



May 2024 Newsletter

May 7 Meeting



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

5:30 – Dinner: Pizza and Caesar Salad from Northridge. Make reservations [Calendar](#). If that isn't possible, text Carol Kramer at 510-910-2352 or email at 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: Chris Leonard, Mammoth Fisheries Summer Trifecta: Hot Creek, Upper Owens and San Juaquin River. Chris will discuss where, when, and how to best fish these waters. He will also touch a bit on two of his other favorite fisheries: The East Walker River and Crowley Lake. Please join us as we gear up for what is going to be a productive and lengthy summer of fly fishing in the Mammoth Lakes region. For more information on Chris and his presentation click [here](#).

GFF Events – What’s Coming Up?

Clear Lake FO – Skylark Shores, 1120 Main St., Lakeport ,10 am	Apr. 14 - 16	Details and sign-up Here
Intro to Tenkara – Briar Patch Community Room, 5:30 – 7:00 pm	Apr.15	Details and sign-up Here
Scotts Flat Lake – Cascade Shores boat launch, 14800 Lake Lane, Nevada City, 7:30 am – 2:00 pm	Apr. 16	Details and sign-up Here
On the Water Euro Casting Training – Sycamore Ranch, 9:30 am or 12:00 pm	Apr. 17	Details and sign-up Here
Pyramid Lake Fish Out 30605 Sutcliffe Drive Sutcliffe, NV, noon	Apr. 18 - 20	Details and sign-up Here
Bullards Bar Fish Out – Dark Day Bay Boatramp, 8 am – 5 pm	Apr. 20	Details and sign-up Here
Spey-O-Rama – Golden Gate Park Casting Ponds, 8 am – 5 pm	Apr 19 - 21	Details Here
Spey Fly Fishing Group - Briar Patch Community Room, 5:30 – 7:30 pm	Apr. 22	CANCELLED
Damsels Meeting - Debbie Bond's house, 13321 Red Dog Rd, NC, 5:30 – 8:00 pm	Apr. 23	Details and sign-up Here
Lake Wildwood Bass Fish Out – Hideaway Park, LWW, 7:00 am – 1:30 pm	Apr. 24	Details and sign-up Here
GCFF Board Meeting – Players Pizza, 10161 Commercial Ave., PV, 12 – 2:30 pm, members welcome	Apr. 30	Details and sign-up Here
Damsels Float Tube Clinic – Location TBD, 9:00 – 11:30 am	May 4	Registration required Here
General Meeting and Dinner Sign-up - Fairgrounds Ponderosa Room, 5:00 – 8:30	May 7	Details and dinner registration Here
Feather River Middle Fork Guide Trip - Greenhorn Ranch, Quincy, 8:00 – 4:00	May 10	Details and sign-up Here

President's Message

Rich Tortosa, GCFF President

Gold Country Fly Fishers has been quite active and participatory in 2024. Our group has taken great advantage of the many opportunities to become a better fly fishermen and women over the course of this last year.

Seventy-seven of our members have signed up for Fish Outs. We have eleven fish outs scheduled for April. Eleven of our members have become Fish Out leaders.

Fly Casting Skills Development has been a quite successful program. Twenty-seven of our members have certified at the bronze level and one is in progress. Eleven of our members have certified at the silver level and seventeen are in progress. Three of our members have been certified at the gold level and nine are in progress. On April thirteenth our Mentors Group will be having a Going for the Gold Workshop. This has been a great program. The Mentors Group continues to grow in its skill set more than just fly casting.

The Euro Nymphing group has 32 members, and the Spey fly fishing group has 12 members. The Introduction to Tenkara Group will begin with its first meeting on April 15th.

Our conservation group has been quite active and effective on giving us updates on the Daguerre Point Nature Like fishway. They are also giving s updates on the Lake Spalding Dam repair and its effects on our watershed.

We will double our efforts for the Nevada County Fair this year and Debbie Bond, our chairperson, will be having our first meeting sometime during the third week of April.

The Damsel's group continues to be extremely active and participatory. They had a knots and rigging workshop April 10th. Their group meeting is going to be April 23rd. Their on the water Float Tube Clinic is on May 4th.

Our recent Fly Fishing 101 had twenty participants. Upcoming events include hamburger night on June 4th, the August Barbecue and Fundraiser on August the 6th, the Nevada County Fair from August 7th to the 11th, Yuba Fest on October 5th, and the Holiday Party on December 3rd. Our recent speaker John Hubbard, who speaks at Fly Fishing Clubs throughout Northern California, said that he felt our club was one of the most vibrant clubs that he's experienced. Our upcoming speaker for May will be Chris Leonard who will cover Fly Fishing the Mammoth Area.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting and participating in all the great energy, enthusiasm, and opportunities our club has.



HAMBURGER NIGHT!!

Historically the club has held “Hamburger Night” at the June meeting. But since Covid, it has kind of fallen by the wayside. This year we are going to reinstate it at the June 4 General Meeting. There will be no speaker that night.

Hamburger Night is grilled hamburgers and cheeseburgers on buns with the usual fixings: mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, dill pickle chips, lettuce, sliced onions, and sliced tomatoes. There will be mixed green salad available and individual bags of chips (if I can find them). You are on your own for beverages. Beer and wine are allowed.

At times in the past, depending on the club’s finances, \$5 per head was charged. However, at the March meeting **the Board decided there will be no charge for Hamburger Night this year.** The meal will be served by the Club Officers and Board who will provide whatever volunteer help is needed. Preparations will start around 4:30 pm and dinner is expected to be served at 6 pm.

We ask you to SIGNUP so we know how much food to buy. It will be listed as an Event on the calendar, and you can sign up just like you do for our regular meeting dinners. **Deadline for signing up is June 1.**

You can also contact me at jimmieam@gmail.com Please put “Hamburger Night” in the subject. Also, please put August 6 on your calendar as that is the date of the Club’s Tri-Tip/Chicken BBQ Potluck Fund Raiser at Condon Park in Grass Valley. More information on this will be coming in future newsletters.

Looking forward to sharing burgers with you all.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmie".

Jimmie Marchio

Conservation Education Committee

Frank Rinella, CEC Co-chair, forwards this informational guide, from Foothills Water Network, for comments to Yuba Water Agency or Ca Fish and Game Commission regarding the proposed **Yuba River Daguerre Point Dam Nature Like Fishway**.

The Challenge: The proposed Daguerre Point Dam Nature Like Fishway (Fishway) low gradient design is primarily intended to allow volitional passage of threatened green sturgeon and also Pacific lamprey at Daguerre Point Dam (DPD). The Fishway is also intended to improve passage conditions for threatened salmonids (Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout), as well as CV fall-run Chinook salmon, which are a Species of Concern. However, the Fishway is likely to also allow the passage of striped bass currently confined below DPD by existing fish ladders. Striped bass and American shad are non-native species that are known to not use the existing fish ladders and prey upon or compete with threatened salmonids.

Key Points: 1. The lower Yuba River between Englebright Dam and Daguerre Point Dam is a spawning and rearing refuge for threatened salmonids that is currently free from non-native predatory species such as striped bass.

2. Striped bass is a non-native species that prey upon threatened salmonids and, on the Yuba River, are currently confined below DPD.

3. Non-native American shad are also currently confined below DPD and may negatively affect trophic dynamics (compete for food and habitat resources) of threatened salmonids.

4. If volitional passage is provided for green sturgeon, striped bass and shad are also likely to migrate above DPD if they are not otherwise prevented from passing by some means.

5. Intentionally introducing predatory striped bass into protected Designated Critical Habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed salmonids may conflict with the National Marine Fisheries Service recovery plan for ESA listed species on the lower Yuba River.

6. While challenging, the creative, intelligent, and adequately funded application of restoration science and engineering must prevent striped bass and shad passage through the Fishway while fulfilling other project goals.

The Ask: Please require that the DPD Fishway project prevent the passage of predatory striped bass and resource consuming American shad above DPD as a project goal in order to protect threatened salmonids and green sturgeon. Comment orally or in writing to the Yuba Water Agency Board of Directors (1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 9 am via zoom).

For the complete guide with links to background information and Yuba Water Agency and Ca Fish and Game Commission websites, click [here](#).

Expected Water Shortages to Scotts Flat Reservoir and Rollins Lake Due to Infrastructure Failures

CEC Co-chair Rick Weaver provided this discussion

In late March, the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) board of directors declared a “water shortage emergency” after “unanticipated infrastructure repairs” had cutoff the source of NID’s water supply to western Nevada County. The return to service estimate has been revised three times already, with the latest estimate now set for early August. The “infrastructure” failures to the water delivery system are two-pronged and both are on Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) facilities, with NID being totally dependent on PG&E’s timeline to repair the damage. PG&E’s Spaulding 1 powerhouse sustained an infrastructure failure that has cut water flow into the Drum Canal, which is the primary water source for Rollins Reservoir and the Bear River. A landslide immediately downstream from Spaulding Dam has severely damaged PG&E’s section of the South Yuba Canal, which is the main water supply source to Scotts Flat Reservoir and Deer Creek.

The upshot is that the two NID foothill reservoirs will be completely cutoff from all but natural watershed runoff until PG&E completes the repairs. Until repairs are completed, NID’s only source of water for its costumers is the existing water stored in Scotts Flat Lake and Rollins Reservoir. The anticipated drawdown of both reservoirs will be significant. This news comes just as the warm water fish species in these reservoirs are entering into their annual spring spawning cycles. A severe drawdown in April and May will subject the eggs in smallmouth and largemouth bass nests to predation and exposure to air, endangering an entire year class of sportfish.

NID is presently calling for a voluntary water reduction of 20 percent by all its costumers for the remainder of this year, but this is expected to be upgraded to a mandatory order as water supplies diminish. NID is entering into uncharted territory because it has never faced a situation where the water supply in its headwater reservoirs was cutoff form its customers in the foothills. The water supply shortages will be felt across the board, including irrigation, treated domestic water supply and hydropower generation. The longer-term consequence is that there will be no carryover water from either Scotts Flat or Rollins, meaning that the economic and environmental impacts will be felt by western Nevada County residents and fisheries well beyond this current emergency.

With the South Yuba and Drum Canals out of service, the excess snowmelt runoff is going over the Spaulding Dam spillway and down the South Yuba River. You can expect much colder and higher-than-normal flows in the South Yuba and Lower Yuba Rivers this spring. Extreme caution is advised when wading the Yuba over the next three months.

Trout in the Classroom

Steelhead Fry Release, by Robin DiNegri

The Steelhead season has closed for the 6 classes. They successfully raised 35 Steelhead from egg to Fry, which the students released into the American River.

The weather cooperated, even the day we all had snow.

Several of the schools brought students from several grades to take part in the release so instead of 25 students there were 50 or 60 students from Union Hill, Scotten Elementary, Twin Ridges Home School, Nevada City School of the Arts and Lyman Gilmore (2 classes).

Three of the schools went from Sailor Bar to the Hatchery for a guided tour. The Nimbus has an excellent interactive display and it is worth the visit. Debbie DiSanto took her granddaughter and said, we stayed for more than two hours!

A huge thank you to the volunteers who helped with the release: Tim Brennan, Dave Huls, Jon Carcerano, Debbie Di Santo, Carol Kramer and Debbie Bond. And, of course, my co-leader, Larry Uno.

If any were not able to help with the Steelhead. Salmon season is 7 months away. Those eggs usually arrive on November 15.

Now to clean the tanks and all the chillers and rocks and aerators.



Lori Spencer at Nevada City School of The Arts asked if GCFE could help the students do some casting. Robin will need some help as there are two classes of 22 students each. Email her at n6zpord@aol.com if you can help on April 22 and 23, 1:30 – 3:00 pm.

Damsels

By Debbie Bond

Wednesday, April 10th, the Damsels had their Knots and Rigging class at the Briar Patch committee room. With 11 attendees, Diane Berg (Chair) opened the evening with discussion about upcoming events and introduced our mentors for the clinic - Clay Hash and Larry Strauss. Handouts for the class showing 8 basic knots and 4 rigging setups plus white board drawings started the discussion of what we hoped to learn from the evening. The "Clinch Knot" was our first basic beginning knot and we progressed from there. We were able to create a starting point for basic knots and how to apply them when building leaders and rigging.

Upcoming events:

1) A second "Damsels Meeting" April 23rd, 5:30 to 8pm at Debbie Bond's house. 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.

2) Damsels "Float Tube Clinic" May 4th, 9am to 12pm.

The location has been decided and we will be holding the clinic at **Lake Wildwood** which has an 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 PFD vest if you have one. Instructors and Mentors will be from our experienced women's group. This is a "Women Only" event. A registration notice will be sent out the week of April 22nd to all participants with details, directions and questions about what you might need for the day. Anyone who wishes to stay after the clinic and fish for the day on Lake Wildwood is welcome to do so. **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 Auburn. 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. Deadline for registering is May 18th. A registration notice will be sent to all participants with particulars for that day. **Registration is required.**

Fish-Outs

Tom Grant, Fish-Outs Committee Co-chair

Unfortunately, we've had to postpone several March fish-outs, but we are expecting warmer and dryer weather in April which should result in some good fishing just ahead. Luc Lake (4/8) was postponed to 4/15 due to high winds. Our experience at this Lake is winds over 12 mph result in float tubes being blown around and forced off the lake, not good for safety nor for fishing. We rescheduled Luc for a less windy day.

Some great fish-outs are planned for April, May and June, as outlined below. Please review details on our website and register if you plan to attend. Note: When you register for an event you will be asked if you need any equipment, advice or assistance, which we will provide.

April 4, 2024. Our fish-out at the Lower Sacramento River was terrific according to Larry Strauss, our fish-out event Leader. Eight GCFF members (Mike and Casey Connor, Scott Berry and Stan Nowinski, Nelson Bettencourt and Bruce McDowell, Clay Hash and Larry Strauss) teamed up with four guides: Mike Hibbard (lead guide), Tim Fox (who developed the Fox Caddis Pupa), Todd "Slim" Cancilla, and Ben Thompson.) We were expecting rain by mid-day, but lucked out to experience just an infrequent drizzle. The river flows had been dropping significantly over the past week to about 4,000 cfs from 16,000 cfs in mid-March. The February flows had been as high as 40,000 cfs. These higher flows diminished the bug population and activity which slowed the fishing action. However, we all caught beautiful Lower Sac rainbows.



The intrepid anglers on the Lower Sac faced a rainy day, but the rain held off and we caught fish!



Scott Berry and Casey Connor showing off their big fish.



Fish-out leader Larry Strauss.



Not a bright day on the Lower Sac, but no rain!

Up-coming Fish-outs

Dates	Locations
April - 15 April 14, 15,16	Luc Lake Clear Lake
April 16	Scotts Flat Lake

April 18-19th	Pyramid Lake
April 20th	Bullards Bar
April 24th	Lake Wildwood
May 10	Feather River Middle Fork
May 15	Sugar Pine Reservoir, Foresthill
May 25th	Jackie's Pond Damsels event
June 1	Lower Yuba Shad #1
	Weekend...
	With a Pre-set-up meeting
June 2nd	Sawmill Lake #1
	(Northstar)
June 5th	Lower Yuba Shad #2
	Weekday
June 15 & 16	Lower Yuba / UC Property

Fly Tying at Sam's

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 – 6:00 - 8:00 pm
13835 Seven Cedars Drive, Grass Valley

Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph



Hook:	Mustad 3906B or equivalent, sizes 10-14
Thread:	Brown, 6/0 or 140 denier
Body:	Dubbing – Hare's mask (color – natural)
Tail:	Pheasant tail (PT) fibers
Rib:	Medium Gold wire
Wing case:	Pheasant tail fibers or thin skin
Weight:	Medium lead (or lead free) wire

Fly Fishing Tenkara-Style



Our initial session has filled up – but there will be more opportunities soon. I've put together a PowerPoint Deck and this session will be our Beta test, letting me hear the reactions and suggestions from our participants. (Actually, I assume I will be updating the course continuously, as we all learn more). So please let me know if you'd be interested in a future presentation.

If you'd like to get more info, contact Bill Burden or go your Member Profile at the CE Website, update your Interest (or just curiosity) under the "Tenkara" heading, and you will be dialed in.

Updating your Member Profile.

I have activated a Tenkara interest group that will simplify communications with anyone in the club interested in Tenkara, whether it's for learning sessions or tips or planned buddy trips. To get on that mailing list:

1. Log in to the [GCFF website](#),
2. Click on your name (upper right corner) and then
3. Click on "Profile"
4. Under "your Website Functions, click on "Interests"
5. Select "Tenkara"
6. The check the "Tenkara Mailing List" box

Simple, right?

Photos

Bass are biting!



Bill Burden says the Lake Wildwood bass are just starting to bite. Should be a good bite for our LWW fish-out April 24.



Rick Weaver caught this spotted bass at Shasta Lake under the I-5 Pitt River Bridge on a float-n-fly.



Sam Higginbotham's nice bass from a lower elevation bass pond.

Programs/Speakers

Mike Pease, Programs Chair, speakers for 2024

May 7	Chris Leonard	Fly Fish Mammoth Area
June 4	Hamburger night	
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,
New Members	Larry Strauss		Pam Kline
Meeting Dinners	Food, Carol Kramer; Dinner set-up, Diane Berg; Snacks, Larry Uno		
Website	Larry Strauss		
Conservation Ed.	Frank Rinella, Rick Weaver, Wilton Fryer		

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.