



Wet Flies And How To Fish Them

with Dave Hughes

In June we welcome back legendary angler, author and fly tier Dave Hughes with a brand new program on **Wet Flies and Wet Fly Fishing**. Despite its ancient origins and varied styles, wet fly fishing is frequently overlooked by the modern fly fisherman. Dave will show that, fished correctly, these versatile flies can outfish the more standard contents of your fly box. In his long career Dave has been fortunate to meet, and in most cases to fish with, some of the most famous wet-fly anglers in the world: Sylvester Nemes and his soft-hackles, Pete Hidy and his flymphs, Polly Rosborough and his fuzzy nymphs (the basis for all-fur wet flies), and Davy Wotton, instructor in the video *Wet Fly Ways*. This new presentation reviews the various wet fly styles, with notes on what makes each attractive to trout, including notes on many hatches that they match. It focuses on how to rig and fish wet flies.



Dave Hughes

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JUNE 2019 MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, June 18th
 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 15

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Wet Flies & How To Fish Them

Dave Hughes is author of more than 20 books about fly fishing for trout. They include *Wet Flies*, *Handbook of Hatches*, *Reading Trout Water*, *Essential Trout Flies*, the classic *Western Hatches* (with Rick Hafele), *American Fly Tying Manual*, *Nymphs for Streams & Stillwaters*, *Trout from Small Streams*, *Pocketguide to Western Hatches* and the massive reference *Trout Flies*.

His articles on fly fishing have appeared in *Field & Stream*, *Outdoor Life*, *Sports Afield*, *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Rod & Reel*, *Northwest Fly Fishing*, and *Fly Tye* magazines. Dave served as editor of *Flyfishing & Tying Journal* for eight years, and is currently a columnist for *American Angler*, and *Flyfishing & Tying Journal*.

Born in Astoria, Oregon on the 4th of July, 1945, Dave worked his way through college at jobs specializing in the Three Ds--Dirty, Difficult, and Dangerous: mink ranches, tuna canneries, and shrimp boats. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1967, from Army Infantry Officer Candidate School in 1968. Dave served one-and-a-half years in Viet Nam, six months as a communications site commander in the Mekong Delta, one year as liaison officer to the Commanding General of communications in the Southeast Asia theater.

Dave was founding president of Oregon Trout in 1983, and was awarded life membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers in 1985. He was awarded the Pete Hidy honorary life membership in the Flyfishers Club of Oregon in 1992 for his literary accomplishments. Dave received the prestigious Letcher Lambuth Angler Craftsman Award in 2008 from the Washington Fly Fishing Club. He is a life member of his home club, the Rainland Fly Casters in Astoria, Oregon.



Dave Hughes on the Bighorn



A Bighorn mayfly



Brown on a wet fly

Wet Flies & How To Fish Them

Dave is an accomplished amateur aquatic entomologist. His hobbies include collecting, identifying, and photographing the aquatic insects that are fed upon by trout, as well as tying and fishing the flies that match those insects and fool those trout.

Dave lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife, Japanese fly fishing writer Masako Tani.



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Club Activities & Committees

New Member Committee	Reece Lewis
	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 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 Fly Tying

Sat. Jun. 22

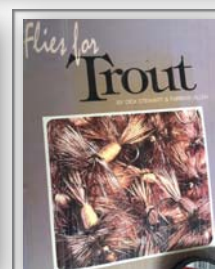
WFF Fly Tying

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 tying scuds in preparation for a group headed to the Bighorn in August. Peter will be supplying everything needed for the recipe but if you have your own supplies, here is the recipe Peter will be using. From the book "Flies for Trout" by Dick Stewart & Farrow Allen.

BIG HORN SHRIMP, PINK

Hook:	Wet fly or nymph, 1X or 2X long, size 10 to 16	Shellback:	Clear strip cut from a plastic bag
Thread:	Pink	Rib:	Clear or dyed pink monofilament
Tail:	Pink hackle barbs	Forelegs:	Pink hackle barbs
Body:	Pink dyed Antron dubbing or any fine, seal-like, synthetic fur	Note:	The Big Horn Shrimp is also commonly tied in orange.



Springtime Fly Fishing at Kelsey Bass Ranch

Report by Celia Carroll

Kelsey Bass Ranch features a 125-acre, private catch and release fishing lake filled with trophy size Florida largemouth bass. The lake is perfect for float tubing, wading or shore fishing. From April 26 – 30 sixteen S. Cal. fly fishers from several clubs gathered to enjoy exclusive access to the lake. Wilderness Fly Fishers hosts this outing annually on the last weekend in April.

The Kelsey ranch is near Snelling, CA, about 20 miles north of Merced at 7400 Merced Falls Road, 95369. The ranch is about a five hour drive from LA. Campers have permission to camp next to the lake on a lovely park-like peninsula surrounded by prime angling. (Nearest motel = 35 minutes.)

With years of time to feed on an abundance of prey fish, frogs, and young birds, the bass have grown to record size. San Diego fly fisher Rocky Tussy carefully measured a 28" bass he had landed. The bass had an estimated weight of 14 – 15 pounds, the largest bass caught during the trip. Years of catch and release fishing and careful management of the lake by owner, John Kelsey have culminated in spectacular, if challenging bass fishing. These are well-educated bass.

Fly fishers caught a range of impressive bass and feisty bluegill. Olive or black wooly buggers and flash-a-buggers retrieved deep and slow were the most productive patterns.

The Saturday evening potluck grilled dinner was scheduled to maximize time on the water. Sunset fishing on the lake is often the most productive part of the day.



Ryan Buehler shows us his bass



Peter Haight and a nice bass



Wayne Tanouye lands a nice bass

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Kelsey Ranch 2019

Tranquil sunrises, amid a chorus of birdsong, are also rewarding to early risers. This is the prime time for opportunistic birdwatchers like me! A pair of great horned owls sailed in and out of the tree canopy at dusk and dawn. Common nighthawks hunted above the entrance road at dawn. Nesting Canada geese squabbled among themselves for island territories. A pair of killdeer cared for a nest of four eggs on the ground close to our campsite. The picnic area offered a corner nest site for a pair of black phoebes and their three nestlings. A pair of Western flycatchers swooped in and out of their nest above the boat launch. We were constantly reminded of the abundant fertility from the state's rainy winter.

Fine fishing, convivial company and social mealtimes in the California countryside: the Kelsey trip is a highlight of the fishing calendar!



Videographer Ron & Michael Schweit



Everyone enjoying the Saturday night dinner



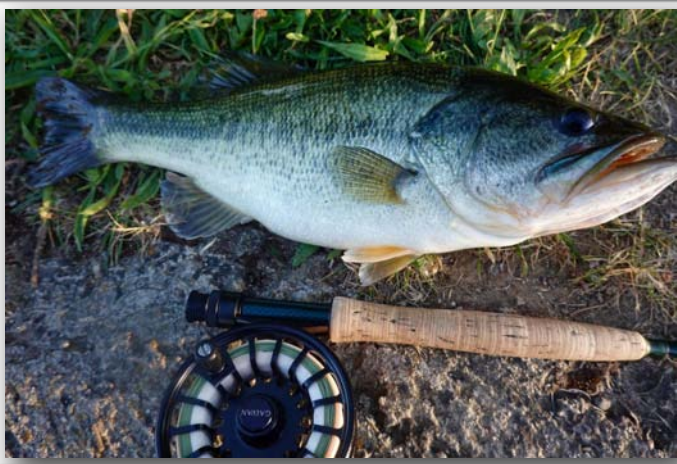
Peter catching out on the lake



Tom Jones & Larry Carroll

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Kelsey Ranch 2019



One of Gerry's bass w rod



Kelsey Lake from shore



Peter enjoying the Saturday evening dinner



Gerry at dock



A beautiful Kelsey sunset



Peter tubing & lake view

Kelsey Ranch 2019



Kelsey pocket gopher



Wayne Tanouye, Tom Jones & Gerry Berman



Peter placidly fishing



Killdeer eggs



Canada goose nest



Larry Carroll

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Kelsey Ranch 2019



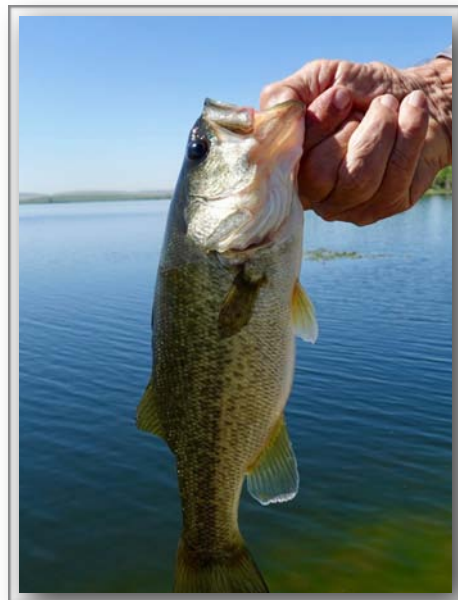
Gerry's bass netted



Gerry Berman & bass dockside



Lilies taken by Gerry Berman



Gerry's bass in hand



Another beautiful sunset w/ geese taken by Michael Schweit



Celia in camp kitchen



Biologists Work to Restore Kirman Lake's Trophy Trout Fishery

Originally appeared April 12, 2019 in Wildlife Research and reprinted with permission of DFW

It's a question that has been asked by more than a few eastern Sierra trout anglers: What happened to the fishing at Kirman Lake?

Kirman, a small backcountry lake north of Bridgeport in Mono County, has long been heralded as one of the very few places in the state where anglers could catch trophy brook trout.

While many high-elevation waters hold overpopulations of stunted brook trout measured in inches, the brook trout in Kirman were measured in pounds. Fish in the 2 to 4 pound class were common with numerous reports of brookies exceeding 5 pounds.

The lake requires a moderate, 3 mile hike to reach – just enough distance and difficulty to discourage casual anglers and help minimize some of the fishing pressure, particularly with so many great trout fishing options nearby. The lake is a special-regulations water with limited harvest. It is open to fishing during the state's traditional trout season from the last Saturday in April to Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. Only two trout can be kept – with a minimum size limit of 16 inches.

Kirman was a destination known well beyond the confines of Mono County.

Fly fishing author and instructor Denny Rickards included Kirman in his book "Fly Fishing the West's Best Trophy Lakes."

Rickards writes, "Those who have made the trek and landed one of these beautiful trout know what a delicate lake it is. Part of the promise here is more than just big brook trout – the lake also harbors big cutthroat. However, the cuts aren't the primary focus of those who fish here. It's those big, beautiful brookies that bring fishermen up the trail."

Author Bill Sunderland likewise highlighted Kirman in his book "Fly Fishing California Stillwaters." He writes, "The fish here, both brook trout and Lahontan cutthroats from Heenan Lake, grow exceptionally fast. A four-year-old brookie can be twenty inches long and weigh four pounds. Many of them are football-shaped, the result of their rapid growth."

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This small brook trout was one of many relocated this fall from Silver Creek to Kirman Lake, where it could potentially grow into a trophy-sized fish awaiting anglers this trout season.



Lake-side signage lets anglers know Kirman has recently been stocked with wild brook trout and asks for help from anglers in completing a brief survey about their fishing experience.

Kirman Lake

In recent years, however, the brook trout seemingly disappeared with anglers reporting fewer catches with no brookies in the mix. Fishing reports from Kirman dried up as well at local tackle shops with fewer anglers apparently making the trek.

What happened to Kirman Lake and its trophy brook trout is no mystery to CDFW fisheries biologists, who are committed to restoring the lake to its former glory.

“There’s no spawning habitat,” explained Jeff Weaver, a senior environmental scientist with CDFW who oversees the department’s Heritage and Wild Trout Program. “All the fish in Kirman Lake have been stocked to provide the recreational fishery.”

Brook trout were planted annually by CDFW until 2015 when hatchery problems prevented the raising and delivering of the fish.

What Kirman lacks in spawning habitat it makes up for in food abundance. Unlike many high-mountain lakes where trout eke out an existence in near-sterile conditions, Kirman is the equivalent of a 24-hour, all-you-can-eat buffet. The lake is loaded with all manner of aquatic invertebrates -- water boatman, dragonflies, mayflies and midges -- along with high-protein leeches and shrimp-like scuds. The heavy population of scuds accounts for the tremendous growth rate and size of Kirman brook trout.

When Russell Black, CDFW’s new fisheries supervisor for the Inland Deserts Region, learned about the lack of hatchery plants and the poor state of the once-great fishery, he came up with a simple yet creative solution.

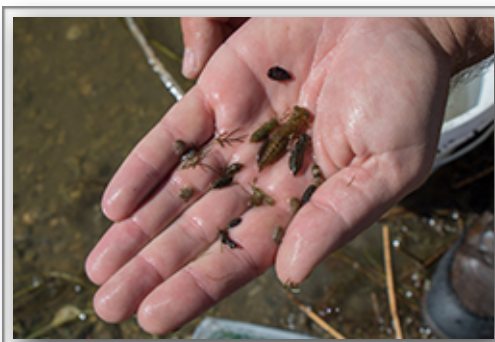
This past fall, work was underway at nearby Silver Creek to prepare the water for the eventual restoration of native Lahontan cutthroat trout. CDFW biologists electrofished Silver Creek to remove the non-native brook trout there to minimize competition with the native cutthroats.

Black’s idea: Take those brook trout and transport them to Kirman.

More than 1,300 Silver Creek brook trout in a variety of sizes were relocated to Kirman. Prior to release, the fish were measured and their adipose fins clipped. CDFW biologists encourage anglers at Kirman this upcoming trout season to record their catch and fishing experiences at angler survey boxes lakeside so they can track the transplanted Silver Creek brook trout.



CDFW fisheries biologists electrofish Silver Creek in Mono County to remove non-native brook trout to reduce competition with native cutthroats.



The tremendous amount of aquatic life within Kirman Lake provides a nearly unlimited food supply for transplanted brook trout from Silver Creek and transplanted Lahontan cutthroat trout from Heenan Lake. Kirman itself has no spawning habitat and is dependent on trout plants from CDFW to maintain the trophy trout fishery.

Kirman Lake

Given the exceptional growth rate at Kirman, CDFW biologists expect anglers to get into some quality fish by the fall.

Even as CDFW shifts its statewide trout hatchery focus to raising and stocking native trout as opposed to non-native brown trout, brook trout or even domesticated strains of hatchery rainbow trout, biologists see a future for trophy brook trout in Kirman and are exploring options to resume annual hatchery stocking.

“Kirman Lake is one of those celebrated fisheries where we weigh management in favor of continuing that recreational fishery,” said CDFW’s Weaver, who himself has fished Kirman a dozen or so times over the past 20 years. “Kirman Lake is managed as a trophy trout fishery and we intend to continue to manage it as a trophy trout fishery. We’ve just been on pause as a result of the lack of stocking.”

The pause may be over, though, as CDFW intends to maintain the supplemental stocking from Silver Creek until regular hatchery plants can resume.

Media contact: Peter Tira, Communications, (916) 322-8908



Before release into their new home in Kirman Lake this fall, brook trout were measured and their adipose fins clipped.

CDFW scientists plan to track their growth rates with the help of voluntary angler surveys.



*Click in photo above to be taken to the YouTube video webpage
and*

[click here to be taken to the original article with the video.](#)



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

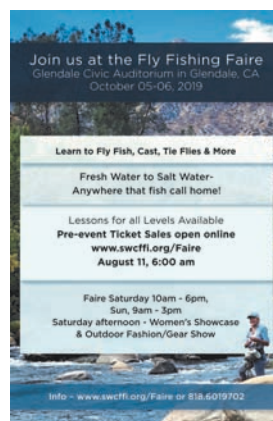
Hours – Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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

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



June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 WFF Board Meeting	12	13	14	15
16 Father's Day	17	18 WFF Monthly Meeting Dave Hughes: "Wet Flies"	19	20 WFF Deadline for Newsletter Articles	21 Summer Solstice	22 WFF Fly Tying
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6

