

Fly Fishing Up 395

with Greg Vinci

Hwy 395 courses through some of the most diverse and spectacular scenery in the

West. As you travel north from Mojave, the Sierra appear to the west and present a dramatic tableau for the next four hundred miles. It not only provides great scenery but absolutely great fishing as well. In his presentation "Hwy 395-California's Trout Highway," Greg Vinci takes us on a tour of Hwy 395's best trout waters, beginning at the Owens River Gorge (just north of Bishop),

with stops along the way, including Hot Creek, the San Joaquin, the Upper Owens,

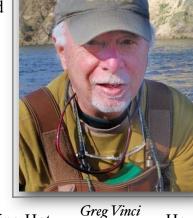
Rush Creek, the East Walker and the West Walker, ending at the Carson River drainage

just south of Lake Tahoe. Greg's presentation includes gorgeous photos of streams, rivers, spring creeks and stillwaters, along with fish, fishing strategies, tactics and rigging, flies to use and, of course, lovely locations, many of which have appeared in and on the covers of national magazines.

Greg grew up in the Ladera Heights section of Los Angeles County, which is just north of Inglewood in southern California.

He graduated from Inglewood High School in 1965 and then attended El Camino

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June 2013 MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, June 18th Wet Flies: 6:00 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Place: Olympic Collection, 11301 Olympic Boulevard, LA

Cost: Prepaid, \$32.00 per person

Paid at door, \$37.00 per person

Parking: \$3.50 underground – Free on the street.

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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College for a couple years. He then moved up to Sacramento to finish his studies at Sac State (California State University, Sacramento) and graduated with a BS in



A view from the highway nearMammoth Lakes

Marketing. When he first arrived in Sacramento, he found himself residing in a college dormitory, which was only 75 yards from one of the most prolific steelhead waters on the West Coast, the American River. It was the first time in his life that all the stars were aligned, being that within a small radius, there existed everything that was important to him at the time: a swimming pool, a dorm with about two hundred co-eds and trophy trout fishing.



Upper Owens River

After graduating from Sac State, Greg spent the next six years working as a commercial photographer. During that period, he was fortunate enough to have a one- man show of his photography at UC Davis and some of the photos from that show were subsequently exhibited in a show of international art at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (Canada). Greg was proud to see his images hanging on the same wall as paintings by Picasso and Monet.



East Carson Wild Trout Area

Growing up in southern California during the 1950s and 1960s, Greg made many annual fishing trips with his dad to the Sierra. As a teenager, he trekked from his parent's home in LA up 395 to the Mammoth area to ski, and, as he traveled, he fell in love with the spectacular Hwy 395 scenery. Once he reached adulthood, his visits to the Mammoth area continued, first as a salesman for his fly tackle & accessory company and later for the purpose of gathering images and information for the many articles he's written about the area.

In the twenty-three years that Greg has been in the fly tackle industry, his career has

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taken him down many diverse paths. In 1989, he started Sierra Pacific Products, which became one of the major wholesale/



Little Walker River

distributors in the fly tackle industry. There he developed several great selling product lines that are still being sold today. After selling Sierra Pacific in 2010, he has been able to re-establish a relationship with his first loves: writing and photography, that can be now seen on the covers of, and in many fly fishing and outdoor magazines such as *Fly*



East Walker River (Nevada)

Fisherman, American Angler, Flyfishing & Tying Journal, Salmon & Steelhead Journal, Northwest and Southwest Fly Fishing

magazines, California Fly Fisher, Sierra Heritage and Runner's World.

Greg has also kept his foot in the door of the fly fishing business by continuing to develop fly tackle product lines on a consultancy basis for clients in the fly tackle industry. In 2011 his product *Insta-Set Indicators* was selected by *Field & Stream* magazine as the best fly tackle accessory of



Hot Creek

the year! As a signature fly tier for Umpqua Feather Merchants, one of the fly tackle industry's most prominent fly manufacturer, he has developed fly patterns that can be found in most fly shops around the country.

One of his most recent endeavors has been to develop the www.California-FlyFishing.com web site, which is a portal to California's most popular waters.

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Wildernessflyfishers@gmail.com

To join WFF, Visit our website www.wildernessflyfishers.org

June Board of Directors Meeting

The June 11th Board Meeting will be held at 400 Bonhill Road Los Angeles, Ca 90049. 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.

COMING EVENTS

For more information go to the WFF website $\underline{\textbf{CALENDAR}}$

WFF Trout in the Classroom,	Wed	June 5
Kenneth Hahn Recreation Area		
San Gabriel Cleanup	Sat	June 8
Carp Throwdown, San Diego	Sat	June 8
Fisherman's Day, Venice Pier	Sat	June 15
WFF Tejon Ranch Bass Outing	Sat	June 22
WFF Fly Tying, Santa Monica	Tue	June 29

June 20	13 Raffle Items	Value
St. Croix Imperial 4 Weight, 9' 4 pc Fly Rod	SOTO	\$200
Fishpond Backpack Drake/Shale		\$150
Rio Gold Fly Line WF4F	RIO COM	\$75
Tom Pero "Till Death or Fly Fishing Do Us Part"	ful Death profile the state of	\$25

President's Message

by Larry Carroll

I am happy to report planning for the 2014 Conservation Super Auction is well underway. This early start provides members with a unique opportunity to 'customize' the event. Just tell us what you would like to see in the auction and/ or recommend a guide, outfitter, etc., with whom you have fished. Nothing opens doors like a personal referral when we are soliciting trips for the auction. Contact Rich Peters (RPeters@Sidley.com) and let him know of any outfitters, lodges and/or guides whom you think we should approach as 2014 sponsors.

However the immediate priority is equipment because the International Fly Tackle Dealer/ICAST Sportfishing Trade Show is fast approaching. Jeffrey Pill, as in years past, will attend the show to solicit donations from manufacturers. But he needs your input: What fly fishing related gear (rods, reels, clothing, whatever) has caught your fancy of late? What items would you personally like to see in the 2014 Auction Catalog? Email

Jeff at jeffmpill@sbcglobal.net and tell him. And maybe you will get to place a winning bid on your 'dream goody' at next year's auction.

If you have read Rich's report on this year's most excellent Kelsey outing and realize you blew it by not going, fear not. Your Outings Committee has scheduled another day of fly rods, bass and float tubes. On June 22nd, we will be returning to Tejon Ranch for a day on one of their most secluded ponds. This forty-acre impoundment has recently been reopened after more than a year's hiatus -- which bodes well for fishing. Visit the WFF website's Event Calendar for more information or to download a flyer.

No worries if you have never fly fished for bass or used a float tube. This is a great, low-key way to experience both. (Check out the <u>Frazier Mountain Fly Fishing Company</u> for a list of what you need.) No float tube? No problem. With advance notice, we can provide a loaner. But don't wait, reserve your spot today!

Editor's note: Rich Peter's article on the 2013 Kelsey Lake Bass Trip is on page 6 of this issue. The flyer for the upcoming WFF Tejon Ranch Bass Trip is on page 10.

Kelsey Lake Outing - 2013

by Rich Peters

For a number of years, I have heard glowing reports from other WFF club members about our annual outing to Kelsey Bass Ranch. These tales included reports of largemouth bass (LMB), large enough to chase ducks off the lake, attacking your boat and generally devouring any semblance of food put in front of them. But, due to scheduling conflicts, until this year I have been unable to join the group. This year, however, with less significance attached to the opening day of the Sierra trout season,

which inevitably coincides with our Kelsey Lake outing, I decided to give Kelsey a try. Since I am not an expert in fly fishing for LMBs, many of you bass aficionados may



Larry Carroll

take issue with some of the details I am about to report. Nonetheless, I will recount my impressions as a first timer on this trip, and I will describe (from the viewpoint of being primarily a trout guy) what worked

for me and what did not.

Logistics: Kelsey Lake is an impoundment of approximately 125-acres located on a privately owned ranch in the

Sierra foothills not far from Yosemite National Park. The gateway city is Merced and then the much smaller town of Snelling. Merced is 276 miles north of Santa Monica on Highway 99; Snelling is about 15 miles east of Merced and the Kelsey Bass Ranch is about another 5 miles east of Snelling. Altogether, Kelsey Lake is about the same driving time and distance as

Mammoth is from Los Angeles. Our group (the members of which arrived at intervals on

Friday afternoon) included: George Patterson (team leader), George's friends Rocky Tussey and Luke Hobbs, Larry and Celia Carroll, Guy Mazzeo and myself.

There are basically two choices for accommodations – either camping at the lake or staying in a motel in Merced. All

of this year's group, save one (myself), camped out at the lake. The camping area is located on a tree shaded grassy point adjacent to the launch site and close to, but sufficiently removed from, the barbecue and picnic area. There is no drinking water or running water at the lake so it is important to come prepared with a good supply of both. Alternatively, you can overnight very inexpensively in Merced as

I did dow won midd that be die to

A Kelsey largemouth

George Patterson

I did. There are a couple of downsides to doing so – you won't be able to fish in the middle of the night (more on that in a moment) and it may be difficult to get to the lake in time for the early morning

top water bite which occurs

frequently, although not during this year's visit. There is one other option I should mention. On Friday afternoon, as most of us were visiting and relaxing in the shaded camping area, our attention was drawn to an incoming visitor driving down the dirt road to the lake in a white convertible holding a dog in the driver's lap and towing a small

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Kelsey Lake Outing - 2013

"teardrop" trailer. As the rig pulled into the camping area, we realized that the driver was Guy Mazzeo! Guy had this one wired; he towed a teardrop trailer that he built himself, complete with sleeping area, full kitchen and even garden lights. He set up in a nice shaded spot next to the lake and was ready for a relaxing weekend.

On Saturday night, for the traditional potluck barbecue, the group was joined by Al and Kathy Smatsky, owners of often WFF supporter Excellent Adventures and booking agents for Kelsey. Everyone contributed to the feast, which included Al and Kathy's homemade sausage, Guy's antipasto plate, Celia's made-on-the-spot guacamole and of course Dr. George's signature dish, barbecued butterflied leg of lamb.

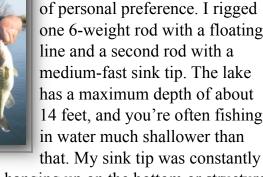
Equipment: I don't recall exactly what I expected before seeing the lake for the first time, but it is larger than I anticipated. Indeed, upon arrival we saw several fullsized bass boats on the lake (not to worry, there is a nowake rule so there is no noise

Rich Peters or danger of being run over and a strict limit on the number of rod permits for any given day). At times, the lake can be fished from shore effectively, but, for best results, you will want to bring some type of personal watercraft. These ranged from George and Rocky's pontoon boats equipped with trolling motors, Luke and Larry's traditional float tubes and my own car top pram. The lake is ideally suited to the use of these watercraft which allow for a stealthy

approach to LMB lairs. Although the pontoons and pram enable a greater range of exploration, Larry enjoyed stellar fishing from

his conventional float tube.

Rods and reels are a matter of personal preference. I rigged one 6-weight rod with a floating line and a second rod with a medium-fast sink tip. The lake has a maximum depth of about 14 feet, and you're often fishing in water much shallower than that. My sink tip was constantly



hanging up on the bottom or structure, so I promptly changed to an intermediate line. Nonetheless, I fished the floating line 90% of the time. I preferred my 6-weight Temple Fork BVK, which I bought at our Super Auction a

Luke Hobbs

year ago. It is easy to cast with plenty of power. On the other hand, Kelsey's fish are large, and they are easier to control and land more quickly with a 7 or 8-weight outfit. Leaders need not be complicated. The fish are not leader shy so many anglers simply use a 6-foot section of 15 lb. test monofilament. I had good success using 12-lb. fluorocarbon tippet with a

short tapered butt section whether on the surface or subsurface, and never broke off a fish during my two days of fishing.

The Fishing: As we were all getting ready to launch on Friday afternoon, the few other anglers coming off the lake told us the lake had been fishing well. I rigged a Gurgler and a rubber-legged wooly bugger and went to work. After two hours of fishing with only one strike, I decided to take a break. As I approached the launch ramp area, I noticed

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Kelsey Lake Outing - 2013

that bass were periodically crashing the surface in the vicinity of dock and in the surrounding cove. Since nothing else worked, and because there were dozens of damsel flies hovering all over the surface of the lake, my

trout instincts caused me to switch to a #8 marabou damsel nymph. Just like that, I started catching fish, large fish in the 3-5 pound

range. The damsel nymph turned out to be

a good crossover pattern – it not only imitated the nymphal stage of a dominant hatch, but it also mimicked the thousands of newly hatched 1½" fish fry that the bass were crashing and then devouring by the score. Eventually, Rocky, George and Luke joined the action and we all caught fish until it was time to call it quits.

Saturday started out a little bit tougher and I began to wonder whether we just got lucky the night before. George and Rocky took off across the lake in their pontoons, Larry set out in his float tube, and I decided to explore the dam area. This turned out to be a good decision. I took two nice bass throwing a Gurgler into an opening in a large lily pad, and then worked my way along the face of the dam, alternatively throwing baitfish imitations, damsel and dragon fly nymphs and a variety of surface patterns. George and Rocky reported good success as well. Using Guy's flying tying equipment, Rocky tied what may have been

the smallest olive/white clouser minnow I have seen, and the bass seemed to like it.

It should be noted that our trip coincided with a full moon. In the middle of Saturday night/Sunday morning, Larry reported waking

up when he heard bass crashing bait all over the bay next to the campsites. George and several others went out and

fished by the light of the moon. You should

Guy Matteo, Larry Carroll, Rocky Tussey, George Patterson, Rich Peters, Celia Carrol and Luke Hobbs

ask them to report on their success.

Sunday was an even tougher day for those who fished, and the wind pretty much grounded everyone on Sunday afternoon. On Monday, after everyone else had departed, Larry had the lake to himself. Lucky him. He finned over to the flats on the far shore and enjoyed a wide-open bite as bass crashed the surface all around his float tube. Larry said the pattern didn't really matter, but an Olive Matuka with a red throat was all he needed to catch fish after fish.

Summary: In wrapping up this report, I was delighted to have joined the group at Kelsey this year. In my opinion, the trip and the location have the perfect balance of camaraderie and solitude. Although it was my first trip to Kelsey, it won't be my last. Several of our repeat visitors said this was the best fishing they have ever experienced at Kelsey Lake. Next year, you may want to give it a try.



Trout in the Classroom Introduced to Middle Schoolers

by Celia Carroll, TIC Coordinator

WFF introduced something new for its Trout in the Classroom program (TIC) this year: a middle school-centered program! Parent Joan Salvaterra had experienced Mike Nabours' TIC program at Culver City's El

Marino Language School when her son was in third grade. She wondered if WFF would offer the program to middle schoolers. Joan was trained as an official California Aquarium

Educational Program (CAEP)

provider to sign for the trout eggs from Fillmore Hatchery. Thanks to Joan, Mr. Tom Kim's seventh-grade science students, all 120 of them, participated in successfully raising trout from egg to fry.

Rather than a field trip to release the fry into a local lake, Mr. Kim wanted to dedicate a day each for his students to learn the basics of casting and fly tying onsite at their school. WFF volunteers Jim Solomon, Larry Carroll, Peter Haight and Marcia Breskin tied flies for each class, comparing them to insect specimens as students gained knowledge of the insects' life cycles.

The following week students met casting instructors Larry Carroll, John Dalton, Rusty Nelson and Jim Solomon on the grassy athletic fields to learn casting basics. So on a sunny day as other students ran laps for PE around us, Leslie Riley and I facilitated the rotation of classes and WFF instructors. At lunch, as Leslie organized her fly tying box, more students crowded around her station all

> asking questions about fly tying.

As one student said,

"Thank you for bringing trout eggs to our classroom for us to observe and care for first-hand. I really enjoyed looking at them Casting instruction on the lawn.

and making funny names for them like Glob and Skitter McFisher....my favorite fly was the woolly bugger."



Peter Haight demonstrating fly tying

WFF volunteers mentioned they found real pleasure in discovering natural fly casters and kids who developed a fascination with the art and craft of fly tying.

The next Trout in the Classroom event is June 5 at Kenneth Hahn Recreation Area. Volunteers are welcome!

Tejon Ranch Bass Outing

Saturday June 22, 2013

Join <u>Wilderness Fly Fishers</u> on the beautiful Tejon Ranch to fish a secluded (and private) forty acre pond for Largemouth Bass and Bluegill. (<u>Info@WildernessFlyFishers.org</u>)



Barbless Catch & Release Only

\$118.00 per Person

Awning, table, water, and porta potty provided.
Angler responsible for lunch and all gear.



Only 10 Spots Available

Make a Reservation by June 15!



Float tubing is best for exploring this 40 acre impoundment but excellent fishing can also be had walking the shoreline.



Our liaison to the ranch is Russ Gabel of the <u>Frazier Mountain Fly Fishing Company</u>.

FMFFC staff will be on site to assist with selecting bugs, rigging tackle, entering the water, etc.

Stillwater Flyfishing Clinics

with Ernie Gulley and Doug Ouellette



Ernie Gulley, guest speaker at our April and October 2012 meetings, invites all WFF members to join him for a unique training opportunity in stillwater fishing tactics. The *Outside the Box Stillwater Clinics* will be held **July 12-14** and **September 27-29** at the Five Dot Ranch, the largest working cattle ranch in California, located near Susanville. The ranch is home to Round Valley Reservoir, a 400 acre lake stocked with rainbow trout.

The clinics will be taught by Ernie Gulley, an Eastern Sierra guide and Crowley Lake expert, and Doug Ouellette. Doug is the owner of Calvada Fly Fishing and runs all of the clinics and guide services at Five Dot Ranch. Doug is a nationally known expert on

stillwaters, and wrote a section in John Barr's book *Barr Flies* on the "Floater no Cator" technique.

The clinics are a two and one-half day fishing events which will cover advanced stillwater techniques, including reading water, aquatic entomology, presenting food items and fly selection. The clinics will also cover knot tying, leaders and proper rigging. Along with the "Floater no Cator" technique, Doug and Ernie will teach shoreline wading, float tubing, fishing from pontoon boats and small prams, and large boat techniques including "Loch Style" fishing. These clinics offer plenty of "on the water" instruction, as well as many hours of angling time to practice these techniques.

Dates: July 12-14 or September 27-29 **Place:** Five Dot Ranch, Susanville, CA

Cost: \$495. Price includes – 2 days rod fees, two days guide fees, dinner Friday and Saturday

night, daily lunches, and use of demo equipment.

For more information, contact Ernie Gulley at erniegulleyflyfishing@aol.com

or visit http://fivedotflyfishing.com

Seventh Annual Rush Creek Cleanup



Trash and debris, from old bait containers to discarded fishing line and wayward diapers, will be picked up from Rush Creek, Silver Lake and down the canyon as far as Grant Lake by member club representatives of the Southwest Council Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) on Sat., June 22.

The Seventh Annual Rush Creek Trash Cleanup is 8 a.m.-noon, according to Joe Lemire, a member of the Streamborn Fly Fishing Club and SWC-FFF representative.

Silver Lake Resort in the June Lake loop will provide a free barbeque lunch following the cleanup.

Volunteers will pick up and dispose of trash along an approximately five-mile stretch of the shoreline of Silver Lake and Rush Creek from the power plant above Silver Lake down the canyon to Grant Lake. "We've previously filled as many as 60 trash bags on our Rush Creek cleanup; this year we

expect to haul out 30 to 40," Lemire from Rowland Heights said.

Club volunteers are expected to carry out discarded ice chests, sun glasses, broken bottles, automobile hub caps, hundreds of feet of fishing line, hooks, lures and bobbers that are a death trap to wildlife. "If enough volunteers show up this year, the cleanup can continue down the canyon and impact the environment as far as the Gull Lake area," according to Lemire.

Anglers who will be in the area and want to volunteer should meet at the Silver Lake boat ramp at 8 a.m.; bring gloves, hat, sun screen, trash pick-up sticks, boots and waders if you have them. Trash bags will be provided by Silver Lake Resort.

For information, contact Lemire at jflx8@dslextreme.com; phone 909.595.6823 or 909.609.1101.



Featuring Wendy Tochihara of Rod and Reel Radio and Larry Fukuhara of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium!



Los Anglers invites local fishermen and families for a day of fishing, learning and fun in the sun!

Date: Saturday, June 15, 2013

Location: The End of Venice Pier

Fishing Contest: 7AM – 11AM

11AM - 2PM **Event:**

LosAnglers.org/FAD Web:

- Fishing Contest
- Free Food
- Win Prizes
- Interactive Displays & Games
- Face Painting
- Talk With Fishing Experts





















































CTUC

PROUDLY PRESENTS

OPERATION SUPER CANYON SWEEP-2013

WE NEED YOU SATURDAY, JUNE 8th, 2013 8 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

WE WILL BE CLEANING UP THE SAN GABRIEL CANYON.

SAN GABRIEL, OHV AREA, SAN GABRIEL CANYON ROAD, HWY 39, JUST NORTH OF THE EAST FORK BRIDGE AND NORTH OF AZUSA

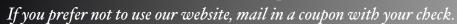
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

TO VOLUNTEER AND FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

BARRY WETHERBY AT 818-957-1455 E-MAIL BHWetherby@aol.com 3700 Santa Carlotta St., La Crescenta, Ca. 91214

TERRY KAISER at 818-262-0315 E-MAIL hdconcerns@ca.rr.com

Print & Mail Coupons





Wilderness Fly Fishers Membership Application New Member Renewal Name:	Annual Dues: \$35 Single - Regular \$55 Single - Golden Trout \$45 Family - Regular \$65 Family - Golden Trout	
Home Address:	TOTAL enclosed Mail Check With This Form To:	
City: Zip: Phone:	Wilderness Fly Fishers P.O. Box 3358 Santa Monica , CA 90408-3358	
Email:		

June 18th Meeting Reservations

Please make your dinner <u>reservations online</u> or send in this coupon. Your check must be in the club mailbox by Wednesday, June 12, 2013.

Names_____

Traines_____

Wilderness Fly Fishers

Total \$ P.O. Box 3358

Please make check payable to W.F.F.

Santa Monica, CA 90408-3358

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



June 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	I
2	3	4	5 Trout in the Classroom	6	7	Carp Throwdown Operation Super Canyon Sweep
9	10	WFF Board Meeting	12	13	14	Fisherman's Appreciation Day
16	17	18 WFF Monthly Meeting Speaker: Greg Vinci	19	20	21	WFF Tejon Ranch Outing
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 WFF Fly Tying
30	I	2	3	4	5	6





