



A Journey To The Amazon

with Gary Bulla

Over the years Gary Bulla has explored unique and pristine fly fishing waters and shared his fishing knowledge with us. These include fly fishing the California surf, kayak fly fishing expeditions to the islands of Southern Baja, mothership trips to Belize for tarpon and bonefish, and guiding anglers with his trained family of captains on the Sea of Cortez in Baja Sur, Mexico.

In the last four years he has also hosted trips to Amazonia. His November presentation "Angling the Amazon" will take us through the capital city of Manaus in central Brazil and onto a mothership traveling the waters of the largest river system on the planet. Gary will cover two incredible tributaries of the central Amazon which he visited on separate expeditions, the Rio Negro and the Uyetama Reserve. His first trip was exploratory on an old wooden mothership. Through intense experimentation he and Michael Williams of Nomadic Waters helped train the native guides on fly fishing strategies that led them to become believers in the power of the fly in the jungle waters.



Gary Bulla

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NOVEMBER 2020 MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, November 17th
 Wet Flies: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM / Program: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
 Place: 1227 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401
 Cost: \$30 per person with dinner or \$10 for the program only
 Parking: City parking structure on 4th Street, is most convenient.
 Posted rates: 90 min. free, \$20 first hr., \$16.00, \$1.50 - 1/2 hr., \$20 daily rate. Expect to pay \$5 to \$7.
 1234 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS: [RESERVE ONLINE](#)
 OR CALL THE HOT LINE 310-260-3459
 OR MAIL IN THE FORM ON PAGE 8

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A Journey To The Amazon

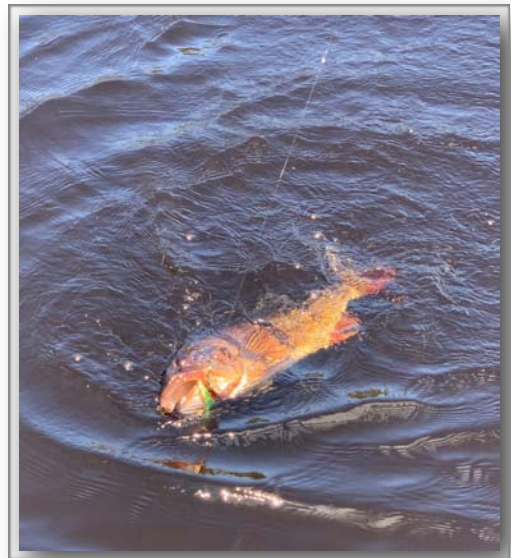
Gary will share his discoveries, including a brief geological history of the area, the warmth of the native Amazonians, the stunning biodiversity of the diverse habitats in the jungle's ecosystems, the rhythm and camaraderie of life on a mothership, and the tackle and techniques for wrestling the dazzling variety of fish in the vast Amazon forest. As we will discover, Brazil should definitely be on every fly fisher's bucket list.

Please join us as Gary presents a colorful trip through a very biodiverse and mysterious part of the world.

Biography

Before he discovered Baja, Gary Bulla grew up on the beaches and waters of the Southern California coast. His father took him camping, fishing and hiking at least ten times a year. He spent his college years studying philosophy at UCSB, and then moved to the mountains of Colorado where he apprenticed as a carpenter and then traveled on to Oregon working as a wooden boat builder. Once he visited Ojai, he never left. He met his wife Theresa and they raised two wonderful daughters.

It was Yvon Chouinard, who first introduced him to saltwater fly fishing. He found that fishing on the Ventura and Santa Barbara beaches combined his long-time love for the ocean and his passion for fly fishing with the convenience of having fish right at his back door. He realized that there was not a great deal of information about catching surf species on the fly; so began to use his knowledge of tides and tidal life not only to chase down surf perch, but also in pursuit of corbina, halibut, white sea bass and striped bass, observing their habits and habitats in the process. He found that there was an abundant fishery right along the SoCal shores that could provide continuous challenges and recreation for local fly fishers who were otherwise committing to long weekends driving to the Eastern Sierras or further to cast a line.

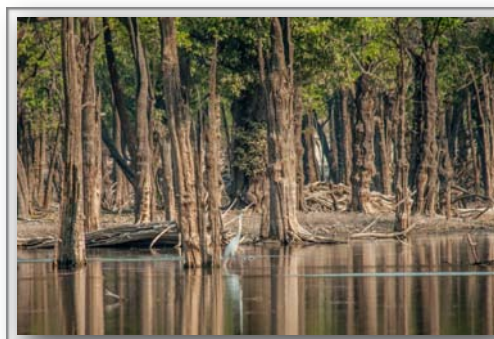
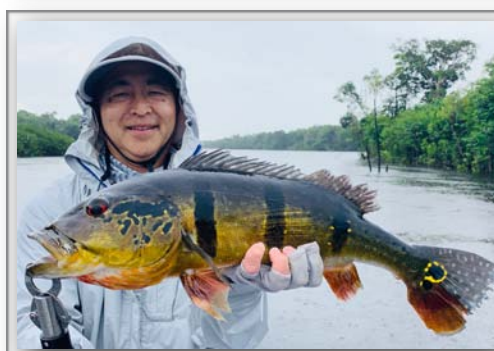


A Journey To The Amazon

California corbina were the most challenging, visible in the surf line but a difficult catch for the fly fisher. Perfect! Over the next few years, he spent his early mornings and evenings patrolling the beaches, trying to develop presentations and flies that could bring to hand the corbina on a more consistent basis. He began guiding others and holding seminars on surf fishing. He also began cruising the kelp beds in his kayak, and developing flies that would attract the many varieties of fish found in the intertidal zone.

In 1989, and for 18 years afterwards, he accompanied his wife Theresa, on expeditions with her students to camp on Baja's Magdalena Island and to interact with the gray whales and their young. He brought a fly rod and was astounded at the incredible variety of fish that were available in the waters of Baja. Thus began more years of experimentation that have led to Gary being one of the most active fly fishing guides for Baja waters and one of the more knowledgeable saltwater fly fishers. Several months a year he hosts fly fishing blue water panga trips at Punta Arena/Cerralvo Island area (in the Sea of Cortez). In 1990 he began training a family of fly fishing captains and has fished with them ever since. Gary has landed over 160 species of fish in the salt on the fly, including a California yellowtail of 34.7 pounds on 16 pound test line breaking a 43 year old world record. For many years, he guided kayak fly fishing expeditions each season to Magdalena Island, Espiritu Santo and San Jose Islands. He has hosted several mothership trips to Belize. He has photographed and fished the west coast of California, the Bahamas, Florida, the Outer Banks in North Carolina, freshwater rivers all over the USA and British Columbia. In 2016 in cooperation with Nomadic Waters he began hosting mothership trips deep into the Amazon tributaries of northern Brazil.

Back at home Gary ties flies, presents fly fishing programs, writes articles, teaches casting and surf fishing clinics and practices custom woodwork including rebuilding his own house. His photos have appeared in *Southwest Fly Fishing*, *The Drake*, *Fly Rod and Reel*, Patagonia catalog and more. His latest article is "Surf Fishing Santa Barbara" in *Southwest Fly Fishing* magazine Jan/Feb 2016.



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Conservation Super Raffle	OPEN
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Trout in the Classroom	Celia Carroll
SW Council - FFI Rep.	Celia Carroll

©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 34th 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](#).

On line for Nov. Board meeting will be done via Zoom on 11/10. Contact Celia Carroll at ccarroll86@aol.com for an invite.

COMING EVENTS

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

WFF Fly Tying Via Zoom Sat. Nov. 28

WFF Fly Tying

The classes are from 9 am to about 12 noon on the 4th Saturday of the month at St. Andrew's Church, 1237 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Park across the street in the city parking structure. See page 1 for parking rules and address.

This month we are tying a surprise. Peter will let everyone know before hand via email.



SPEAKERS FUND - DONATIONS NEEDED!

Despite the coronavirus curtailing many club activities, we still have ongoing expenses including outing reservations (Hot Creek, Kelsey, etc.), liability insurance, and monthly speaker fees among others. Annual dues don't cover everything and month by month we are slowly depleting our cash reserves. Sadly, this is also a situation some of us are facing in their own lives.

To address these issues, the Board of Directors has charted a double prong strategy. The first is that, like a number of other SoCal fly fishing clubs, WFF will no longer charge for Zoom meetings. Everyone, member or non-member, is invited to participate at no charge.

The second prong is a request that those who can, make a tax deductible donation to our Speakers Fund. We spend about \$3,500 annually on speaker honorariums. We need members to step up and keep our speakers program solvent.

[With your donation of \\$30 one-time or \\$15 monthly recurring, you can support our speakers program.](#)

If you wish to donate by mail, please send a check to **Wilderness Fly Fishers, PO Box 3358, Santa Monica, CA 90408-3358.**

(Wilderness Fly Fishers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. EIN: 95-4268623)



Jim Solomon



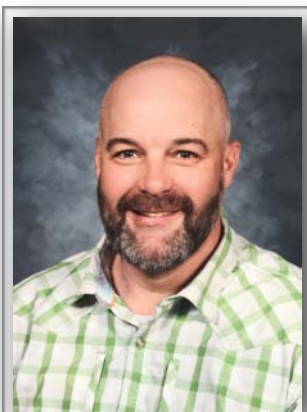
James Garrettson



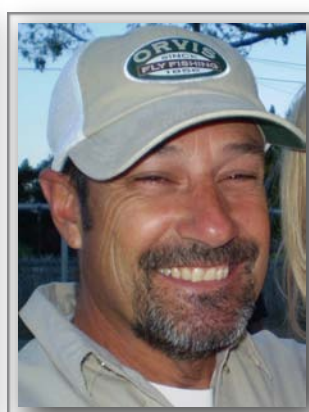
Gary Bulla



Maury Hatch



Chris Leonard



Pat Jaeger



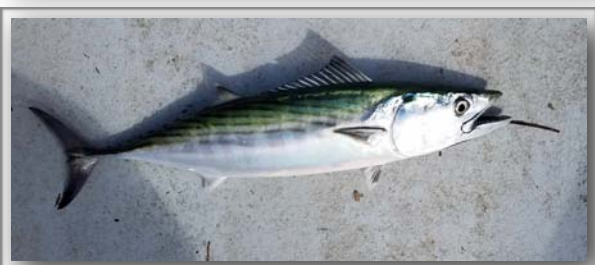
Jimmy Cheers



Member Corner

After spending the entire summer and part of the fall in Idaho, I returned to SoCal in mid-October and began missing all of the fishing opportunities. I began looking for local fishing options. In the last couple of weeks I've found some good fishing that may be of interest to other members.

Mission Bay. I am a big fan of fly fishing Mission Bay (San Diego), either on foot or from a boat. I fished on October 15 from a rental skiff and also spent a few hours walking and wading the shoreline targeting spotted bay bass. I had better luck fishing from the boat which is easily navigable, just keep an eye out for an early arrival fog bank (see photo) which can be disorienting. I landed three bonito, two spotted bay bass, and dropped a couple more of each. The bonito like a fly that imitates an anchovy; they hit hard and are lightning fast. The spotties usually prefer a ghost shrimp pattern or a small baitfish imitation.



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Member Corner

Castaic Lake. I fished Castaic (main lake) recently, primarily in preparation for a possible trip to the California Delta. I haven't fished Castaic in several months and found the fishing was very good, although the fish were on the small side. In three hours of afternoon fishing I boated approximately 25 juvenile largemouth bass between 10 and 14 inches. There is a tremendous amount of bait in the water now in the form of small shad, so the bass showed a preference for small, light colored streamers and were found in shallow water anywhere from the shoreline out to a drop-off of 8-10 feet deep.

Tight lines!

Rich Peters



Print & Mail Coupon

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

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



November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30 WFF Hot Creek	31 WFF Hot Creek Halloween
1 WFF Hot Creek Daylight Saving Time Ends	2 WFF Hot Creek	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 WFF Board Meeting Via Zoom this month	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17 Via Zoom WFF Monthly Meeting: Gary Bulla: "Angling the Amazon"	18	19	20 WFF Deadline for Newsletter Articles	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28 WFF Fly Tying Via Zoom this month, check website or email for invite.
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

