conservation Ed.	Frank Rinella	Drinks, Snacks	Larry Uno
	Rick Weaver	Raffle	?
	Wilton Fryer	Meeting Set Up, Takedown	?

## MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the art of fly fishing for the recreation of members.

To teach members the skill and techniques of fly fishing.

To publicize and promote fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying, and other related subjects.

To represent organized fly fishers through liaison with sports, conservation, and regulatory agencies and organizations.

To promote and support the conservation of our fisheries, with emphasis on the "Catch and Release" ethic.