

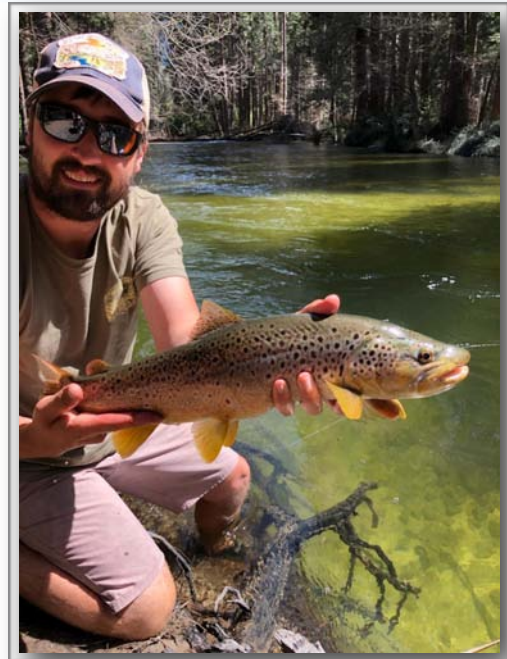


The Magic of Yosemite

with David Gregory

Yosemite is a crown jewel of America's National Parks. Its iconic waterfalls and rock landscapes captivate millions of visitors a year. The majority of these tourists barely scratch the surface. Astute anglers will find some 250 fish bearing lakes and countless miles of rivers and creeks to explore. Approximately 95% of the parks 1200 square miles are pristine wilderness and a must-fish for any California angler. The area gets less attention, and less fishing pressure than the better known Eastern Sierra.

Our October presenter, David Gregory has for the past decade formed a deep connection to Yosemite and the cool crystal waters of the Merced River. A classic trout stream of extreme beauty that will leave you feeling hooked. His program will take you on an aquatic adventure on the Gold Country Rivers – the Merced, Tuolumne and the Stanislaus.



David Gregory

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OCTOBER 2019 MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, October 15th
 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, \$2 first add. ½ hour, \$1.50 -
 \$2 each add. ½ hr., \$20 daily max. Expect to pay \$5 to \$7.
1234 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

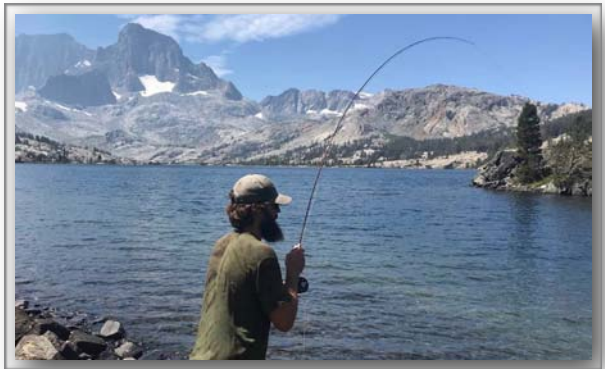
TO MAKE RESERVATIONS: RESERVE ONLINE
OR CALL THE HOT LINE 310 280-3459
OR MAIL IN THE FORM ON PAGE 14

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Yosemite

The West Slope of the Sierra Nevada offers solitude, scenery, and year-round fishing. A five hour drive from Los Angeles will take you to the banks of the mighty Merced River. There is a reverence and irrevocable history in this section of the Merced River. John Muir once wrote of the area “The place seemed holy, where one might hope to see God.” When needing to escape, contemplate, or feel a deep connection to the natural world, head to the cool crystal waters of the Merced River. For the non-angler, the area includes the John Muir Trail, often called “America’s most famous trail.” It meanders through the second largest roadless area in the lower 48 and provides some of the best Alpine scenery this country has to offer. Not to mention, daily opportunities to catch wild trout. The trail’s jaw dropping views and colossal mountains will leave you with a newfound appreciation for the Sierra Nevada.



Yosemite

David has a B.S. in Parks and Recreation Management and is a graduate of Clearwater Guide School. He is enthusiastically devoted to sharing his love of fly fishing and works as a full time guide with Yosemite Fly Fishers.



Board of Directors

President	Board
Vice President	OPEN
Secretary	Celia Carroll
Treasurer	Tom Rasmussen
Treasurer	Art Antolick
Speaker Programs	Art Siegel
Membership	Greg Dahlem
Dinner Reservations	Ken Trabert
Inventory	Clay Dodder
Database Manager	OPEN
Conservation	OPEN
Outings	Peter Haight
	Larry Carroll
Webpage	Larry Carroll
Newsletter	Rich Peters
	Michie Hirooka
	Clay Dodder

Club Activities & Committees

New Member Committee	Reece Lewis
	Leslie Riley
Spring Super Raffle	OPEN
Conservation Super Raffle	OPEN
Hotline	John Dalton
Casting Classes	OPEN
Fly Tying Classes	Peter Haight
Trout in the Classroom	Celia Carroll
SW Council - FFI Rep.	Celia Carroll

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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](#)

SWC - FFI Fly Fishing Fair	Sat. - Sun.	Oct. 5-6
WFF Fly Tying	Sat.	Oct. 26
WFF Hot Creek Ranch	Fri. - Mon.	Nov. 1-4
WFF Holiday Party	Sun.	Dec. 8

WFF Fly Tying

The classes are from 9 am to about 12 noon on the 4th Saturday of the month at St Augustine Church, 1227 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Park across the street in the city parking structure. See page 1 for parking rates and address.

This month we are getting ready for Hot Creek by tying Blue Winged Olive and Dark Hot Creek Caddis patterns in small sizes. Here is an example of the BWO and the recipe gotten from the Orvis website. As for the Hot Creek Caddis, you will need to come to class to see how it is tied and learn the recipe.

Blue Winged Olive - Fly Recipe	
Name	Blue Winged Olive
Difficulty	3
Popular Sizes	14, 16, 18, 20, 22
Hook Type	Extra-fine dry fly
Thread	Olive 6/0 or 8/0
Tail	Dark Dun hackle fibers
Body	Medium olive fur
Wing	Dark dun hackle tips
Hackle	Dark dun



September Show & Tell - - Big Success

by Rich Peters

Proving once again that Wilderness Fly Fishers is alive and well as an organization, and that its members are actively pursuing finned creatures in exotic places around the globe, our September meeting was a big success. Under the supervision of Greg Dahlem acting as President and with technical support of Clay Dodder, six members, including two new club members, made presentations worthy of noting for future destination trips.

Leading off the parade of presenters was new member (but long time fly fisher) Scott Clark who reported on his freshly concluded trip to the Greybull River in Wyoming. Although the destination is a bit remote and requires a camp over, the rewards are large cutthroat, brown and rainbow trout and Rocky Mountain whitefish. Scott had great success using the Euro nymphing technique shown to us by recent speaker Devin Olson, and also large attractor dry flies. Next in order was Greg Dahlem who presented photos and anecdotes from this year's club outing to the Big Horn River in Montana. For more details, see Greg's article elsewhere in this edition of MTL; clearly another great trip.

We also had presentations from Clay Dodder who demonstrated quite convincingly that taking your grandkids to Sequoia and catching a fish or two from a small creek beats most anything else we do as fly fishers. Art Antolick reported on the current iteration of an old WFF tradition – back country pack trips led by former Prez Gus Velarde to the Sun River Wilderness in Montana. Although fishing was apparently a little tougher this year, no one complained because this trip is as much about enjoying the company of old friends and sharing camaraderie as it is about catching big fish. Art also showed some nice photos of fishing on the Snake River below Jackson Hole. And then we all had a huge surprise – a new member who goes by the name of Viggo and stands knee high to a grasshopper, shared a few of his photos from Flat Creek and other fisheries in the Jackson Hole area. His presentation just goes to show that the fish don't know and don't care how old the fly fisher is on the other end of that line! Those were gorgeous fish in beautiful surroundings. What a future this young man has in fly fishing circles.

And that brings us to our final presenter, Jerry Berman, who shared his experience on yet another of his "bucket list" trips. Jerry ventured to Bolivia this summer accompanied by the son (Chris) of former club president Stan Garriss. They were in pursuit of golden dorado in the Bolivian jungle hours from the nearest outpost of civilization. Jerry emphasized that it's a long trip from the U.S., and not inexpensive, but worth every penny. The lodge, located in the middle of the jungle, has hot and cold, super filtered, running water, electricity and stable Wi-Fi that enabled Jerry to communicate with stateside family every day. As far as fishing, the golden dorado are big, strong and aggressive, and the guides (most Argentinian) are friendly, communicative and helpful. Jerry highly recommends this trip (booked through the Fly Shop in Redding), although it is not for the faint of heart.

Not to be overlooked was an exquisite meal prepared and served by G&G Catering. If you missed this event, mark your calendar for next year. This is an opportunity to get real time reporting on new and exciting destinations, as well as old reliable ones, and to get your questions answered by an objective source who speaks your language. Until next time - - keep on fishin'!



November 1 - 4: Hot Creek Ranch

Make your reservation ASAP - we only have room for eight anglers!

Although the trip isn't until November, full payment (\$415 per person) is due no later than October 28, 2019. If you pay by check, your reservation is not confirmed until we receive payment. (Please write Hot Creek on the memo line.) Visit the website's [Event Calendar](#) for more info about the [Hot Creek Outing](#).



The Big Horn Fish are Bigger

By Greg Dahlem

In early August, a party of eight embarked on a four day trip to the Big Horn River. Club members, Peter Haight, Roger Later and Greg Dahlem are Big Horn alumni and the remaining five (Matt Dahlem, Andrew and Michael Miller, JT Winthrop and Peter Kaldis) were first timers. Matt, Peter and JT attended grade school together and became Eagle Scouts in the same troop in which John Dalton and his boys were active. Andrew is also an Eagle Scout and his Dad, Michael, and Greg enjoy golfing together. Everyone's interest in the Big Horn varied from Peter Haight's enjoyment of the River for over thirty years, Roger and Greg dreaming of catching the big one that got away on previous trips, and the rest were called by the reputation of the River and to create new memories with friends. The Big Horn is located in an isolated portion of southern Montana on the Crow Indian Reservation. The Leaning Tree Lodge is situated in Fort Smith and offers few amenities other than guide shops and lodges. No reason to go there if you are not interested in fishing, birding or history. Since we were on the Reservation, we came well prepared and had shopped previously at Costco and a liquor store to purchase adequate (or what we thought was adequate) libations, as no liquor is sold on the Reservation.

The Big Horn flows through cottonwoods and is surrounded by wheat fields and cattle ranches. It is a tail water of the Yellowtail Dam. The water temperatures stay in the 50's to low 60's through most of the year, including the hot summer months when air temperatures are in the 90's or higher. The first thirteen miles of the River from the Afterbay to the Thirteen Mile Access provides the best fishing. Below that point the water quality deteriorates as there is more sedimentation from tributary streams and ranching activities. The small gravel river



Group photo on porch of Leaning Tree Lodge



Matt's first cast!



Roger Later, Mark Stroda & Peter Haight

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Big Horn

bottom facilitates easy wading. Historically the River has been known for quality fishing, both in number and size. Recent club visits haven't quite lived up to that reputation, but this time great days of fishing were experienced by all.

The air temperatures during the day averaged in the high 80's vs the forecast of low to mid 90's. Some of the fishermen wet waded and we were blessed with little to mild wind conditions and early enough in the season to miss the buildup of algae and water grass.

All of us enjoyed three days of guiding, with each guide employing different strategies and techniques. Every day, all boats put in at Three Mile Access and floated down approximately 10 miles to the Thirteen Mile or Big Horn take out. Some of the teams that focused on fishing from the boat, would take out after lunch, drive back up river to the Afterbay, relaunch and float back down to Three Mile. These teams were successful in the afternoon by presenting size 14 hoppers, and were able to catch 16 to 19 inch rainbows.

Most of the trip however was focused using nymphs such as caddis, pheasant tail, a simple copper wire pattern and pink scuds (Peter Haight caught a good sized brown on one of his patterns from a recent WFF fly tying event).

Roger and Peter Haight selected 30-year lodge owner Mark Stroda as their guide. He provided Peter and Roger with his never-ending stream of salty language and intriguing stories. Mark knows how to put fishermen and fish together, with helpful hints, careful placement in the river or the riverbank, and instruction when needed. Mark had his fishermen primarily wade fishing and provided great guidance to move up and down the river with these big fish, and allow them to take the first run before reeling in line.



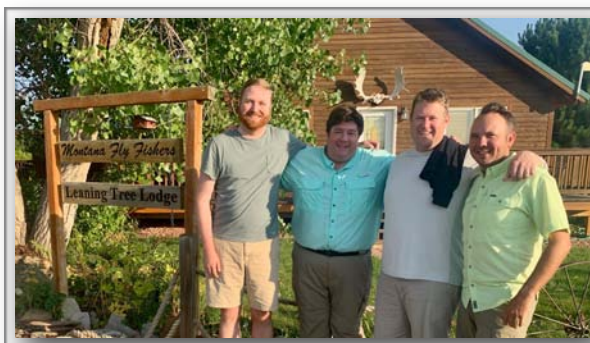
Working a nice stretch of water



The group enjoying breakfast



View from the Afterbay



The young guys

Big Horn

Chase guided Michael, Andrew and Greg on various days and lived up to his reputation as being one of the best on the Big Horn. Chase mixed up the routine with approximately 70% of the time wading with the remainder in the boat. Both Andrew and Greg caught 6 to 10 large brown and rainbows in the end of the “Picture Run.” These trout were between 16 to 20 inches, and very powerful in high, fast moving water. When the trout gathered in pods, Chase was excellent in finding them. In this situation it was most important to get the fly over the fish’s nose whatever pattern was being used. Michael also did well below the run and was very understanding as Andrew and Greg had many runs down stream to keep up with the bolting trout.

Matt fished with most of the guides, including Mark’s nephew whose name is also Matt, and had good results each day. On the first day, in addition to landing a number of rainbows and browns, he caught some white fish, carp, and suckers. As the day went on, we were rooting him on to hook a walleye and northern pike that also exist in the River.



Peter Kaldis and Matt



Peter with a nice rainbow



Michael and Chase wading the “Picture Run”



That brown made the right move at the right time

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Big Horn

JT and Peter Kaldis fished with Jake and focused on fishing from the boat. As both fishermen are relatively new to the sport, this strategy worked out well. The guide did an excellent job finding flat water and good holding lies.

As always, Rachel's hospitality and good cooking was on display. YUMMY dinners included BBQ steak, snapper with mango salsa, and seasoned pork.

Peter Haight, Michael and Andrew returned home after three days on the River. Peter Kaldis, JT, Roger, Matt and Greg decided to stay another day and visit the Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument located about an hour away from Fort Smith. The bus tour, guided by a member of the Crow Tribe, provided an excellent one hour tour of the five mile site. In the morning before visiting the Monument, Matt, Peter Kaldis and JT fished the River's side channels near the Three Mile Access point. Using the techniques that they learned during the previous three guided days, they were successful in catching a number of 16 to 19 inch rainbows and browns where water channels met forming a riffle immediately downstream. Peter Kaldis had a larger one that unfortunately got away when it was close to the net.



Roger in front of the "Old School Cowboy Bar"



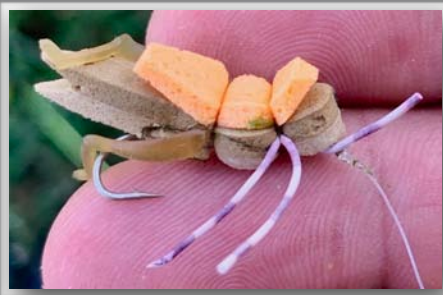
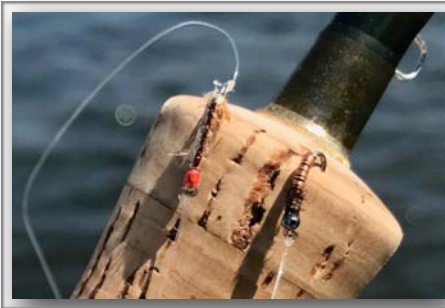
Big Horn

After visiting the Monument, Roger suggested the group experience an “old school” cowboy bar in Harding to enjoy a cold one along with excellent fried chicken. That night, we went out to a steakhouse to celebrate JT’s birthday in style.

As everyone had a wonderful time with great fishing and camaraderie, we are all anxious to return. No wonder Peter Haight has been returning for over 30 years!



Michael relaxing



Peter's Big Horn Pattern



Notices



FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL **Southwest Council**

SILVER CREEK LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT RECOVERY PROJECT

BROOK TROUT REMOVAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

October 1-3 & October 8-10, 2019

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL CONSERVATION

Debbie Sharpton & Gary Applebee | conservation@swcffi.org

CDFW just let us know that they are working Oct 1-3 and tentatively Oct 8-10 on Silver Creek. Ideally they could use 2-3 people to assist with netting, handling the live car, and working up fish.

Brett tells me the lows will be around 20 degrees next week, so they are staying in Bridgeport. If you are interested in helping the Lahontan cutthroat trout on a beautiful high Sierra stream, give Brett Anderson a ring.

Brett.Anderson@wildlife.ca.gov

Brett Anderson

Environmental Scientist

California Department of Fish and Wildlife | Fisheries Branch

980 Riverside Pkwy Ste 110, West Sacramento, CA 95605

(916) 375-6081



Notices

Fly Fishing Faire 2019 Save the Date



The Fly Fishing Faire is BACK in 2019! Many details to come but mark your calendars for the LARGEST and ONLY Fly Fishing Event in Southern California!!

Where – Glendale Civic Auditorium, Glendale, CA

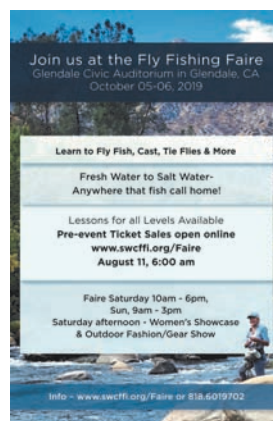
When – October 05-06, 2019

Hours – Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Admission - \$15.00 per person, good for both days
\$20.00 per family of up to 4, good for both days
\$5.00 per person, introductory price for those that have NEVER fly fished. Includes free introductory casting and tying classes

Who – Presented by the Southwest Council, Fly Fishers International

Information – 818.6019702, specialprojects@swcffi.org and here is a [link](#) to the show program
Classes, presentations and vendors will be announced in the coming months



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



October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30 Rosh Hashanah (1st Day)	1	2	3	4	5 SWC - FFI Fly Fishing Fair
6 SWC - FFI Fly Fishing Fair	7	8 WFF Board Meeting	9 Yom Kippur	10	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15 WFF Monthly Meeting: David Gregory: "Yosemite"	16	17	18	19
20 WFF Deadline for Newsletter Articles	21	22	23	24	25	26 WFF Fly Tying
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	1 WFF Hot Creek Ranch	2 WFF Hot Creek Ranch

