



Mastering the Short Game

with Landon Mayer

To kick off the New Year, one of the top guides in the Western United States, Colorado-based Landon Mayer, makes a welcome return to the SoCal speaker circuit. His new video-enhanced program will show that the best fish are often closer than you think. Most anglers wade into the fish they are trying to catch, or assume they are on the far side of the river. As the program will show, trophy fish are often less than a rod's length away. Observation and a stealthy approach are often the keys to a successful day.

Landon Mayer's angling success is fueled by an addiction to pursuing large trout with small flies and lightweight fly-fishing equipment. Mayer enthusiastically teaches and demonstrates his techniques and on-river knowledge and has developed innovative strategies for sighting,



Landon Mayer

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JANUARY 2021 MONTHLY MEETING

In person meeting canceled due to Covid-19. Will be moved to a Zoom meeting, look for an email link from the club.

Date: Tuesday, January 19th
Wet Flies: 6:00 PM / Dinner Program: 8:00 PM
Place: St. Andrew's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church
1227 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401
Cost: \$30 per person with dinner or \$10 per person, only
Parking: City parking structure across the street is most convenient.
Posted rates: first 90 min. free, \$2 first add. 15 min. \$50 -
\$20, second 1/2 hr., \$20 daily max. Exp. 11:00 PM. Pay \$5 to \$7.
1234 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401
TO MAKE RESERVATIONS: [RESERVE ONLINE](#)
OR CALL THE HOT LINE: 310-261-3459
OR MAIL IN THE FORM ON PAGE 12

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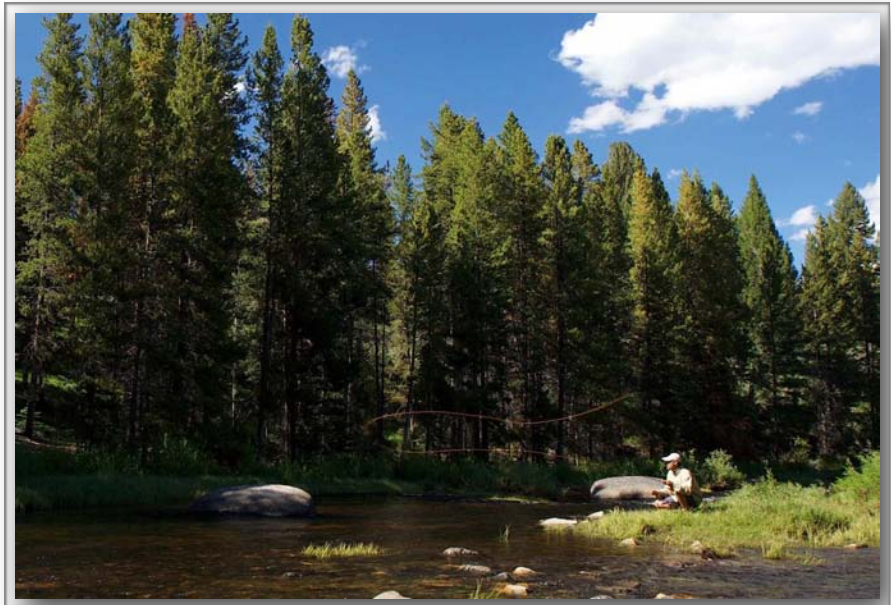
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Mastering the Short Game

hooking, and landing selective trout. He shares these tips and secrets in his books and DVD's. Landon's passion for fly-fishing has led him to make several noteworthy contributions to the sport on and off the water, including visits to fly-fishing related organizations of the Mid-Atlantic, West, Pacific Northwest, Southwest, and southern states, as well as teaching through guided trips, fly-fishing classes, presentations, and demonstrations of his unique techniques. Mayer has been guiding in Colorado full time on the South Platte River for the last 22 years, and one full season on the Naknek River in AK.

Landon was born and raised in Colorado Springs where he began his fly-fishing career in the 6th grade when his middle school offered fly casting lessons. Throughout his teens, Landon's love of the sport grew when he spent all his free time hanging around local fly shops and watching VHS tapes by Gary Borger and Doug Swisher until the tapes actually wore out! After graduating high school, Landon pursued a career as a full time guide in Colorado, learning from great Colorado anglers such as Ed Engle, Pat Dorsey and fly tyer John Barr. He also spent one year guiding in Alaska on the Naknek River.

Mayer is a contributing writer for *Fly Fisherman* and *High Country Angler* magazines. His contributions also have been featured in publications such as *Fly Rod and Reel*, *American Angler*, *Southwest Fly Fishing*, *Field and Stream*, and *Fish and Fly* magazines. As an ambassador in the fly-fishing industry, Mayer represents several product lines including Simms Fly Fishing apparel and is a royalty fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. He is also an advisory team member of Simms, R.L.Winston, Bauer, Scientific Angler, Smith Optics, Fishpond, Yeti Coolers, Regal Vise, and Casio Pro Trek watches.



Mastering the Short Game

Landon's techniques are described in his best known publications and DVD's - *The Hunt for Giant Trout: 25 Top Locations in the US to Catch a Trophy Trout*, *Trout Tips: A Guide's Secrets, Tactics and Techniques*, *Colorado's Best Fly Fishing*, *Sight Fishing for Trout*, and *How to Catch the Biggest Trout of Your Life*; in addition to two DVDs: *Landing the Trout of Your Life* and *Weapons of Bass Production*, both of which also feature John Barr; in addition to his new film with **Headwater Media: Mastering the Short Game**.



Together with his wife Michelle (who shares his passion for the sport) and their four children, Landon lives in Florissant, Colorado near his home waters of the South Platte River where he teaches fly fishing through guiding and fly fishing classes. He also appears around the country giving presentations of his innovative, successful and popular techniques. You can learn more about this great fly fisher by going to:

www.landonmayer.com

Order Landon's New Books and Video

Three book covers are displayed. The left cover is 'Mastering the Short Game' with a dark, moody landscape. The middle cover is 'Sight Fishing for Trout' showing a fisherman in a river. The right cover is 'The Hunt for Giant Trout' featuring a close-up of a trout's head. Below the covers is a 'CLICK HERE' button.

MASTERING THE SHORT GAME

SIGHT FISHING FOR TROUT

THE HUNT FOR GIANT TROUT

LONDON MAYER

CLICK HERE



Board of Directors

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Treasurer	Art Antolick
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	Larry Carroll
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Newsletter	Rich Peters
	Michie Hirooka
	Clay Dodder

Club Activities & Committees

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	Leslie Riley
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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 club meeting, is held via Zoom. Please contact Celia Carroll for an invite at ccarr10186@aol.com. 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 Fly Tying Via Zoom Sat. Jan. 23

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 90404. Park across the street in the city parking structure. See page 1 for parking rules and address.

In person meeting canceled due to Covid-19. Will be moved to a Zoom meeting, look for an email link from the club or contact Peter Haight via email at phaight@aol.com for an invite.

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



GOODBYE 2020, HELLO 2021

Finally, and at long last, we are able to say goodbye to 2020 and begin transitioning into a new and undoubtedly better year. We all curtailed many activities in the past year and tried to make the most of a challenging and often perplexing period in our lives (it's called "playing the hand you're dealt") and now we're ready to move on and hopefully resume a semblance of normalcy by summertime. From the Club's standpoint, we have had to suspend in-person monthly meetings, suspend in-person fly tying, suspend Trout in the Classroom, and resort to the Zoom platform for virtual board meetings, monthly speaker presentations, and even our annual holiday gathering. While there is no fixed deadline to reopen public gatherings, we are optimistically looking at some time after mid-year, so stay tuned.

In the meantime, here's a look at what to expect from WFF in the coming months. First and foremost, it's time to renew your **annual WFF membership**. We again ask that you consider renewing at the "Golden Trout" level as well as making a separate tax-deductible donation to support the Club's ongoing speaker program and other activities. This is particularly important at the present time insofar as we had no revenue generating activities in 2020 due to the pandemic, but we did continue to have ongoing expenses related to the speaker programs. And for 2021 we are continuing the monthly speaker program **WITHOUT CHARGE** to all members as well as non-members which is consistent with the practice of most other clubs in our region. We'll once again be using the Zoom platform for the monthly speaker presentations at least until approximately mid-year, but no one knows for certain.

Regarding **Club outings**, Kelsey Lake at the end of April, and Hot Creek Ranch in November have been reserved and are already being planned. There is limited availability at both locations so get your reservation in with Larry Carroll or Peter Haight if you're interested in either adventure. Other destinations are also being discussed but additional trips will depend on whether travel restrictions have been lifted as well as the safety of lodging and public gatherings. While there is no **Trout in the Classroom** for 2021 (*see* accompanying TIC Update), we are hopeful that TIC will resume in 2022 with an expanded format.

On the subject of monthly **speaker presentations**, check out the next page for a complete schedule of what we have planned.

Finally don't forget to renew your **California fishing license** for 2021 and your non-resident licenses for all of the many states you will likely be visiting post-pandemic in 2021!



Club Notes

2021 Speaker Schedule

MONTH	SPEAKER	PROGRAM	WFF DATES	NOTES
January	Landon Mayer	Mastering the Short Game	1/19/21	
February	Tony Reinhardt	Advanced Drift Boat Techniques	2/16/21	
March	TBD		3/16/21	
April	Jason Randall	When All Else Fails - Tactics for Catching	4/13/21	
May	Skip Morris	Make Dry Fly and Emerger Fishing Work	5/18/21	
June	Buhler Brothers (Ryan and Rob)	Streamer Fishing for Big Fish in So Cal	6/15/21	
July	Dave Smith	Euro Nymphing Local Waters	7/13/21	Joint Meeting w/ SPFF
September	WFF Members	What I did on my Summer Vacation	9/14/21	
October	Charles Jardine	Beyond The Chalk	10/19/21	
November	Karlie Roland	Fishing Henry's Fork, Idaho	11/16/21	



Third graders oversee placement of rainbow trout eggs into their classroom aquarium. Rainbow trout eggs were delivered from the Shasta hatchery, via the Fillmore hatchery on January 17.

From the 2020 TIC photo album.



Trout in the Classroom - Update

Trout in the Classroom (TIC), a longstanding WFF program for elementary and middle school children, cannot be offered in 2021, due to necessary isolation measures during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The program had been abruptly halted in March, 2020 as schools were closed.

Four teachers managed the 2020 program in their classrooms: Linwood E. Howe third grade teacher, Lisa Schnauss and Culver City Middle School seventh grade science teachers Tom Kim, Crystal Neuhaus and Phyllis Yarbrough. Longtime El Marino volunteer, Mike Nabours, could not participate due to a back injury. All four participating teachers managed full, healthy tanks of rainbow trout fry. Every tank contained over 30 fish. The teachers carried their fish to Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and released them alone. We had hoped to revive TIC in 2021, and we share the disappointment at being unable to do so.

Jim Solomon, Jim Drummond and other WFF members originated the program in 1996. On annual fry-release days at local lakes and streams, WFF volunteers staffed four instruction stations; Entomology, Casting, Fly Tying, and Fry Release.

I have coordinated TIC since 2011. TIC is a “rite of spring,” which gives students a large window into the life cycles of many of California’s wild creatures. On release days, all of us volunteers enjoyed each other’s company as much as the chance to introduce children to the sport we love.

Thanks go out to all WFF volunteers, teachers and student helpers who make TIC possible. Let’s see what 2022 will bring!

Celia Carroll

Trout in the Classroom Coordinator

A thank you letter from a third grader in Lisa Schnauss' class at Linwood E. Howe Elementary School, 2019.



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



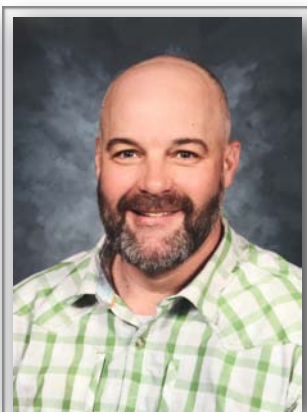
James Garrettson



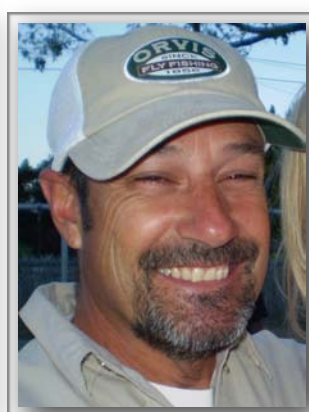
Gary Bulla



Maury Hatch



Chris Leonard



Pat Jaeger



Jimmy Cheers



Fishing with Captain Vaughn

By Rich Peters

Living in Southern California for so many years, I've heard story after story about the excellent fishing near the federal break wall in Long Beach, or "The Wall" as it's known in fishing circles. The Wall separates Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors from the rest of the Pacific Ocean and creates a very large and protected in-shore waterway that most often resembles a very large lake. The harbors are populated with numerous species of fish, most notably calico bass, sand bass, spotted bay bass, bonito, mackerel and seasonally other migratory species.

Having never ventured out in this new fishery on my own, I began looking for a local saltwater fly fishing guide to show me the ropes and shorten my learning curve. After several reliable sources all recommended Huntington Beach-based Vaughn Podmore the decision was easy. Vaughn and I scheduled a harbor trip in mid-November which turned out to be a beautiful, calm fall day. Vaughn likes to start early, so we met at the dock in Long Beach in the dark at 0530 and were casting flies by 0600. Vaughn fishes out of a 26' Century center console powered by twin 150 hp Yamaha outboard engines which is very safe, reasonably sheltered, and also comfortable for fly casting from the front or rear decks.



Typical Rock Structure



Glassy Conditions

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Fishing with Captain Vaughn

What surprised me most about fly fishing the inner and outer harbors was how similar it was to fishing a lake or reservoir for largemouth bass – i.e., we fished structure the entire day. The break wall itself is a huge rock jetty over seven miles in length lined with kelp forests visible in very clear water. In addition, the harbors contain a number of smaller islands that are ringed with rock walls, as well as the rock lined shoreline itself. To say there are extensive fishing opportunities here would be a massive understatement. The idea is to cast your fly as close to the rock structure as possible and “walk” it down the face of the abutment before allowing it to sink more deeply, very similar to fishing LMBs or stripers in the Delta.

We started the day fishing off the end of a harbor jetty approximately 20 minutes after leaving the dock. Captain Vaughn is a veteran boat handler and had no problem setting me up on fishing territory where I could make left hand casts without having to cast “over the boat.” Not long after we started fishing, and as the sun was still coming up over the eastern horizon, we landed the very nice calico bass shown in the photo, and I use the term “we” advisedly. Throughout the day we moved around fishing first outside the break wall, and then inside (there was little difference in terms of wave action or turbulence in the early morning) and later moved to the shoreline and around the edges of several smaller islands. Although Vaughn emphasized that fishing in some spots was better than others, there seemed to be fish everywhere we went, at least everywhere that Vaughn chose to take us! All of the fish caught were calicos ranging from 12 to 16 or so inches, plus the one larger model, and one lone mackerel. We expected a few bonito but they just weren’t around that day.



Early morning Calico Bass



Capt. Vaughn checking my equipment

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Fishing with Captain Vaughn

Tackle is relatively simple with one or two nuances. The standard set-up is an 8-weight rod and a 300 grain type VI fast sinking line. The first nuance - don't bother making up any fancy tapered leaders; Vaughn prefers 8 or 9 feet of straight 20-pound fluorocarbon tied directly to the fly. The flies need to sink relatively quickly, but here's the second nuance – they also need to be weedless because the fish love to hang out in and around those kelp forests where you need to be casting and stripping your fly. Captain Vaughn has a huge inventory of tried-and-true harbor fly patterns most of which are tied with weed guards. All of his flies incorporate lots of movement and resemble some form of



Spotted Bay Bass, shore caught

imitations. We were back at the dock by 12 noon and all I could think was – Amazing! Awesome fishing, close to home, hard pulls and very interesting territory to explore.

Captain Vaughn runs SaltyFly Guide Service from his home in Huntington Beach. His specialty is Catalina Island which Jerry Berman



High tech marine electronics

edible denizen that lives in these waters, although surprisingly not many baitfish



Local Halibut, shore caught



Capt. Vaughn at the controls

reported on during the September Show-and-Tell, but he also guides the surf and local bays and harbors and can give you excellent advice about fishing from shore or a personal watercraft. Vaughn is an exquisite fisherman with extraordinary seamanship skills, an extremely interesting fellow (ask him about growing up and learning to fly fish in South Africa when it was truly a third world country), and most of all a fellow who loves what he does. Check him out at www.SaltyFlyFishing.com; (714) 235-7715. I'm ready to go fishing with Vaughn again, only next time I'd like to try Catalina Island for calicos, bonito and yellowtail.



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

Santa Monica, CA 90408-3358

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



January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1 New Years Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 WFF Board Meeting Via Zoom	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday	19 Via Zoom WFF Monthly Meeting: Landon Mayor: "Mastering the Short Game"	20 WFF Deadline for Newsletter Articles	21	22	23 WFF Fly Tying Via Zoom this month, check website or email for invite.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

