

The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

March, 2016

A Message from the President *by Paul Patterson*

March is a transition month from winter to spring – too cold for those who are in a hurry for spring and too warm for those of us who want to hold on to winter a bit longer. March is also a time to start making plans on where and how to spend your free-time. Check out the calendar of events on page 7 for a list of up-coming events and activities. Note the “Rexburg club’s” fund raising banquet on April 9th. They sold out last year, so you don’t want to procrastinate too long in getting your ticket. For more information, go to <http://www.usrff.org/>

We have our own major fund raising event on April 22-23. The East Idaho Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo is certainly an event that you don’t want to miss. There will be three raffles and three silent auctions each day, both Friday and Saturday, as well as dozens of fly tying demonstrations at any time throughout the day. There are classes and workshops (fee charged and registration required) as well as a number of free presentations throughout the day. There are also programs specifically for ladies as well as for the youth. The banquet with a variety of raffles, silent auction and live auction will be held Saturday night. Ticket packages and sign up for classes and workshops are at Jimmy’s All Seasons Angler. Stop by the shop in downtown Idaho Falls, or call: 208-524-7160. For more information on the Expo, go to <http://www.srcexpo.org>

If you want to tie and donate flies for the Expo, remember that there are Expo fly boxes available at Jimmy’s.

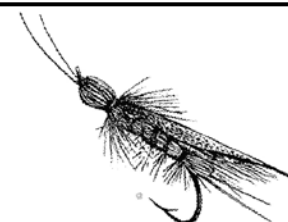
The spring conservation project with the Salmon-Challis National Forest is scheduled for May 21st, so be sure to mark this on your calendar. We are scheduled to work on Canyon Creek, same location as last year’s project. More information will be published in a later newsletter.

Thanks to Mike Miller and crew for getting, preparing and distributing Christmas trees for the habitat improvement of Gem Lake. There was a nice article in the Post Register on February 18th in case you missed it.

And congratulations are in order to the River of No Return Trout Unlimited Chapter that is in the process of getting re-established in Salmon. They held a successful organization meeting on the 17th of February. While the Cutthroats are losing a few members to this new chapter, they will be better served by their own local chapter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Craig Mathews on
Overlooked Yellowstone Country Waters
Wednesday March 9th, 6:30 PM
Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls*



Wednesday, March 9th

6:30 PM

Craig Mathews

Overlooked Yellowstone Country Waters



We all know Craig and Jackie Mathews from their Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone, Montana. They have moved on after selling Blue Ribbon Flies to Cam Coffin of West Yellowstone. They remain active members of the Madison River Foundation, and so will not be leaving fly-fishing behind. Founded in 2003, this Foundation “Works to Preserve, Protect and Enhance the Madison River ecosystem to the benefit of its wildlife and the people who enjoy it.” Over the decades that Craig and Jackie operated Blue Ribbon Flies, they became to know Yellowstone Park and southwestern Montana waters to the fullest. Clients mainly preferred to fish the icon water such as the Madison, Gallatin, and Firehole Rivers and Hebgen Lake. There almost countless other quality waters in the region, and Craig will reveal some of the best of those to us during the meeting.



Harriman Fish Pond Reconditioned



Mike Miller tells a story of a stop at the Harriman Fish Pond on the way to an autumn visit to Yellowstone Park. He wanted to show Ann this beautiful small fishery. Lo & behold it was dry! I’ll bet she wondered what kind of fish Mike caught there, real or imaginary. Late last summer the outlet at the middle of the dam failed resulting in the Harriman Fish Pond being drained. This meant the temporary loss of a great fishery. In the minds of some folks, “The Pond” is a smaller version of Henry’s Lake because they both produce very large fish. In any case repairs have been made to the dam and water is being impounded. IDF&G plans to release not only a calculated amount of fingerlings and catchables soon after full pool is reached, but also some brood stock to give the pond different year classes. So give the pond a couple of years, and it will be back to its reputation of a trophy fishery.

Electronic Newsletters Available

For those still receiving hard copies of the newsletter via standard mail, but would prefer to receive it via email, please send your email address to Carol Staples, our membership chair, at casbas@ida.net.

Fewer mailings mean more dollars for conservation projects. The fish will appreciate your cost-saving efforts.



We Have Lost a Stalwart Member

He grew up in depression era Illinois just outside Chicago where the New Deal provided wherewithal for he and his Dad to build houses. His other job delivering mail would have future consequences. Fishing was his favorite hobby, and visits with family to Wisconsin and Michigan waters established a life-long love for fly-fishing. Too young to serve in World War II, he signed on in the United States Air Force soon after. After basic, he was shipped to Alaska after being assigned to a base near Anchorage. When asked on arrival of any particular skills, he answered that he had delivered mail. That reply put him in charge of the base mail room, a lucky assignment that brought him to the attention of base officers particularly when payroll and base funds arrived. An officer noted his interest in fishing, and looking for an aide during fly-in fishing outings, took him along to care for gear and be the “gillie.” In off-duty time he visited area streams with fellow airmen, gaining much experience fishing for trout and salmon, even during the Alaska winter. After Air Force days he returned to Illinois to build houses, and married Mary, the love of his life. Eventually he landed in northern California, Mt. Shasta country, where he and Mary operated a Western Auto franchise for years. Sons Eric and Norman were born there. In 1965 he attended the Federation of Fly-Fishers initial Conclave in Eugene, Oregon and joined the FFF that day. After switching occupations to a federal meat inspector, he arrived in Idaho Falls to inspect local producers. Soon after he joined the Snake River Cutthroats and served for years on the club’s executive board.

Fred Petersen passed away on January 20th. Dear friend, enthusiast, and advocate, he never met a fly-fisher with whom he could not converse. He loved all waters he fished, but like all others had favorites. When he shared tales of fly-fishing in California, Michigan, and Wisconsin those around him listened. When he told stories of fishing in Alaska, we listened and laughed. When he related on tying then fishing small patterns successfully, we listened and learned from a master. Through Snake River Cutthroats classes over the decades he introduced dozens to fly tying. He was deeply involved in an early 1980s three-year project from which all regional anglers benefit. In conjunction with IDF&G, the Snake River Cutthroats bought eyed brown trout eggs from an eastern hatchery. The eggs, air freighted to Idaho Falls, were transported to the Ashton Fish Hatchery to be raised to fry during winter. By springtime, club members and IDF&G fisheries personnel placed the fry in the lower Henry’s Fork, Warm River, and Robinson Creek. Fred was a principle contributor, not just a participant, to all phases. Later, he discovered Dan & Randy Busch’s Kodiak Island River Camps through which many of us enjoyed encountering the island’s spectacular silver salmon. Halloween visits with Fred to the Green River below Fontenelle Dam taught me how to successfully present streamers to double-figure poundage brown trout and the same evolved for me and others in presenting small patterns on mid-August trips to the Birch Creek diversion during trico hatches. He loved the Blackfoot River, particularly above the reservoir where fishing on the Stocking Property (now the Blackfoot River WMA) was heaven to him. He felt the same about the lower Blackfoot River, Red Rock Creek, and Sand Creek Ponds. Anyone who attended his early summer fish fries would see he was generous, almost to a fault.

Fred and Mary have left us, but they remain forever with us in spirit. For many of us Fred will be there while we fish the places he loved. Cast again, Fred: that big one is still rising, and in just a few more casts he will take your size 22 trico pattern! You lucky guy: now you may tie and present when and as long as you want.



Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Now Active in Eastern Idaho

By
Rob Thornberry

My name is Rob Thornberry. Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership in your newsletter.

I joined TRCP on Feb. 1 after a long career at the Idaho Falls Post Register, including a long tenure as the Outdoor Editor.

TRCP is a national non-profit with a straightforward mission: “We guarantee all Americans quality places to hunt and fish by uniting and amplifying our partners’ voices to strengthen federal policy and funding.”

A lifelong angler and hunter, my Idaho duties will include working with the BLM and U.S. Forest Service to write resource management plans that take the needs of wildlife – and sportsmen – into consideration. Initially, my work will be focused on land management in east Idaho including BLM and Forest planning in the Upper Snake, Salmon and Challis management areas.

I am also working on a “sportsman’s value mapping project” which will identify the important areas to the state’s hunters and anglers.

The bulk of my immediate duties will be working with Idaho’s BLM offices, which are rewriting a number of management plans. We are asking the BLM to manage specific areas that are important for hunting and fishing as Backcountry Conservation Areas. (Details can be found at http://www.trcp.org/issues/backcountry-conservation#.VsNsG_krJD8.)

In 1912 Theodore Roosevelt said, “There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country.” While in the political arena, he succeeded in making conservation a top tier national issue. T.R. had the foresight to address these issues still so significant to sportsmen today, understanding that if we want to ensure critical habitat, special hunting grounds and secret fishing holes will be around for future generations, we must plan carefully today.

I am eager to work with Trout Unlimited and other conservation organizations to protect our critical wildlife habitats. I look forward to working with all of you. To talk about TRCP and our mission, please email me at rthornberry@trcp.org. Additional information is also available at www.trcp.org.



Wetlands Need to Dry Out

By

Aaron McKarley, Sr. wildlife Technician, Sand Creek W.M.A.

Recreationists on the Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area often ask why some of our wetland ponds have very low water levels or are completely dry. The answer is, in order to have a healthy wetland it needs to dry out every few years. Wetlands provide many ecosystem services including: water purification, flood control, ground water recharge, and wildlife habitat. But, if these wetlands are not managed correctly they will not function in a way that maximizes their benefit. One of the key ingredients to properly managing wetland systems is periodic drying. One benefit to drying out a wetland is the breakdown of organic matter on the wetland floor. If a wetland is wet year after year it will build up layer upon layer of organic matter that will eventually become a peat layer. Long term water exposure decreases the decomposition rate of organic matter to the point that the wetland becomes increasingly shallow, thereby reducing wildlife values for a diverse array of plant and animal species. Another benefit of drying out a wetland is the increase in decomposition rate, thus fertilizing the wetland floor. Also, opportunities increase for plant diversity and seed producing wetland plants to grow which are extremely beneficial to waterfowl and furbearers. For those who have the ability to regulate water in a wetland, the best advice is to mimic the normal wet and dry years. Mother Nature will do the majority of the work, leaving only water control structure checks. It takes several years for a wetland to dry enough for the process to begin, but the resulting productivity is worth it.

Some Thoughts on Invasive Species National Wildlife Federation

An invasive species can be any kind of living organism—an amphibian, plant, insect, fish, fungus, bacteria, or even an organism's seeds or eggs—that is not native to an ecosystem and which causes harm. They can harm the environment, the economy or even, human health. Species that grow and reproduce quickly, and spread aggressively, with potential to cause harm, are given the label of “invasive”. An invasive species does not have to come from another country. For example, lake trout are native to the Great Lakes, but are considered to be invasive in Yellowstone Lake.

How do invasive species spread?

Invasive species are primarily spread by human activities, often unintentionally. People, and the goods we use, travel around the world very quickly, and they often carry uninvited species with them.

- Ships: Ships can carry aquatic organisms in their ballast water.
- Wood products: Insects can get into wood, shipping palettes and crates that are shipped worldwide.
- Ornamental plants: Some ornamental plants can escape into the wild and become invasive.
- Pet trade: Some invasive species are intentionally or accidentally released pets.

What you can do to help curb the spread of invasive species?

- Plant native plants and remove any invasive plants in your garden.
- Learn to identify invasive species in your area. Report any sightings to your county extension agent or local land manager.
- Thoroughly clean your boots, gear, boat, tires and any other equipment you use outdoors



Recipe of the Month

Fish & Chips

Here's a great recipe for winter-time eating. Fish & chips originated in England and began popularity in this country through New England.

Ingredients

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 4 Large potatoes peeled & cut into strips | 1 Cup of milk |
| 1 Tsp Salt | 1 Cup all-purpose flour |
| 1 Qt. vegetable oil for frying | 1 Tsp ground black pepper |
| 1 Egg | 1.5 lbs. trout or whitefish filets |
| 1 Tsp baking soda | |

Preparation

1. Placed prepare potatoes in a medium bowl of cold water.
2. In a separate medium-size mixing bowl mix together flour, salt, baking soda, and pepper. Stir in the milk and egg. Stir until mixture is smooth. Let sit 30 minutes.
3. Preheat oil in a pot or electric skillet to 350 Deg. F (175 Deg. C).
4. Fry potatoes in the hot oil until they are tender. Drain them on a paper towel
5. Dredge fish in batter, one piece at a time, and place them in hot oil. Fry until fish are golden brown. If necessary increase heat to maintain 350 Deg. F (175 Deg. C). Drain well on paper towels.
6. Fry the potatoes 1 or 2 minutes further for added crispness.

Preparation time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 25 minutes

Ready in: 45 minutes

Serves: 4

Fly of the Month

Fred's Fox Squirrel Nymph

This pattern is Fred Petersen's gift to all fly-fishers. He originally intended it for use in still waters as an attractor pattern, but it is proving effective on all waters. Fred favored Mustad hooks, but their equivalent by any manufacturer will do. He found particular success presenting this fly on a slow sinking line at Sand Creek Pond #4, Springfield Reservoir and Birch Creek. Randy Randolph uses it with success on Ennis Lake.

- Hook: Mustad 9671, size 10, or equivalent
Thread: Tan 6/0
Bead: Gold, 5/32-in. diam.
Tail: Red Fox squirrel tail fibers
Rib: Gold KrystalFlash fiber
Body: Whitlock fox squirrel underbelly dubbing
Thorax: Natural Hare's ear dubbing
Hackle: A few turns of grouse collar





2015-2016 Calendar



Date	Activity
Wednesday, March 9 th	General Membership Meeting, 6:30 Speaker: Craig Mathews
Tuesday, April 5 th	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM
Saturday, April 9 th	Upper Snake River Fly Fishers Banquet, 6PM Rexburg VFW Hall
Wednesday, April 13 th	General Membership Meeting, 6:30 Tier: John Harder Speaker: Dave Dexter Lines, Leaders & Tippetts
Saturday, April 16 th	Idaho TU Council Meeting, Boise
Friday & Saturday, April 22 nd & 23 rd	East Idaho Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo Shilo Inn
Wednesday, May 11 th	Annual Business Meeting, 5:30 Papa Tom's Pizza
Tuesday, May 17 th	Public Casting Clinic, Tautphaus Park, 6:30 PM
Thursday, May 19 th	Public Casting Clinic, Tautphaus Park, 6:30 PM
Saturday, May 21 st	Conservation Project (More info later)
Sometime in mid-July	Summer picnic (Date TBD)
Wednesday, September 28 th -Saturday, October 1 st	2016 TU National Meeting, Bozeman, MT

Note: all membership and board meetings are at the Shilo Inn.
Board meetings are open to all members.
General membership meetings are open to the public

Snake River Cutthroats
291 Dale Drive
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Snake River Cutthroats

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