



# CALIFORNIA FLY FISHERS UNLIMITED

Sacramento's Oldest Fly Fishing Club... Since 1962 [www.cffu.org](http://www.cffu.org)  
N.C.C.F.F.F. Affiliate

## ON THE FLY

August 2007

ISSUE 534

### Casting Lines: News from the President

by Bill Felts

#### Who Are Those Guys?

Remember Paul Newman's line from the movie Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid: "Who are those guys?" Well, in our case it is not a group of men chasing those two bank robbers, it's a group of CFFU members chasing fish. I am, of course, referring to the Club's own OTTERS. OTTERS stands defiantly for "Old Timers, Tying, Eating, and Recreation Society". This a bunch of mostly retired fishers who meet usually once a month to tie flies, practice casting, and trade bits of information about our sport. Also, the season and weather permitting, this hearty group treks out to various locations during the week to fish.

The OTTERS members take advantage of the uncrowded lakes and streams on weekdays. This is easy for most of them as they are retired. But we encourage those of you who are not, to sneak out of the office whenever you can get away.

Glenn Yee and Bill Ozawa are the group's tireless fishmeisters—and, they are superb organizers and teachers. Prior to each outing, they

send out an email on the listserv describing when and where the activity will take place. They also indicate which fly the group will tie and what type of flies and techniques work best at the chosen fishing spot. This is where their combined experience comes in! They also report the successes (or sometimes the lack thereof) of each outing.

Each outing typically starts with breakfast at a restaurant. When the meeting is at a member's house to tie flies, the restaurant is near that individual's home. When it is in the Sierra's or elsewhere out of town, it is on the way to the fishing spot.

I must emphasize that the OTTERS group is open to everyone. No need to be retired or a member of the "Over the Hill Gang". It is a great way to learn more about fly fishing and add immeasurably to your fly fishing experience. Check the CFFU newsletter and website for OTTERS information. Oh, and you might want to check out the movie "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" one more time! ♦

### August Program, 8/7

By Doug Calvert

Our speaker for August is **Roger Bevers**. The Sacramento River is one of his favorite areas to fish. He can offer a variety of techniques for different waters and tell you why and how to apply them. He will also give you key elements in locating the fish and show you those all-important access points. He will be speaking primarily about the stretch between Red Bluff and Butte City, a part of the river that is not widely fly-fished.

He will also cover the tackle to use and offer suggestions for your choices, based on the water you're fishing and the stream conditions and edicts. He has developed a decided preference for flies and has been quite successful in converting his clients to his favorite patterns. We enjoyed his talk on the Sacramento and Feather Rivers last October, so be prepared for another wonderful talk this month!

Last month, **Jeff Putnam** once again put on one of his classic casting demonstrations and clinic. Many members were able to learn about techniques to recognize casting flaws, and techniques to improve them. We always enjoy Jeff's presentations, and this latest one was no exception. Thanks, Jeff!! ♦



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## "OTTERS" Highlights

by Richard Wilson

**OTTERS** stands for "Old Timers' Tying, Eating and Recreation Society". Everyone is welcome at CFFU OTTERS events, even "working" folks who may have a day off. An e-mail is sent on the CFFU listserv before each activity; please respond if you will be attending and then just show up.

Remember that the website ([www.cffu.org](http://www.cffu.org)) includes the last 30 days of OTTERS reports and is posted weekly. The website includes entire articles (as written) as well as all of the photos submitted. **On-the-Fly** usually includes a few highlights of their many activities.

### Tuesday, June 26th, Fuller Lake

OTTERS, Gary Eastman, Bill Felts, Jim Kelley, Ross Boehm, Glenn Yee, Wayne Reimers, and his brother-in-law, Terry, Bob Larne, and Bill Ozawa fished Fuller Lake. Unfortunately, the info that Bill received earlier in the week was incorrect, and the lake was very low. They decided to fish anyway, and had a so-so time. Bob Larne was the champ catching 13, with Ross Boehm catching a dozen, possibly more, and the rest were somewhere between one and seven. The fish were mostly small, browns and rainbows. The usual flies worked, nothing spectacular, but a good time anyway.

### Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> Breakfast and Fly Tying

OTTERS Jack Myers, Bob Calbo, Jim Berdan, Gary Howard, Larry Coulter, Ross Boehm, Glenn Yee and I, Rich Wilson gathered at Shari's for breakfast before heading out to Jack's home for fly tying (See the attached photo). Jim Berdan could not join us for tying at Jack's. The fly we tied was a special hot fly that worked for Glenn at Antelope Creek. Material required to tie the Tellico Nymph is; Yellow floss for the body, fine gold wire and a strand of peacock hurl for the rib, brown hackle for the collar, mottle turkey fibers for the tail and back, also 6 wraps of light weight lead. The hook size was a #10 3XL nymph hook. Glenn found this fly in the Fly Tyer magazine, winter issue of 1996, page 42, they called it southern flies. This fly worked in the creek and the lakes of Antelope creek. Glenn reported he found this hole in the creek that must have had a dozen rainbows in it and he drop this fly in this hole. He said, he thinks he caught every one of them. Now that's a HOT FLY!

### Tuesday, July 17, Fuller Lake

OTTERS, Dick Angus and Glenn Yee fished Fuller Lake. Glenn said they caught browns and rainbows that were left over from the previous plants. Fuller was scheduled to be stocked sometime this week but not Monday or Tuesday. If you have never been to Fuller Lake take eastbound I-80, take the Highway 20 exit (Grass Valley/Nevada City), go 4.5 miles and turn right on Bowman Lake Road. Go 3.5 miles to Fuller Lake it will be on your right. There is an area suitable for launching at the dam (when you first see the lake), this area is free to park and launch. We usually meet at the picnic area at the other end of the lake: continue (from the dam) on Bowman Lake Road for about 1.5 miles. Turn right at the intersection with the water project sign and a sign for the Grass Valley Rod and Gun Club, it is almost a 180 degree turn onto a dirt road. Proceed down the road for about 0.5 miles to the parking area. There is a \$5.00 fee for using this area plus a \$2.00 fee if launching a boat at the ramp. It has an asphalt parking lot, restrooms, and a nice picnic ground. If you are using a "V" boat or pontoon boat you can launch at the picnic ground next to the water and save \$2.00. Fuller Lake is surrounded by tall evergreen trees and the lake is very clean with cold crystal clear water. So come join us on our next fishing trip to Fuller Lake! ♦



## Join in the Conversation!

Join the CFFU listserv e-mail group at  
[cffu@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cffu@yahoogroups.com)  
 Contact Gregory Shaffer at  
[shafe@gshaffer.com](mailto:shafe@gshaffer.com)  
 to be connected to the list.

## OUTINGS CALENDAR

DATE	LOCATION	F = Fishmeister; Asst. F = Assistant Fishmesiter; S = Species; T =Type of fishing; D =Distance; O = Overnight?; G = Gear; C = Cost; N = Notes.
Sept 7-8	Circle K Ranch, Fall River (President's Outing)	See the club web site for more information and requirements for qualifying to attend!
Oct 19-21	NCCFFF Conclave 2007 Redding, CA	See the web site, <a href="http://nccfff.org">nccfff.org</a> , for conclave and workshop details!
Oct 26-28	Upper Sacramento	F=John Daniels; S=Trout; O=Yes

## Outing Report: 24 Years on Truckee Waters

by Dave Ford

Twenty-eight CFFUers and their guests made the 24<sup>th</sup> Truckee Outing this year, the largest group in several years. This caused a bit of juggling to insure we got the right combinations of friends, spouses and snorers in the right rooms, but it all worked.

Fishing was a bit spotty, but not all in a bad sense. The Davis/Frenchman Lakers got virtually no fish when the wind was up, but got very good-sized ones when the wind was calm. This group included Val Dun, the Wrights, Wayne Reimers and his brother-in-law Terry Winn, Jim Christensen and Paula plus others.

The rivers were in their summer mode, meaning nothing happened until 15 minutes before absolute dark. But then the big guys came out to play, and some really nice fish were landed. Armand and Lorna Cariveau did very well on the Little Truckee, as did John Daniels. Rumor has it that Armand lost a HUGE fish (and he had already landed some 18-inchers). Guy Deaner and guest Nick DeCrocchi did well, quality-wise, on the Truckee, each landing a fish in the 20-inch class.

Then there were the Boca Lakers, some of whom managed to be part of both the Boca and Davis/Frenchman lake crew too. Dell Clark was seen hauling out enough fish to avoid starvation for a couple of years. In general, everyone was pretty successful fishing the Little Truckee inlet of the lake-Not huge fish, but plentiful. And John Barris got into a few (at a secret location 245 paces from the ski Lodge).

I didn't get a lot of reports from Dan Garrett, Brian Thomas, Greg Van Korsele or Mark DeLong, but that could have been the result of adult beverage consumption rather than any lack of success on their part.

One of the highlights of the outing was the Saturday morning orientation to Truckee area fishing. A group of around six people toured the access points on the Truckee and Little Truckee Rivers, and saw the Boca Lake launch spots as well. We got an added treat with Steve McGough's star show with his mega-binoculars in the back yard of the ski lodge. Jupiter and its four moons was the main attraction.

All in all, it was quality over quantity as the fishing went, but we had a good time. ♦

## Rod Building 203A: Tip Top Application

By Larry Lee

*This is the first of three articles that will provide guidance for applying the tip top guide. The next two articles in this series will discuss marking the blank for guide placement, putting the guides in proper order, and sharpening the guides.*

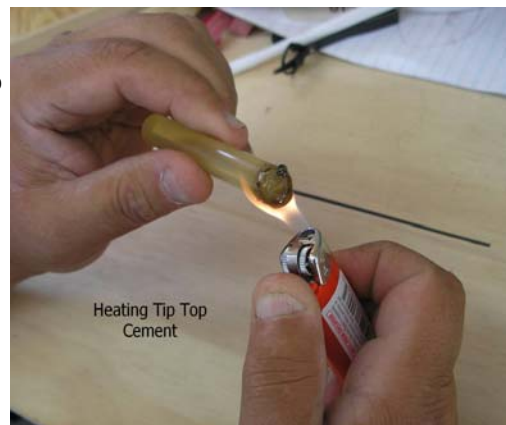
The tip top is applied to the tip (top end) of the blank. It needs to be placed prior to marking the guide placement. Before placing the tip top, however, it is important that you already have the spine (or spline) marked on each blank section. For optimum rod performance, the reel seat and guides must be fit to the proper side or parallel axis of each blank segment. If the rod guides are placed at random on the blank rather than on the spine, the rod will not work as well when casting and playing fish. If you do not have the spine marked, you can refer to the article entitled "Blank Alignment for Reel Seat and Guides" or contact Larry Lee ([larrylee@L3rods.com](mailto:larrylee@L3rods.com)).

Next you need to make sure that the tip top barrel can be placed over the tip of the rod (with a little room for the tip top cement). It should not fit with excessive tightness nor should it fit too loosely. Think along the lines of Goldilocks and the Three Bears – it needs to be just right! If your tip top doesn't fit well, then you need to get a new one.

Tip top glue (or cement) is made by Flex Coat. It is an amber colored glue stick that requires heating with a lighter before placing on the blank. Once the tip of the cement stick is in a liquid state, apply it to the end of the blank where the tip top will be placed. Next, you need to quickly hold the tip top with a pair of needle nose pliers and heat the barrel of the tip top. When the tip top barrel is very warm (not really too hot), place the tip top barrel onto the tip of the blank with the pliers. Visually line the tip top loop up with the axis of the spine and let the cement cool for a few seconds (or until tip top will not twist). Lastly, you need to remove the excess tip top cement residual with your finger nails, being careful not to scratch the blank or the tip top barrel.

Several words of caution are required here. Do not use epoxy or super glue to cement the tip top onto the fly rod blanks, or you will not be able to change the tip top without losing part of the tip of the blank. By using the Flex Coat cement, you will be able to change the tip top later if you wear the tip top out. Also, when applying the cement, do not over heat the tip top or the blank. Blanks will melt when direct flame from a lighter hits them. Also, if the tip top is too hot, it can meld to the blank. Sometimes, when you are fishing, the tip top may come loose. To fix it, you just need to use lighter and carefully heat the tip top. This will remelt the cement so you can then reset the tip top and let it cool.

If you would like to learn more about building your own rod, there are always classes available. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Larry Lee at [larrylee@L3rods.com](mailto:larrylee@L3rods.com) or (916) 962-0616. ♦



## Fly Tier's Exchange *By Jim Wright*

**Bob Calbo** tied a Deer Hair Caddis size 14 using olive dubbing for the abdomen palmered with a grizzly hackle and deer hair for the wings.



**Tim Au-Young** tied a Pheasant Tail Nymph size 18 using PT for the tail and abdomen, ribbed with copper wire and finished with peacock her.



**Jim Wright** tied a Rainbow Warrior size 16 using a nickel bead head, pheasant tail fibers for the tail, abdomen and wing case tied from pearl mylar and finished with pearl squirrel soft dub for the thorax. ♦



## CFFU MEETING CALENDAR

**Monday August 6**  
Board Meeting-6:30 PM  
All Members welcome  
Jacobs & Roth Law Office  
1420 River Park Drive  
Sacramento

**Tuesday August 7**  
General CFFU Meeting  
6:15 PM: Fly tying demo,  
7:00 PM: General Meeting,  
Camp Pollock,  
Northgate & Hwy 160  
Sacramento

**Tuesday August 8**  
New Member Meeting  
Northminster Church  
3235 Pope Avenue

**Thursday, August 16**  
Tech Thursday, 6:30 PM  
Northminster Church  
3235 Pope Avenue  
Sacramento

**Thursday August 30**  
Board Meeting-6:30 PM  
All Members welcome  
Jacobs & Roth Law Office  
1420 River Park Drive  
Sacramento

**Tuesday September 4**  
General CFFU Meeting  
6:15 PM: Fly tying demo,  
7:00 PM: General Meeting,  
Camp Pollock,  
Northgate & Hwy 160  
Sacramento

**Thursday, September 20**  
Tech Thursday, 6:30 PM  
Northminster Church  
3235 Pope Avenue

### Fly Tier's Exchange \$25 Award

Anyone who ties a dozen or more flies and donates them to the Fly Exchange, or in support a club program, will be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 gift certificate to the American Fly Fishing Company. The drawing is held at each monthly meeting. A special thanks to Gary Eblen of

**American Fly Fishing Company .**

3523 Fair Oaks Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95864  
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[www.americanfly.com](http://www.americanfly.com)

*To be part of the Fly Tier's Exchange, tie up 12 flies, turn them in at the beginning of the meeting, and the exchange will distribute the participants flies to one another; you wont get yours back; you get everyone else's work! It has to be one of the best values that CFFU has. Your pattern can be of different sizes, but generally the flies are all the same pattern Give it a try!*



# Brian Chan's "MAROON MIDGE EMERGER"

## August 2007 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed  
By Robert Rountree

### MATERIALS

**HOOK:** Scud Hook IX size 12-22.

**THREAD:** 6/0 or 8/0 maroon (or common color referenced in introduction)

**BODY:** Spanflex color to match thread body—optional.

**RIB:** Silver wire small diameter

**WING CASE:** Pheasant center tail fibers

**THORAX:** Peacock herl.

**GILLS:** White ostrich plume.

A couple of recent fishing trips convinced me not to ignore midges, and I was happy that Dave Sylstra had addressed Midge Pupa in an earlier Fly of the Month column (see February 2005). I had tied up a few, and successfully used those patterns this past June while fishing Lake Manzanita in Lassen National Park. After watching multiple random trout sipping something that I couldn't see, I tied on a brown midge pupa, and was quickly rewarded with a brown trout. An important axiom to remember is to suspect midge pupae whenever trout are rising, but you can't tell what they're taking. If you pay attention, you can see empty midge shucks floating on the surface. Midge pupa comprise a high proportion of a trout's diet, and common colors include: Black, dark brown, dark green, maroon, and red. The following pattern is easy and imitates a more mature midge pupa further up in the water column with some emphasis on imitating its breathing gills.

### Tying Instructions

Evidently, there are over 2,500 different midges! Midge pupa wriggle and rise from the mud bottom, and hatch into a winged adult at the water's surface. Midge pupa can be fished by themselves under an indicator near the bottom or anywhere in between the surface. If one disdains the sleep-inducing factor of indicator fishing, agonizingly slow hand twist retrieves using some type of sinking or floating line with a long leader is also an option. I'll often tie on a midge pattern as a trailer (approximately 12 inches) behind a wooley buggler to offer as a second option to hungry trout.



1. (Photo 1 at left) Place hook in vise, wrap thread just past bend of hook. Keep body slim, but need to cover hook. Tie in wire for rib at end of body and move thread forward. If you prefer to add the Spanflex for more depth of body color, tie it in after the wire rib, and then wrap forward. I omitted the Spanflex here due to photography space limitations, but it adds a more glowing look to the body. Make 2-3 wraps of wire at tie-in point. Then wrap forward in tight turns and tie off at approximately 3/4 point of hook.

2. (Photo 2 at left) Tie in 6-7 pheasant tail fibers for wing case with shiny side up. Next, tie in a single peacock herl. Stroke the peacock herl backwards, and give a few twists without breaking it.

3. (Photo 3 at left) Wrap the peacock herl around the hook a few times, and tie-off. Now, repeat the same process with a single ostrich plume feather and remember to leave yourself enough room to tie off pheasant tail fibers plus a head.

4. (Photo 4 at left) Bring pheasant tail fibers over for wing case, and tie off. Whip finish a head, and a dab of head cement. Give the body a coating of head cement to give it a shinier finish, and hopefully, attract more fish. You're done.

*The annual dinner is one of CFFU's few money raising events. Donations of equipment and supplies for raffles, auctions and door prizes are received from supporters of CFFU's objective -- to promote increase awareness and participation in the art of fly fishing and preservation of our resources. Sponsors are recognized here and on our LINKS page for contributions in accordance with CFFU Policy. See this page on the CFFU website for more information on our sponsors!*

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## Entomology Class & BBQ

by Tim Au-Young, Photo Courtesy Rich Wilson

What else could a bug hungry fly fisher person want? 70-80 degree temps, a warm sun setting in the west, the camaraderie of 30 plus other bug hungry fly fisher people, and the entomology class just ahead?

CFFU's own Jim Wright did another magnificent job at giving the class information on the life cycles of the caddis and mayflies. He came prepared with handouts, nets, and vials. The handouts gave the students pictures of what to look for, the nets were for collecting specimens, and the vials were used to hold the specimens until they could be viewed. After the classroom section of the class was concluded, the hands-on portion of the class began. The sight of over 30 people bending over turning over rocks and looking at what they could was just like the first field trip you ever had! The excitement was keen, and the marvels of the voices were fun.

The BBQ was greatly enhanced by the likes of Jai Jett, Lucy Badenhoop, and Jim Wright's wife, Miyoko. President Bill Felts donated the use of his BBQ, and there were comments that the charcoal cooked burgers tasted different than the gas cooked burgers. Ford or Chevy? Serve up the salads, serve up the drinks, serve up the beer that Gary Howard donated, and Jeff Howard transported. Last year we had few requests for cheese, this year we ran out. Go figure!

This function has grown in attendance as the years have gone on, and that is wonderful! When I first started, there were 12 people who attended the class, and it did not have a BBQ. Six years later, we've gotten 34 people to a Tech Thursday Class. The camaraderie is great, the lessons were learned, and more members got to know each other.

Thank you all for your support of the Entomology Class/BBQ, and in particular to Lucy, Miyoko, Jai, Gary, Jeff, Bill, and of course, Jim Wright! See you all next year! ♦



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