



What Do Trout Eat?

with Ernie Gulley

One of the most important questions that anglers ask themselves *and* try to answer every time he or she ventures onto the water is, “What are the trout eating this very minute?” This can be a tough question because trout often have many different food items from which to choose. In fertile waters, the choices are almost limitless. Chironomids, scuds, fry, leeches, damselfly, snails and mayflies are just a few of the tasty morsels trout love to eat. And each food item has different stages in its life cycle that it can be going through, e.g., egg, larva, pupa, adult or fry. How and when do we first observe and then conduct quick and reliable research in order to choose the correct fly or flies that imitate what the trout are eating at that moment?



Ernie Gulley

Our November presentation will focus on this important subject. And we will see how each of these individual trout food items can be broken down, and why trout choose them.

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November 2017 MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, November 14th
 Wet Flies: 6:00 PM
 Dinner: 7:00 PM
 Program: 8:00 PM
 Place: [Olympic Collection, 11301 Olympic Boulevard, LA](#)
 Cost: **\$37.00** per person
 Parking: \$4.00 underground – Free on the street.

**TO MAKE RESERVATIONS: [RESERVE ONLINE](#)
 OR CALL THE HOT LINE 310 280-3459
 OR MAIL IN THE FORM ON PAGE 15**

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What Do Trout Eat?

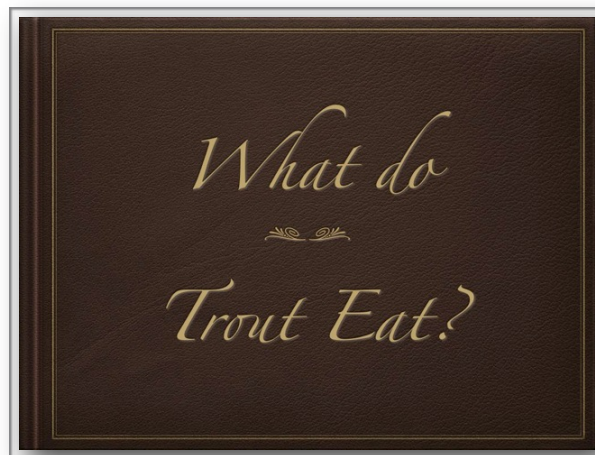
We will become familiar with many of these life cycles, the time of year they are most prominent and which food items trout in our waters love to key on most of the time.

And we'll learn the importance of understanding how these food items actually move in the water. Most individual food items move in different ways through the water column and this is often a key when trying to mimic how to fish your fly and make it look just like the real food the trout are seeking.

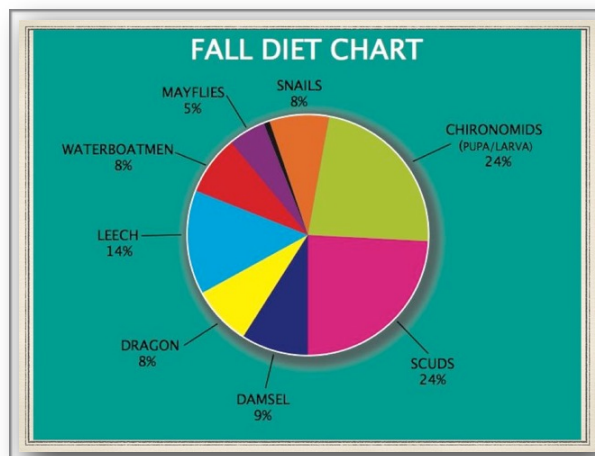
We will even see short videos of many of the food items that will show how they move.

Our guide for these very informative and valuable facets of our sport is one of our favorite presenters, SoCal's own Ernie Gulley. Ernie has been at our club a number of times and always is popular and appreciated for his knowledge and being able to present topics in a way that invariably help us become better fly fishers. Ernie will improve our fishing by showing what foods are in large abundance during which months of the season and what are the actual choices trout have and, most important, how and why they choose to eat what, when.

Ernie was actually born in southern California, and started fishing with his Dad as soon as he could walk. However, at age seven, Ernie and his family moved to New Orleans where he learned how to fish Lake Pontchartrain for speckled trout and other saltwater species. Later he moved back to SoCal and began fishing Lake Crowley, Bridgeport Reservoir and many lakes in Utah, Idaho and Nevada. (Ernie currently resides in Riverside with his wife Shannon and their two children, Logan, age 13 and Aidan, age 10.)



Ernie's Presentation



Fall Diet Chart



A trout that has eaten well

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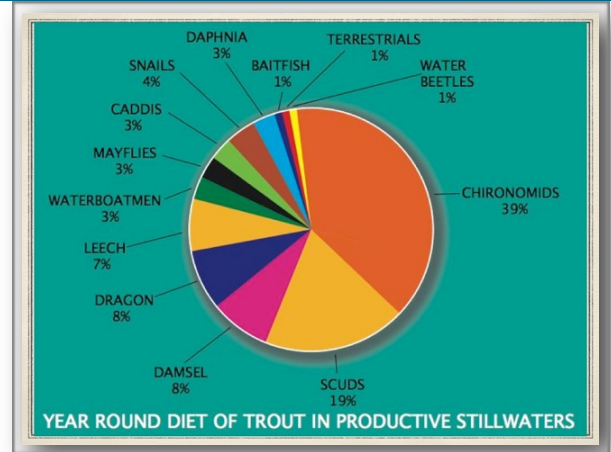
What Do Trout Eat?

In 1997, Ernie's curiosity about fly fishing began and a true love affair was born. This love affair blossomed and he never looked back. Ernie was mentored by Bob Slamal, one of Ernie's legends in the fly fishing industry, and he also joined many local fly fishing clubs to learn as much as he could about fly fishing. In 2007, Ernie won the "Double Haul in the Fall" tournament at Lake Crowley, now his home waters for guiding; this is where he has won both individual and team division titles.

Ernie is currently a professional fly fishing guide in southern California and the eastern Sierra and is known as one of the Sierra's premier stillwater guides. Even when he is finished guiding for the day, you will find him back out on the water until sunset, always exploring, testing, observing, analyzing and putting in the extra time and effort to master his craft. His philosophy is simple: you can always learn something new every time you are on the water.

Ernie is a "Pro Ambassador" for the Hardy Fly Fishing Company and the Cortland Line Company, among others. He takes great pride in sharing his knowledge of fly fishing and his great passion is teaching stillwater fly fishing tactics. You can learn more about Ernie and his guiding by going to:

www.erniegulley.com Facebook (Ernie Gulley) (Ernie Gulley Fly Fishing Guide Service) and Instagram (Ernie Gulley Fly Fishing)



Year Round Diet Chart



A healthy still water



Another good eater

What Do Trout Eat?



Bait Fish



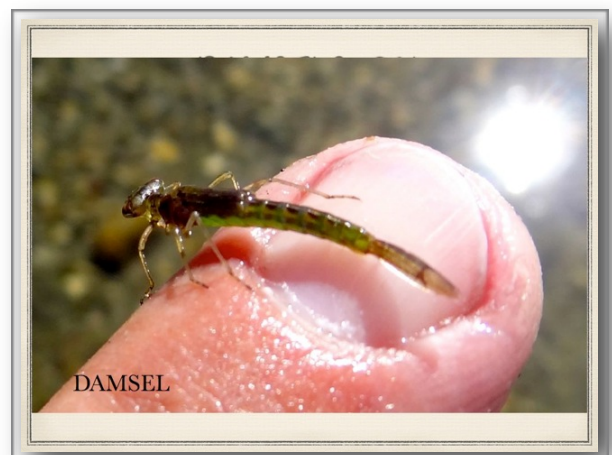
Dragon Fly Nymph



Leech



Explore on your own



Damsel

What Do Trout Eat?



Midge



Midge Pupa



Another well fed trout



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Wildernessflyfishers@gmail.com

To join WFF, Visit our website

www.wildernessflyfishers.org

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

The monthly Board Meeting, held the Tuesday, one week before the monthly dinner meeting, will be held at 2311 30th Street, Santa Monica, Ca 90405. Parking permits provided by hosts. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 P.M. All members are welcome. New members are especially encouraged to attend. Come and see how your club runs and you might pick up some fishing tips, too.

Minutes of Board Meetings are available to members on the website's [Document Library](#)

COMING EVENTS

For more information go to the WFF website [CALENDAR](#)

WFF Hot Creek Ranch	Fri.-Mon. Nov. 3-6
WFF Fly Tying	Sat. Nov. 25
WFF Holiday Party	Sun. Dec. 10

Monthly Raffle Items

Value

Suspended for the rest of the year.

You Are Invited to a Holiday Celebration!

By Celia Carroll, President, Wilderness Fly Fishers of Santa Monica

The Wilderness Fly Fishers holiday party is the club's most festive and most anticipated event of the calendar year! Be sure to plan on joining us at the home of John and Mary Jo Dalton for a gracious, sparkling, and delicious celebration.

Save the date: Sunday, December 10

- Cost: \$45.00 per person, pay online at the Wilderness Fly Fishers website

The festivities start at 4:00 pm. Bring a wrap – this time of year can be chilly in Santa Monica and the venue is planned for John and Mary Jo's new backyard patio.

John and Mary Jo's address is:

- 740 19th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90402
- between Montana Avenue and San Vicente Boulevard

John and Mary Jo recently renovated their garden in a style reminiscent of Tuscany or Provence. They will welcome us to an evening under the stars, surrounded by the beauty of a gracious and colorful landscape. A delicious dinner, professionally catered and served, will be accompanied by a selection of wines, chosen by the club's several wine connoisseurs.

The traditional drawing for trips, guide services, equipment and fine dining opportunities will follow dinner. It is the last fundraiser for the year, essential for paying for 2018 programs. Buy tickets online or at the November general meeting:

- Single Ticket: \$25.00
- Five Tickets: \$100.00

If you cannot come to the party, you can still participate in the drawing. Let our webmaster, Larry Carroll, know your prize selections, ranked in order of preference. We will be sure you receive your winnings. See you there on December 10!



John & Mary Jo's new back yard



Holiday Super Raffle - Preview

In case you haven't noticed, it's November already! Although we can't tell you where the year has gone so far, we do know that it is never too early to start planning for 2018. Some guide spots are already filling up and you may still have fresh in your memory the equipment items that you wished you'd had on the stream, river, lake or ocean in the past few months. Or, do you just want to start your holiday shopping early this year? Fortunately the Wilderness Fly Fishers holiday super raffle is right around the corner.

The holiday super raffle will once again be held during our annual holiday party, this year hosted by John and Mary Jo Dalton on December 10. Planning for the super raffle is now under way but has not yet been completed so keep an eye out for periodic updates on the WFF website or your e-mail box. There have been a few changes this year, but generally the ground rules will be the same – limited number of tickets sold, only one prize per winner, attendance in person not required to win, \$25 per ticket / 5 for \$100 / 12 for \$200. The changes from previous super raffles are primarily in the area of equipment items. Due to our existing budget constraints combined with an overabundance of top line equipment already owned by many WFF members, the board has determined not to purchase new equipment items for the raffle, but instead ask for donations of lightly used, high quality equipment from our members to be contributed to the raffle. While the club can make no representation as to the actual condition of each donated item, we asked our donor/members to describe their equipment donations as “New”, “Near New”, “Lightly Used” or “Used”. We hope that you will be pleased with the results.

Here is a preview of some of the super raffle items to date; more items and trips will likely be added between now and December 10:

Equipment

- TFO Axiom 9' 4-wt. 4-pc fly rod, rod tube and sock included: Lightly Used (*donated by: Larry Carroll*)
- TFO Ti Cr X 9' 6-wt. 4-pc fly rod, rod tube and sock included: Lightly Used (*donated by: Larry Carroll*)
- ECHO Carbon 7'3" 2-wt. 4-pc fly rod, rod tube and sock included: New (*donated by: Rich Peters*)

Trips (details, limitations and any exclusions will be provided subsequently)

- GREEN RIVER, UTAH, 2-for-1 guide trip for two anglers with our 2016 program speaker, Gordon Tharrett of On-the-Fly Outfitters of Dutch John, Utah
- BIGHORN RIVER, MONTANA: 2-for-1 guide trip, 3 days fishing, 4 nights lodging including meals with accommodations with Leaning Tree Lodge/Montana Fly Fishers, Ft. Smith, Montana.

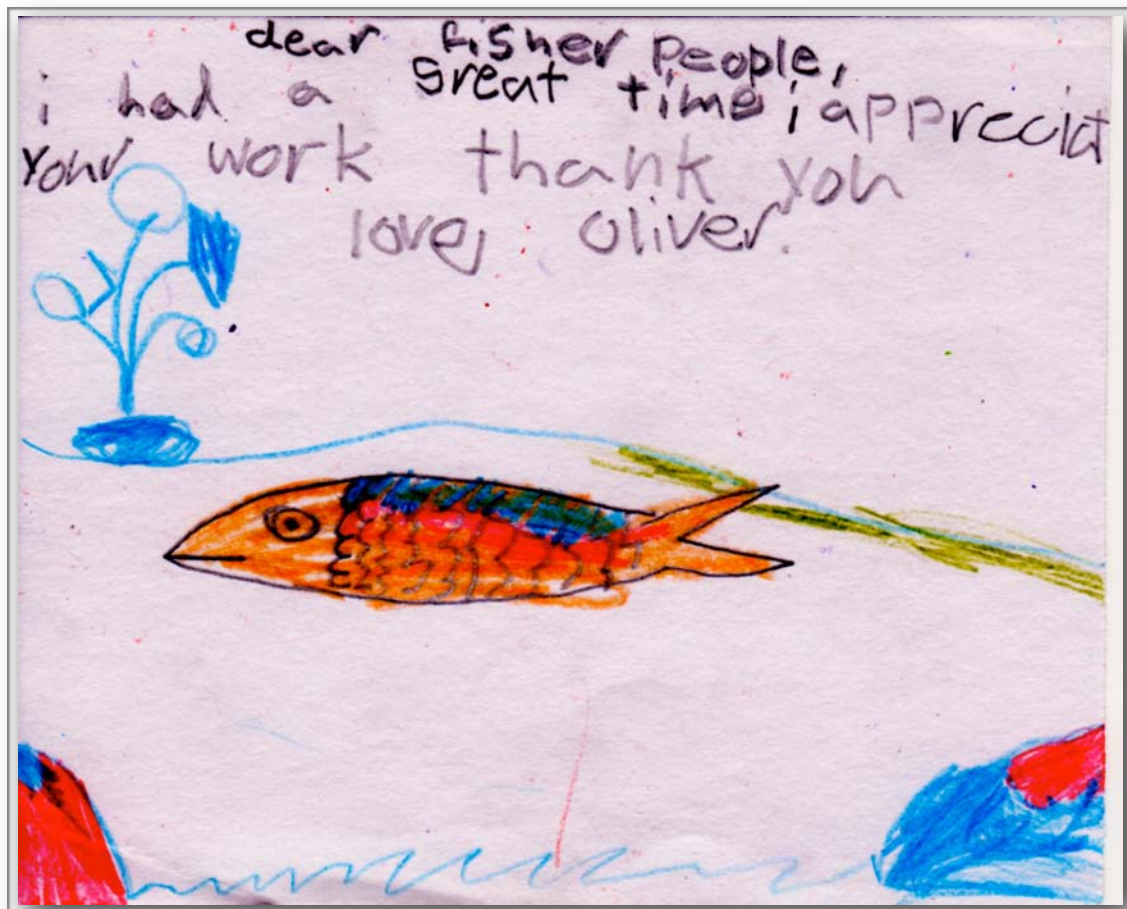
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Holiday Super Raffle - Preview

Life Style Items

- CHATEAU MONTELENA, 1997 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon; TALLEY VINEYARD, 2014 Rosemary's Vineyard Pinot Noir. (*Donated by: Doug Hall*)
- \$50 gift certificate to **BELLE VIE** a French Restaurant, 11916 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles and one bottle of LAETITIA Reserve Du Domaine Pinot Noir Arroyo Grande Valley 2014 (*Donated by: Marie Hammond*)
- \$200 gift certificate to **IL FORNO TRATTORIA**, 2901 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica
- \$100 gift card to **DOMINIQUE'S KITCHEN**, 522 S. Pacific Coast Hwy, Redondo Beach plus one bottle of wine (*Donated by: Marcia and Paul Breskin*)

Stay tuned for additions or changes to the list of prizes and check the website for additional details. Super Raffle tickets will be available for purchase on the website shortly, or in person at the November general meeting.



Oliver's Trout in the Classroom art work



Fly Fishing In Slovenia

Home of the Marble Trout

By Rich Peters

When I first heard about fly fishing in Slovenia, I thought to myself “why bother.” But as time went on and fly fishers that I respected came home with glowing tales of great fishing on uncrowded streams and rivers I began to get more interested. Then a couple of years ago on an impromptu basis our Club asked Steve Jensen and Kevin Bell from Marriott’s to fill in at the March dinner meeting with a program on their destination travel service called “Wild on the Fly.” Steve and Kevin covered a number of destinations around the world but the one that caught our attention (Sue happened to be in town that week and attended the meeting) was Slovenia.

Fast forward a couple of years and in September 2017 we were standing knee deep (no, make that hip deep) in the Unica River in central Slovenia accompanied by our professional guide Sasha, a 3-time world champion fly fisher in the annual international competition. We had joined the Wild on the Fly group of 12 participants/10 anglers, led by Dan Shepherd of Missoula, Montana for a week of exploration and fly fishing on some of the best rivers of Europe.



Sue Czech Nymphing with Sasha



Catch & Release

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Fishing In Slovenia

So, where is Slovenia anyway? The easiest way to answer that is with reference to its neighboring countries – Slovenia is located at the northeast border of Italy; on its north, Slovenia is bordered by Austria and Hungary; and to the east, Slovenia shares a border with Croatia; to the southwest it has a sliver of coastline on the Adriatic Sea. Slovenia was part of Yugoslavia until 1991 when it became an independent country. It is now a member of the EU, peaceful, friendly, and full of majestic mountains, epic rivers and TROUT! Getting there is relatively easy; the trick is first getting to Europe. Once in Europe, there are regular flights in and out of Ljubljana, the capital city, which is approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes by air from Paris or Munich.

This was Dan Shepherd's fourth or fifth hosted trip in Slovenia. So Dan made all of the arrangements other than our international travel, and his choices of hotels, restaurants, lodge, guides and day trips were uniformly superb. When we arrived in Ljubljana, Dan picked us up at the airport along with two couples from Bishop, California who happened to be on our same flight. We checked into a lovely boutique hotel in the central city and the next day the entire group went on a guided tour of the city and the Ljubljana Castle that Dan had arranged.

After lunch we loaded into two rented vans and drove through the marvelous countryside (think a scene from *Sound of Music*) to Vila Noblesa Lodge on the Soca River in the small town of Most na Soci. Our accommodations were in comfortable 2-room cabins, each room with its own bathroom and 2 beds for double occupancy and, of course, WiFi! Meals were served in the main Lodge building which also served as the central gathering spot. The Lodge has an interesting history but that is slightly beyond the scope of this article. Briefly, it is owned and operated by Vlasta and Branko Gasparin who are two of the most friendly and hospitable people you would ever want to meet. Branko is a world class fly tyer, fisherman, hunter and raconteur. In fact most of the food that we ate at the Lodge (prepared by Vlasta and her son) was locally caught, shot or grown on or near the Lodge premises. That would include wild boar, roe deer, brown bear, guinea hen and quail.



Vila Noblesa Lodge



Lake Bled

Fishing In Slovenia

On Day 2 it was time to fish. Dan had arranged in advance for our local guides (all of whom spoke English) which we shared two anglers per guide. After breakfast made to order by Vlasta, Sue and I set off with our guide Sasha and he headed straight for the trophy section of the Idrijca River about a 30 minute drive from the Lodge. Most of the rivers in Slovenia are public waters, but they are licensed by the government to local fly fishing clubs for protection, administration and conservation. The club charges a daily license fee, which I likened to a rod fee in the states, to fish each river and in some cases a particular beat on a river. This arrangement is both good and bad. License fees can range up to 100 euros a day for “trophy” class, but as a consequence the rivers are not crowded and the fish are not pressured, mainly because the local population simply cannot afford the luxury of paying a high fee to sport fish for a day. Once in the river, Sasha stayed with Sue and helped her with wading in high and rising water and coached her in the art of Czech nymphing. I opted for streamer fishing to see which method was more effective. On our last day of fishing in the late afternoon we encountered a hatch of blue wing olive mayflies. We quickly changed to dry fly rigs with long, fine tippets and tied on a “Branko Killer,” a small parachute pattern designed by Branko and fished throughout this region whenever BWOs are emerging. Long casts with delicate presentations were required but the results were outstanding.



The small town of Most na Soci near our lodge



Sasha guiding Sue



Dan's marble trout

Fishing In Slovenia

Our target species for this trip were rainbows, browns, Adriatic Grayling and marble trout, the latter are the most coveted species. Marble trout are endangered and can grow to enormous size, the record being approximately 50 pounds. They are said to be indigenous to the Soca River and a few of its tributaries and are highly protected against illegal harvest and hybridization with other species. I was fortunate to catch one marble trout, and Dan landed a prize marble on the first day before the rivers got blown out from heavy rain.

One of the hidden benefits of fly fishing in Slovenia is the ability to stay over an additional week and visit a neighboring country. In our case, we rented a car and drove through Tuscany for a week. Others on the trip opted for Bosnia, Austria and the Czech Republic. Of course, there is also plenty more to see and do in Slovenia itself so it's a tough choice. For example, on our days off from fishing Dan arranged visits to the incredible World War I museum in Kobarid, the marble trout research facility in Tolmin, and the destination resort of Lake Bled.

If you think you might be interested in doing this trip in the future, contact Dan Shepherd (Dan@Wildonthefly.com) as soon as possible. His next hosted trip to Slovenia is being planned for June 2019 but it will fill up quickly. Although you could plan a "do-it-yourself" visit to Slovenia, that would not be nearly as much fun, you wouldn't learn nearly as much about the country, and you certainly would not catch nearly as many fish. And if you decide to go with Wild on the Fly in 2019, I may see you there.



Streamer caught brown



River near Lake Bled



Dry fly brown

Notices



The Pasadena Casting Club has generously sponsored an Intermediate Casting Clinic at the PCC clubhouse and pond this coming November that will be open to enrollment from all South West Council FFI club members. Enrollment is limited to forty of which twenty are reserved to the PCC.

The clinic starts with the question “What does it mean to be an intermediate caster?”. The answer, in a word, is “control”. This clinic will first explore how to add control to your casting in terms of loop shape, distance, plane and angle. Secondly, these principles and skills will be applied to a series of fishing presentation casts.

Qualified students will be able to false cast thirty feet with a three-foot-wide loop with roughly parallel legs.

An A Team of casting instructors is being assembled including veteran FFI Certified Casting Instructors and Master Casting Instructors as well as an ACA National Tournament champion.

Scheduled for Saturday, November 11th and Saturday, November 18th from 8:00 AM to Noon.

Cost: \$50.00

Registration and payment: Pasadena Casting Club [website](#)

Contact: C. Eric Callow, ecallow@sbcglobal.net, (818) 219-2276



Print & Mail Coupons

If you prefer not to use our website, mail in a coupon with your check.



Wilderness Fly Fishers Membership Application

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Annual Dues:

- ☐ \$50 Single - Regular
☐ \$70 Single - Golden Trout
☐ \$60 Family - Regular
☐ \$80 Family - Golden Trout

_____ Additional Donation

_____ TOTAL enclosed

Mail Check With This Form To:

Wilderness Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 3358
Santa Monica, CA 90408-3358

Monthly Meeting Reservations

Please make your dinner [reservations online](#) or send in this coupon.

Your check must be in the club mailbox by the Wednesday, the week before the meeting.

Names _____

_____ Dinner(s) x \$37 per person

Total \$ _____

Please make check payable to W.F.F.

Mail to:

Wilderness Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 3358
Santa Monica, CA 90408-3358

Join us online, Visit our website www.wildernessflyfishers.org



November & December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31 Halloween	1	2	3 WFF Hot Creek Ranch	4 WFF Hot Creek Ranch
5 Daylight Saving Ends WFF Hot Creek Ranch	6 WFF Hot Creek Ranch	7 WFF Board Meeting	8	9	10	11 Pasadena CC Intermediate Casting Class
12	13	14 WFF Monthly Meeting Ernie Gulley "What Do Fish Eat?"	15	16	17	18 Pasadena CC Intermediate Casting Class
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25 WFF Fly Tying
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 WFF Holiday Party & Conservation Super Raffle	11	12	13 Hanukkah (1st Day)	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 WFF Deadline for Newsletter Articles	21 Winter Solstice	22	23
24	25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa (1st Day)	27	28	29	30
31	1 New Years Day	2	3	4	5	6

