



25 Ways to Elevate Your Trout Game

with Ed Engle

In June we welcome back Colorado angler and author Ed Engle. His new program offers 25 tips that he believes will raise your trout fishing to the next level. Fly fishing is full of game changing small details and tricks of the trade. Ed's tips come from the more than 40 years he has spent writing and speaking about fly fishing tactics, studying trout behavior, tying flies, guiding fly fishers and just fishing. Some are so obvious they may not have occurred to you. Others are more complicated. Some are controversial. But all of them will get you thinking about your fly fishing game and what you can do to improve it. You'll learn that having the ability to let go of all your preconceived notions often results in success and may ultimately carry over into a more thoughtful and innovative approach to all of your days on the water.



Ed Engle

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May 2018 MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, June 19th
 Wet Flies: 6:00 PM / Dinner: 7:00 PM / Program: 8:00 PM
 Place: [St. Augustine By-the-Sea Episcopal Church](#)
[1227 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401](#)
 Cost: **\$30** per person with dinner or **\$10** per person program only
 Parking: [City parking structure across the street](#) is most convenient.
 Posted rates first 90 min. free, \$1.25 first add. hour, \$1.85
 each add. ½ hr., \$17.50 daily max.
[1234 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401](#)

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS: [RESERVE ONLINE](#)
OR CALL THE HOT LINE 310 280-3459
OR MAIL IN THE FORM ON PAGE 16

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25 Ways to Elevate Your Game

Ed Engle has been an avid fly fisherman for the past 40 years and has fly fished throughout the continental United States, Alaska, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Canada and Europe for a variety of game fish species, but with a special emphasis on trout. He was born in Virginia, though has lived most of his life in Colorado. He got into fly fishing when he saw people catching fish using this method, expressed a desire to do it and was fortunate when his dad gave him a starter kit. Ed attended the University of Colorado in Boulder and graduated with a degree in biology. Living in Colorado, Ed has had ample opportunity to perfect his skills on all kinds of streams, using all types of flies. Today his home and office are just west of Colorado Springs, within 40 miles of the South Platte River, one of Colorado's premier tailwaters.

Ed's fly fishing articles have appeared regularly in newspapers and magazines for more than 35 years. In the 1970's, his articles on nymphing techniques were among the first to appear in national fly fishing magazines. Since that time he has taught thousands of fly fishers the subtle art of nymphing through his books and articles, on-the-water seminars and at his popular nymphing class sponsored by the Fly Fishing Show.

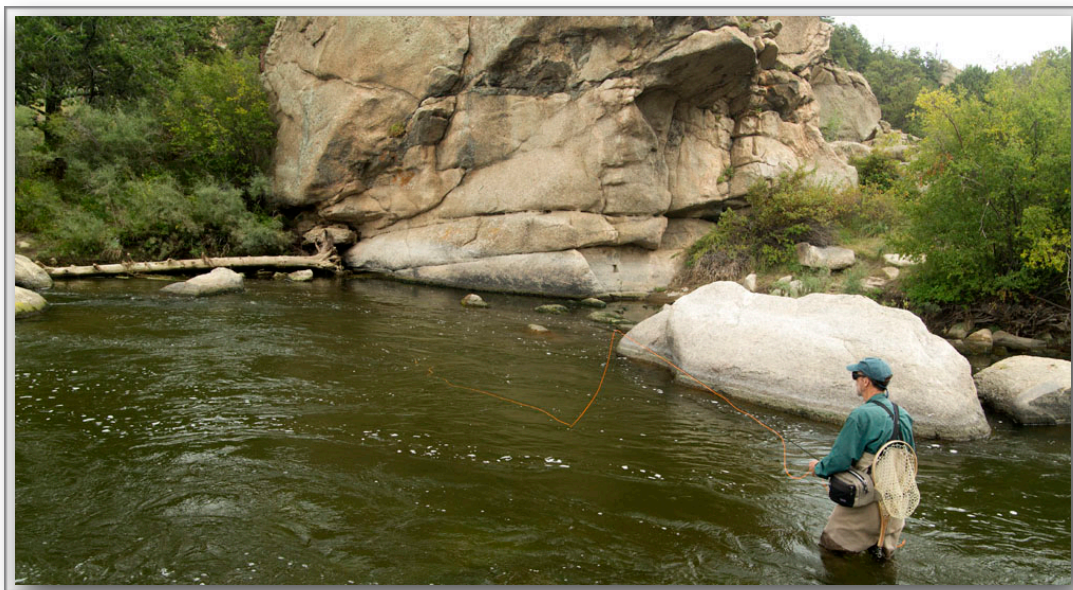
Ed is especially interested in small fly tactics and techniques. His small fly research has taken him to many of the west's famous tailwaters and spring creeks across the country. He is also dedicated to fly fishing small streams for beautiful wild trout. Ed balances his interest in the "small side of fly fishing" with the avid pursuit of king salmon on the fly.



25 Ways to Elevate Your Game

Ed is a regular contributor to the *Boulder Daily Camera* and *Gray's Sporting Journal*. In addition, he has written for *American Angler*, *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Rod & Reel*, *Flyfishing & Tying Journal*, *Trout*, *Fly Tye*, *Sports Afield*, and *Saltwater Fly Fishing*.

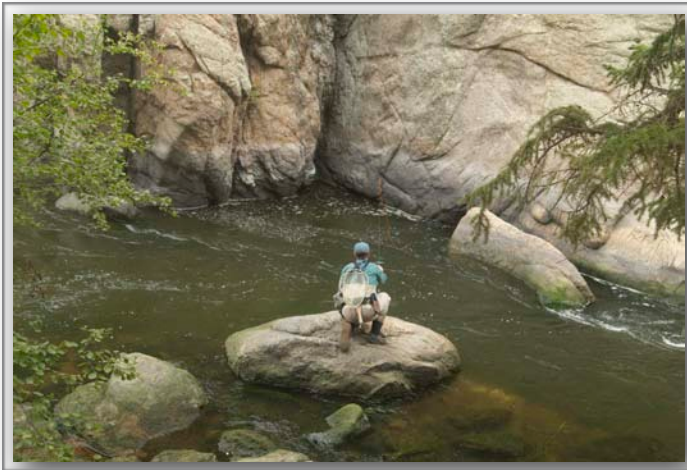
If we look at the books he has authored we can see yet another reason he is so qualified to lead us on this journey. Ed's most recent book, ***Trout Lessons*** (Stackpole, 2010), considers what to do when your usual fly fishing solutions don't work. His interest in tying and fishing small flies led to the publication of ***Tying Small Flies*** (Stackpole, 2004) and ***Fishing Small Flies*** (Stackpole, 2005). The two-volume set is credited with helping create the current surge of interest in pursuing trout with small flies. Ed's dedication to fishing bamboo fly rods resulted in the publication of ***Splitting Cane*** (Stackpole, 2002) which chronicled the life and craftsmanship of sixteen working rod makers. His first fly fishing book, ***Fly Fishing the Tailwaters*** (Stackpole, 1991), was a groundbreaking explanation of how to fish the regulated rivers found below dams.



25 Ways to Elevate Your Game

Ed's current projects include writing posts for his popular *Lone Angler Journal* blog, work on a new book, coming up with new small fly patterns, and teaching at fly fishing seminars throughout the country.

You can learn more about this very knowledgeable, skilled fly fisher and read his *Lone Angler Journal* by going to www.edengleflyfishing.com



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President	Board
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Conservation Super Raffle	OPEN
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Casting Classes	OPEN
Fly Tying Classes	Peter Haight
Trout in the Classroom	Celia Carroll
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©Mending the Line is published monthly except in August & December by the Wilderness Fly Fishers of Santa Monica, California. Submit inquiries regarding articles for publication to Wilderness Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 3358, Santa Monica, California 90408-3358. All articles should be emailed in RTF or MS Word format to:

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](#)

12th Annual Rush Creek Clean Up	Sat.	June 16
WFF Fly Tying	Sat.	June 23

Kelsey Bass Ranch 2018

Comments & photos by attendees and other interested parties.

So what is a Wilderness Fly Fishers outing without Larry and Celia? Almost dull! We had no one to point out the geese and their newest additions and no one to show us that just a float tube (without a fish finder, awning, motor and microwave for snacks) is a fine way to find bass IF you know what you are doing.

The other thing we all (12 of us) realized is that without the Carrolls, the wind gods are NOT happy. Most of us got there by Friday evening and there was a good, solid breeze of about 5 knots running across the lake. By 10 a.m. on Saturday, we were almost at white caps and it became a little hard to stay in place and work a finesse bite. However, the wind gods were pleased by the shared lunch put together by the participants and gave us an evening break to get in about two hours of topwater action.

Compared to past years, fishing was slower but the quality of fish was outstanding. Yours truly landed one around 24" with a mouth large enough to stick my closed fist inside. Besides the usual suspects for topwater, black and olive leech patterns worked as did beige and olive Hornbergs with weighted eyes. Those with electric motors covered more water and did better (or maybe they are just fishier people) but even casting from the dock and dam produced its fair share.

C&L, you better come back next year! — Michael Schweit

Great top water fly fishing for us with frog patterns. — Guy Jeans

What an epic weekend at Kelsey Bass Ranch! Thanks to Wilderness Fly Fishers for letting us tag along on your outing! And of course, trust the Buhlers to find the trout in the bass lake.
— Amy Kileen

Great club outing!! Bass explosions!! Thanks to everyone who made this possible!!! — Rob Buhler

Really hated to miss the outing. (First time Celia and I were unable to go in 11 years.) But happy to hear everyone had such a great time — especially all the Southern Sierra first-timers!
— Larry Carroll



Pontoon bass

continued on page 7

Kelsey Bass Ranch 2018



Guy Jeans with a big 'un



Chiaki Harami just getting warmed up



Thomas Jones with big bass



Kelli Dowd & bluegill



Celine Bayla & kayak



Kelli no doubt dreaming about big bass



Spring on the Bighorn

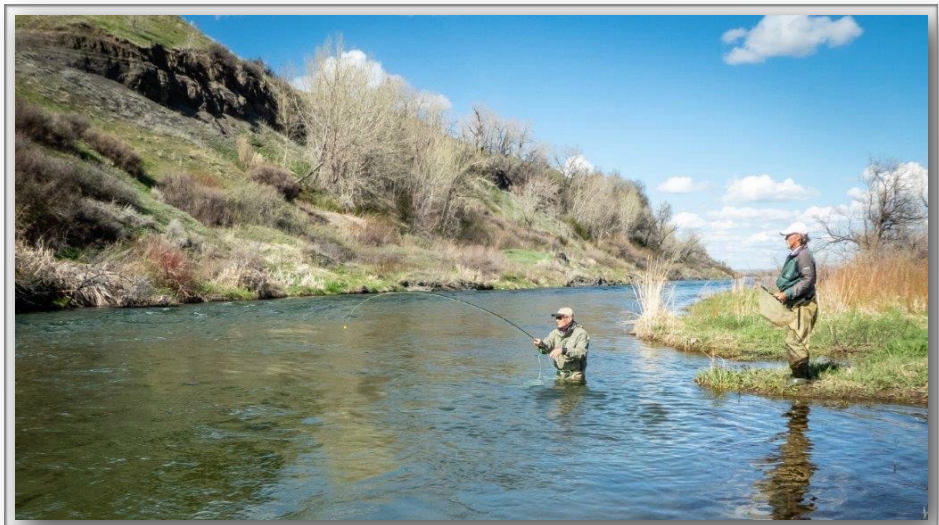
By Peter Haight

After a week of cool weather in LA and below freezing temperatures in Montana, six stalwart Wilderness Fly Fishers left for the Bighorn on May 1st, prepared for more of the same, but happily it was not to be. Greg Dahlem, John Dalton, Tom Rasmussen, Art Siegel, Doug Hall, and Peter Haight flew to Billings, lunched at the Montana Brewery Company and drove southeast through showers and clouds to Fort Smith's Leaning Tree Lodge. Welcomed warmly by Rachel Stroda, we settled in with hors d'oeuvres and pork loin dinner. The next morning the temperature was 43 when we got to the river, and rose to a comfortable 65 by midday, sun and clouds, and that weather pattern held for the entire three fishing days. Our guides were Mark Stroda for John and Art, Brent Downey for Tom and Doug (Brent had guided for several of us in other years), and J.D. Roberts, a new guide at the lodge, for Greg and myself.

Fishing, by Bighorn standards, was slow. The extremely cold weather the past week had left the water temperature at 40 degrees, resulting in lethargic fish and insignificant hatches of Baetis mayflies. But still, the river is one of the most reliably productive waters in Montana or elsewhere for good sized rainbow and brown trout, and it did not disappoint. However, it put us into hunting for active fish, and not just nonstop catching, as several of us had experienced before.



From left to right: John Dalton, Tom Rasmussen, Peter Haight, Doug Hall, Art Siegel & Greg Dahlem



Art with guide Mark Stroda

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Spring on the Big Horn

Brent and J.D. put us in at the “Afterbay” and floated to the “Bighorn” pullout. Mark took John and Art to the “Three Mile” launch site to start their float. Greg and I caught about six each, evenly spread out through the day, nymphing with scuds and sowbugs in the morning and stripping white streamers and Marlon Rampy Clousers in the afternoon. Tom and Doug did about as well with Brent. Art and John had a less productive morning, but were redeemed by Mark’s now famous “Last Chance Hole”, used by few other guides on the river just above the takeout.

At this time of year wildlife around us is extraordinary: hundreds of geese, some nesting right next to us as we fished from shore, ducks of a dozen varieties, herons, soaring pelicans, turkeys, vultures, eagles, and even cock pheasants clucking from the shore, and the occasional muskrat swimming in front of our boat were all observed.

The second day was warmer and clear. Greg and I fished with streamers, targeting the larger fish, and caught two each before lunch. Greg landed a 19-inch lake run brown, and I landed one of the larger brightly colored spawning rainbows. In the morning we floated from Three Mile to Bighorn takeout, then returned in the afternoon to fish the Afterbay down to Three Mile. The afternoon produced four more each, all good-sized fish. A satisfying day. Second day also produced well for John and Art who caught a number of large rainbows up to 21 inches.



Hostess Rachel Stroda with the gang



Tom & Doug with their guide Brent Downey

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Spring on the Big Horn

Friday was windy and a bit warmer, the water clearing of muddiness from the prior week's rain. We headed for the 12 mile stretch from Bighorn to "Mallards". Many guides don't know this stretch well and it had not been fished for a week. We had the entire river to ourselves the whole day, except for Mark and John whom we saw in the afternoon. Five minutes from the launch directly across the river, I caught a large brown on the first cast, and another very fat rainbow a few casts later, and we thought we were off to the races with streamers. However, after two hours of no further action we switched to nymphs and San Juan Worms, which did the trick. I caught two more and Greg unfortunately got into two suckers. But moving on to a back channel (chancey because it was not as clear as the main channel) brought good luck for the end of the day. Greg caught three, and I caught two, one other silver-colored lake run brown, and an 18-inch rainbow. And we had the only "double" of the trip. Brent's boat did about as well as we did. Mark with John and Art, not so well, only two to the boat in the morning and not much better in the afternoon I think. It was the only time I ever remember seeing Mark downright p---d off. But we all know that's just a part of fishing.

As always, this Leaning Tree Lodge fits us so well: excellent guides, superb food and service, and the right size for a group of 6-8. Reece Lewis is forming another group to return there in September. Check the calendar or call Reece for details during the summer to join up with his group.



Art with guide Mark Stroda



John with a nice rainbow and Mark Stroda



WFF Member Corner

Our dear friend Marcia Breskin has suffered a broken pelvis. She is currently in rehabilitation, and will tackle the rest of a lengthy recovery in a board and care facility. To return home, Marcia says she needs to be able to walk, and that will take awhile. Intrepid as always, Marcia and Paul are working toward their dream trip: a return visit to Africa!

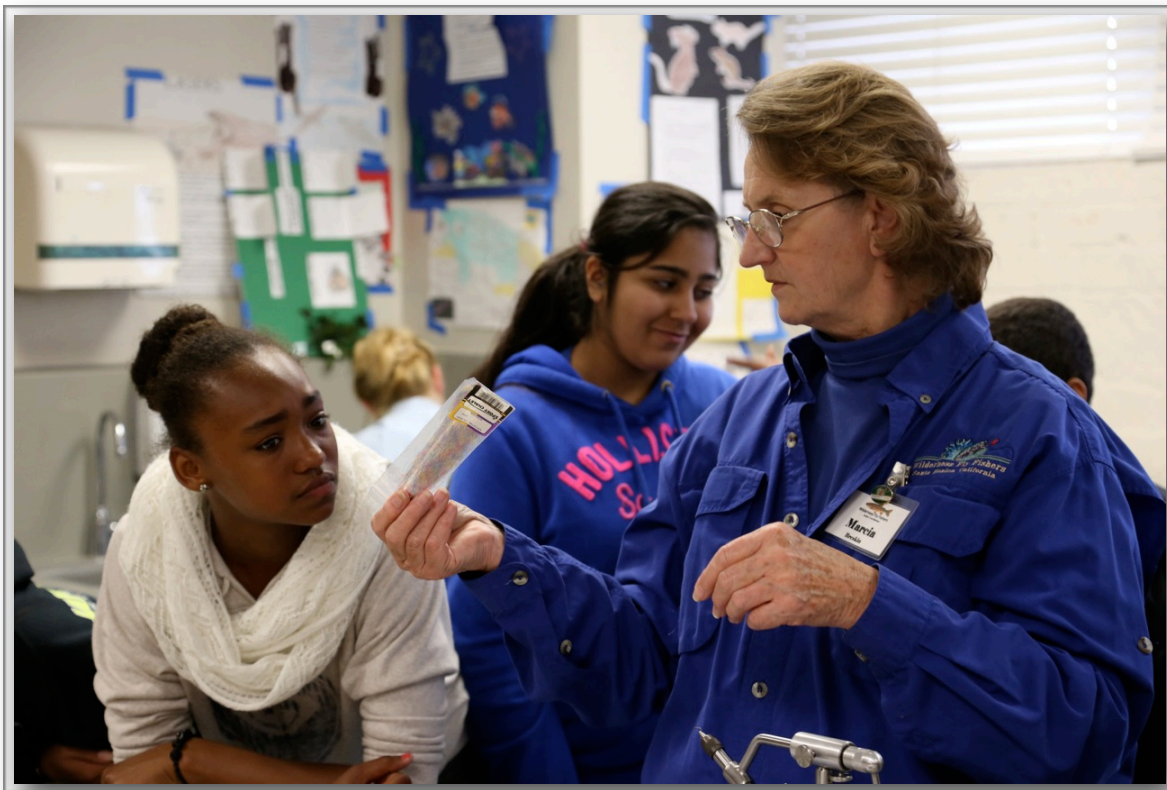
As we know, Marcia is a stellar volunteer, fly fisher, traveler, and fly tyer! I have attached a photo of Marcia demonstrating fly tying at Culver City Middle School in 2013.

Calls and cards are welcome. Paul will forward any messages left on the house phone. Here is Marcia's information for your convenience:

6206 Scotmist Dr.

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Home - 310-541-8880



Marcia demonstrates fly tying to TIC students in 2013



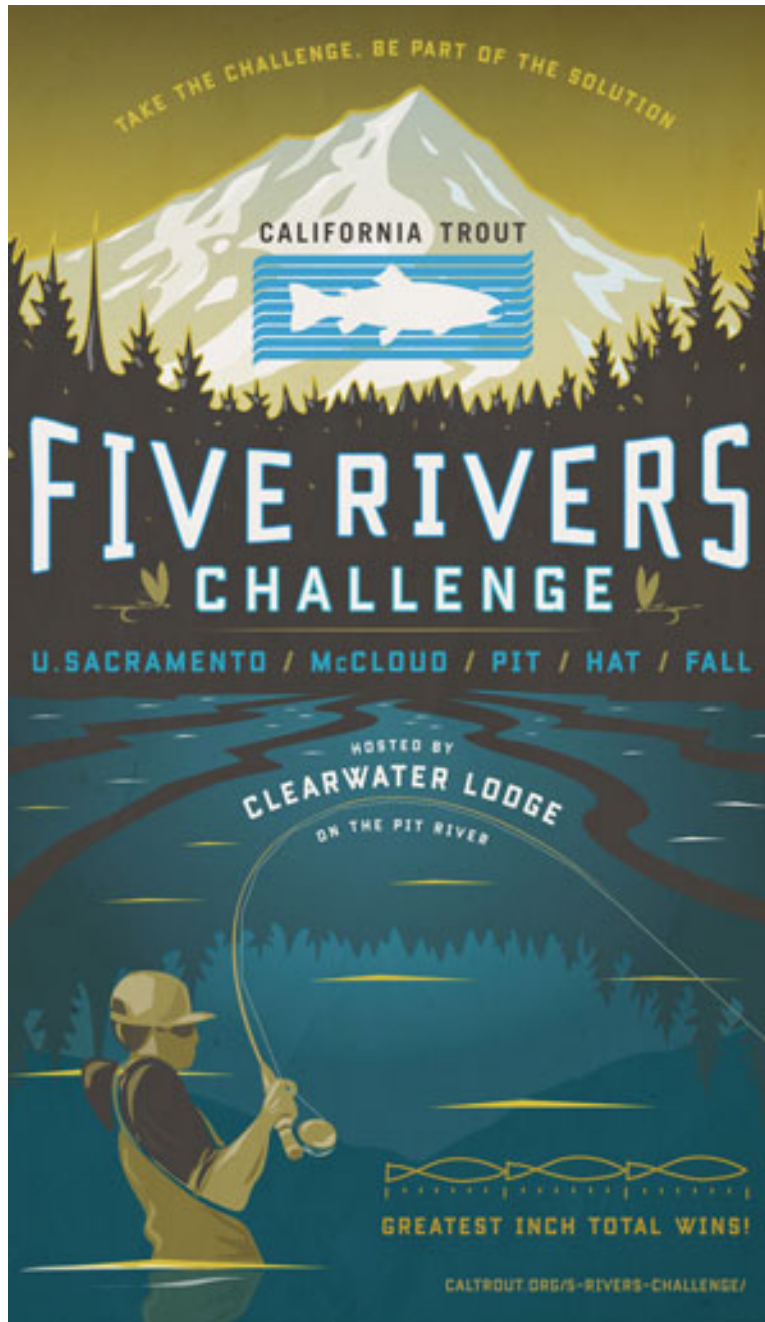
WFF Member Corner



Mel Light fishing the salmon fly hatch on the Henry's Fork in May



Notices



**** Announcing 2018 Dates: June 19 – 23 ****
[Click here for more info.](#)



Notices

2018 Pebble Mine Opposition

Time to send comments regarding the proposed Alaska Pebble in the headwaters of Bristol Bay
From the April 23 The Anchorage Daily News:

For more than a decade, Pebble has been trying to sell Bristol Bay on the idea of a major gold and copper mine at the headwaters of the world's largest sockeye fishery. Each step of the way, scientific evidence has indicated that this risky project would be profoundly detrimental to commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries. Now, Pebble is trying to ride a wave of political and financial momentum to build its proposed mine.

The Orvis / TU Save Bristol Bay Campaign matches donations to fund opposition actions:

<https://gifts.tu.org/orvis-tu-fund>

Alaskans themselves have organized opposition to the mine for several years. The following link is for the “Mushing for Bristol Bay” campaign in 2014:

<https://www.ioby.org/project/mushing-bristol-bay>

Unfortunately, the Trump administration has given new life to this mine. It is essential for all outdoors sports fans to join to stop this mine now.

Public comments on the Pebble Mine may be submitted at: <https://www.pebbleprojecteis.com/publiccomments/new> through June 29, 2018.



Fishermen's Spot Update

Steve Ellis, owner and operator of “The Spot” in Van Nuys, has announced a new discount program that should be of interest to all WFF members. The Spot is offering a 10% discount on all regularly priced merchandise for orders of \$200 or more. Contact Steve directly for any exceptions or exclusions (we're not aware of any). In addition to their friendly service, this is another reason to support your local fly shop(s) whenever possible.

Fishermen's Spot has long been a supporter of Wilderness Fly Fishers with auction and raffle donations of gift certificates, discount certificates and equipment items. Check out their website or drop in the store for more information.

www.fsflyfishing.com

14411 Burbank Blvd.

Van Nuys

(818) 785-7306



Notices



Save the date and the SWC FFI is looking for volunteers to work the fair. For more info click above.



**Fair Registration Will Open
Tuesday, June 5, 2018
9:00 a.m. MDT**

We hope you plan to join us in Boise, Idaho

Boise Centre / Boise, Idaho

Workshops begin August 7

Exhibit Hall open August 9-11

Reserve Your Spot!

Don't miss out on the fun and fellowship!

Click [here](#) for the latest information!

Download the [Registration Guide](#) Now!



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) and Program(s) x \$30 per person

_____ Program(s) only x \$10 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



June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 WFF Board Meeting	13	14	15	16 12th Annual Rush Creek Clean Up
17 Father's Day	18	19 WFF Monthly Meeting Ed Engle: "25 Ways to Elevate Your Trout Game"	20 WFF Deadline for Newsletter Articles	21 Summer Solstice	22	23 WFF Fly Tying
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7

