



The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

November, 2014

A Message from the President *by Paul Patterson*

The Idaho Council of Trout Unlimited met October 11th in Idaho Falls. As the president, I represent the Snake River Cutthroats on the Council. It was my first meeting with the Council. It was interesting to find out what other chapters in Idaho are doing. There are eight active Trout Unlimited Chapters in Idaho. While not the largest Trout Unlimited chapter in Idaho, the Snake River Cutthroats are the oldest with roots dating back to 1972 according to club historian Bruce Staples. Trout Unlimited, established in 1959, was only 13 years old. When a chapter is formed, it receives a chapter number from the national office. Our chapter number is 163. The Panhandle Chapter in Priest River is the next oldest with a number of 431.

One thing that amazed other chapters is the large number of outings sponsored by the Cutthroats. Some chapters sponsor no outings. While I thanked all retiring board members in the last newsletter, I would like to specifically recognize Ron Scott who served as Outings Chair for the past several years and developed and promoted such a wide array and large number of outings. While things are winding down for this year, check the newsletter and the website to see what is left on the schedule for this year, and what gets scheduled for next year. Mike Miller has replaced Ron as Outings Chair. If you have ideas on what would make a good outing, and/or if you would be willing to serve as the host for an outing, please talk to Mike at one of the monthly meetings. Mike runs the raffles at the monthly meeting, so he is easy to find. His phone number is on the back of the newsletter.

The Cutthroat's Christmas Party, which is scheduled for Wednesday December 10th, will soon be upon us. It will again be held at the Senior Citizens Center. The main meat course will be provided by the club and we ask everyone to bring a dish to share. Desserts, side dishes and salads will be assigned alphabetically. There will be more information in the December newsletter. Cost is \$15 per person. We will put a signup sheet at Jimmy's just before Thanksgiving. We will also have a gift donation box at Jimmy's. We all end up with extra "stuff" that we will never use. Consider donating both new and gently used items. It does not have to be fishing stuff either. Everyone leaves the Christmas Party with a gift of some kind.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Paul Bowen

**Fishing the "Fickle Fork" aka the South Fork
Wednesday November 12th, 6:30 PM
Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls**



Snake River Cutthroats

www.snakerivercutthroats.com



**Wednesday, November
12th, 6:30 PM
Paul Bowen
Fishing the "Fickle Fork" aka
the South Fork**



Paul was born and raised on a farm on the banks of the South Fork just a mile east of the Lorenzo Bridge. He still lives there. With the exception of 9 years spent in Pocatello, he has lived here all his life. (Going strong on 66 years) Paul took up fly fishing, with concentration on the nearby South Fork, shortly after his 1969 marriage. These facts make him most worthy to present a program on fishing that famed river. Before long he could see that for economic reasons he should learn to tie his own flies. Soon friends and acquaintances began to ask to tie flies for them. So he has been tying flies since the early 1970's. That was back when Herter's, hunting, and road kill (no longer possible after marriage!) were about the only suppliers of materials available to most tiers. Paul was one of the first two people to be certified by FFF as a fly casting instructor. He is a Western Rocky Mountain Council/FFF Fly Tier of the Year and has presented numerous programs for local fly fishing clubs and FFF Conclaves. He is a long-time EIFTE participant as a demonstrating fly tier and program presenter. He has been a professional fly-fishing guide on the Henrys Fork and South Fork. Paul will also be the featured fly tier for the meeting and will focus on patterns that have brought him South Fork success.

**A Great Program Worthy of Your
Participation**

Joe Timchak at Compass Academy has an excellent program ongoing. He is teaching sophomore level teens communication skills and doing it through a unique way that is of interest to all of us in the SRC. Joe has split his class of exceptional students into study groups of four and tasked each group with investigating the water quality of Rainy Creek. Each group goes into the field at Rainy Creek to perform tests that compare water quality of the lower creek, where alteration by agriculture and animal husbandry have resulted in degradation, to that of the more pristine upper creek. Each group prepares a presentation on their findings and offers these to a panel composed of teachers and public individuals. Joe has asked that Snake River Cutthroats members serve on the panel. To date some of us have, and we find this panel to be a rewarding action. You would, too!

You can reach Joe at:

**timjose@echo.ifschools.org or
208-589-0680**

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.

Idaho's Mountain Lakes

By
Brett High, IDF&G

Mountain lakes offer the perfect chance to break away from crowded fishing spots, provide seemingly endless opportunity for exploration, and yield some great fishing for uncommon species. The time to hit the trails to these liquid gems is now! With nearly 50 mountain lakes and five species of trout (including golden trout and arctic grayling), the Upper Snake Region is a great place to start experiencing these high elevation, scenic trout havens.

Most of the region's mountain lakes were formed by glaciers carving bowls out of the mountainsides called "cirques." The "cirques" subsequently filled with water resulting in some stunning backdrops. Many of these lakes do not provide habitat for fish to naturally reproduce and are stocked regularly by IDFG with fry or fingerlings. This provides an avenue for anglers to research where different species of fish may be found.

Records of which lakes were stocked with what species are recorded in the historical stocking database on the IDFG website at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/fish/stocking/>. To find out which lake was stocked, simply click on the region of interest and select the date range and species you are interested in. If you are unfamiliar with the lake(s), you may need to use a different map or tool to find where the lake(s) are located. This is part of the adventure of finding new places to explore.



A great way to find where lakes are and how to access them is using the Idaho Fishing Planner <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingPlanner/>. The Idaho Fishing Planner allows you to search for waters, including lakes, and brings up an interactive map of the area. Accesses to the different lakes are varied. There are a couple of mountain lakes in the region that you can drive full size vehicles to, but most are located away from roads. Many mountain lakes have designated trails leading to them, but for the most adventurous crowd, some do not have trail access.

Before heading out, be sure to check with the local land manager (Forest Service or BLM) to see what kind of travel your trail of interest is open for. Whether you are looking for a quieter fishing spot, a new back corner of Idaho to explore, or a less common trout species to catch, Idaho's mountain lakes have something to offer for everyone.

September 9th, 2014 Conservation Report

Jeff Armstrong
Conservation VP

- 1) Rainey Creek Screen Cleaning – The project this year includes around 28 sessions, 140 hours of volunteer time and approximately \$125 in club funds for gas. I think we need to find a way to expand the volunteer pool if this is something that the club will be doing for the foreseeable future.
- 2) Report on Trout Unlimited projects - Sometime during the fall TU should report on how last year's funds were used, results of various projects and funding requests for future projects. The earlier the better so I would propose having a presentation at the 30 Sept board meeting.
- 3) Report on County Line Road Hydroelectric Project – The Instream Flow Study is nearing completion. There are a number of disturbing concerns with the direction of this study and the preliminary results. This was discussed at the Sept 30th board meeting. Because Matt Woodard is the TU representative (TU is one of six stakeholder) and also a board member for our club I would propose that he be our club liaison since he is privy to all meetings and reports and knows all the other folks both stakeholders and applicants (canal company and engineering firms) involved with this project.

Some concerns with the Study:

- a) Focusing on a minimum flow of 800 cfs. The river has never seen a rate this low in the last 25 years. Part of the reason for this is the poor way the study models velocity which tends to support lower flow rates (which is something the project may need to be financially viable).
 - b) This low flow rate exposes the islands which have important riparian habitat that could be threatened.
 - c) Only looks at brown and rainbow trout and ignores all other species and habitat considerations. Ignores cutthroat trout, aquatic insects, forage fish, water fowl and any other species dependent on the riparian habitat.
 - d) Essentially ignores addressing winter conditions to include how these low flows are affected by low temperatures and icing and what effect this will have on species and habitat.
 - e) No data was collected during the winter. Study will only depend on published data. It is universally agreed that the winter is by far the most important time to be studied.
- 4) Funding for conservation – Our main conservation funding will be Trout Unlimited. However we need to consider providing some funding for other conservation groups that are involved with southeast Idaho cold water conservation.

Other funding for outside groups falls under the guise of education. Possible candidates include the Compass School which does a science project on Rainy Creek and Sunnyside Elementary which has a youth angling club.

5) Spring Conservation Project – There might be some funding available from FFF for this project.

Fall Fishing-The Best?

**Dan Garren
Regional Fisheries Manager**

As the days get shorter and temperatures drop, many Idahoans start to think about bugling elk, rutting deer, and opportunities to get into the field that accompany these animals. Camouflaged clothes come out of storage, guns get a good cleaning, and piles of gear assemble to make pursuing Idaho's abundant game species easier. Gone are the days of summer, spent with a rod in hand and the pursuit of "the big one". However, fall can provide some of the best angling opportunities of the year for those willing to give it a try.

Several factors contribute to good fishing. First many outdoorsmen and women are hunting, which frees up a lot of room on area lakes and rivers. Secondly, the cooler water temperatures stimulate fish to feed in coming for the lean times during winter. Higher water temperatures experienced during the recent summer can cause fish to be sluggish or not feed at all. Cooler water temperatures can often have the opposite effect. Finally, water temperatures are generally low and stable during the fall, making wading easier than during high flow periods than are frequent during summer. The lack of precipitation generally received during the fall creates very consistent water level conditions, which makes for predictable angling.

When the above mentioned factors are combined with changes in aspen and cottonwood leaves, fall fishing can provide one of the best times to get out Idaho's beauty and natural resources. So if you are lucky enough to fill your hunting tag early this year or just want to enjoy beautiful scenery under the best atmospheric conditions, don't forget about this great opportunity to enjoy some of the best fishing of the year!

Land Owner Appreciation Program

**by
Darrel Meints, Regional Wildlife Supervisor, IDF&G**

At the recent Fish and Game Commission Meeting in Idaho Falls on August 11, 2014, the Department presented the results of public comments received from meetings held across the state and from our web site on the proposed changes to the LAP program. A follow up survey was sent out to all who participated in the process. This was part of the Negotiated Rule Making Process that has been ongoing since spring.

Based on the diverse comments and responses gathered, no consensus was found. The Commission decided to take no action at this time and let the current program proceed without change.

Recipe of the Month

Roasted Salmon with Herb Butter and Swiss Chard

A number of us recently visited northern places to fish for salmon. Here is a great recipe to try for any brought home. Preparation time is about 15 minutes.

INGREDIENTS

1 stick room temp. butter
Handful of finely chopped curly parsley
Handful of finely chopped fresh dill
Juice of one lemon
Pinch of hot pepper flakes
Four salmon filets, 5.5 oz. each
1 tbsp. olive oil
2 handfuls trimmed, rinsed, drained Swiss chard
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

PREPARATION

1. Combine butter, parsley, dill, lemon juice and pepper flakes in a mixing bowl and beat until well blended to form herb butter.
2. Pre-heat oven to 400 deg. F. Place salmon in non-stick roasting pan. Drizzle with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Bake in oven for 20 minutes or until thoroughly cooked.
3. Cook chard in a pan of boiling salt water for 5-8 minutes until tender but firm to the bite. Drain well and transfer to serving dish. Squeeze lemon juice over the top and add a pinch of pepper flakes. Serve hot with a slice of herb butter over both the salmon and the chard. Result is a low carb main dish. Can use curly kale or spinach in place of chard.

Makes 4 servings.

Remaining 2014 Outing

Nov 14-16 Steelhead fishing on the Salmon or Clearwater River (Host: Kenly Bitton) Work out of Orofino. Meet for breakfast get orientation of what is hot and where. Wade or drift fishing. Could also book Kenly for a guided trip.

Contact Ken: 521-4657 or shannabitton@hotmail.com

Calendar

Tuesday, November 4 th	SRC Board Meeting, Shilo Inn 6:30
Wednesday, November 12 th	Membership Meeting, Shilo Inn 6:30 Tying Demo by Paul Bowen 7:00 Program by Paul Bowen
Tuesday, December 2 nd	SRC Board Meeting, Shilo Inn 6:30
Wednesday, December 10 th	Xmas Party, Senior Citizen's Center
Tuesday, January 6 th	SRC Board Meeting, Shilo Inn 6:30
Wednesday, January 14 th	Membership Meeting, Shilo Inn, Guest TBA
Tuesday, February 3 rd	SRC Board Meeting, Shilo Inn 6:30
Wednesday, February 11 th	Membership Meeting, Shilo Inn, Guest TBA

Fly of the Month

Black Sheep Creek Special

George Biggs of Jerome Idaho originated the Sheep Creek Special in the 1960s. Fish likely take it for a wide range of aquatic invertebrates, especially caddis pupas. This pattern is considered by many Stillwater trout fly-fishermen to be their number one lake pattern. "The significant change I have made to it is moving the wing underneath to become a beard. This tends to hide the hook point," says Marv Taylor. He also changes the body color to black and adds a trimmed piece of mallard flank to form a wing case.

Hook: 3x long streamer, #6-10
Thread: Black 6/0
Tail: Black saddle hackle fibers
Body: Fine black chenille
Beard: Mallard flank fibers
Wing case: Trimmed mallard flank feather



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Snake River Cutthroats

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