



# The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

January, 2015

## A Message from the President *by Paul Patterson*

If you missed the Cutthroat's Christmas party last month, you missed a great time. The prime rib and pork loin were outstanding (thanks to Chef Cloyd Bland) and the gift exchange arranged by Tim Woodard was entertaining to say the least. Thanks also to Dave Pace for getting the gifts for the participation drawing. You had to be present to win. Thanks to those who helped on the setup and the cleanup as well.

Making (and for some) breaking New Year's resolutions is a time-honored tradition. If you didn't get around to making any resolutions, I have a few listed here for you to consider. It's not too late.

Volunteer to help at the Expo. April is not that far off. Or better yet, volunteer to become part of the Expo Committee.

Participate in one of the scheduled outings or the spring conservation project. These are both excellent ways to get to know people, especially if you are new to the area.

Take the beginning fly tying class. If you aren't a tier and have thought about giving it a try, now's the time. (See page 5 for more information.) If you are a seasoned tier, talk to Wade Allen about tying before one of the general meetings.

Build your own fly rod. It's not that difficult, especially with the help of experienced instructors to guide you. The rod building class is in February. (See page 5 for more information.)

Renew your membership in Trout Unlimited and/or the Federation of Fly Fishers.

Fish some new water or tie a new fly pattern. Teach a kid how to fish.

Remain or become an active member of the Snake River Cutthroats.

### UPCOMING EVENT

**Boots Allen**  
**Wyoming's Snake River**  
Wednesday January 14th, 6:30 PM  
Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls



Snake River Cutthroats

[www.snakerivercutthroats.com](http://www.snakerivercutthroats.com)



Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM  
Boots Allen



### Wyoming's Snake River

Boots Allen is accomplished in all fly-fishing facets. He has fly-fished around the world. He is a third generation fishing guide who began out of Jackson Hole working waters of Wyoming and Idaho for his father and uncle while still in high school. He recently completed his 24th season of guiding. He has penned a number of articles for national fly-fishing magazines, has co-produced conservation films for Jah Trout Productions, and has been a featured personality in regional and national TV programs. In addition, Boots has authored three major books. He is known for his creative streamers and dry flies, and has developed patterns for Umpqua Feather Merchants, the Orvis Company, and, more recently, Montana Fly Company. The Snake River in Wyoming is the subject of his presentation.

A crown jewel of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the Snake River in Wyoming is defined by its stunning scenery, abundant wildlife, and native cutthroat trout.

*Wyoming's Snake River* delivers valuable insight regarding the diverse fishing found throughout the watershed, from the headwater lakes in Yellowstone National Park to the tributary drainages like the Gros Ventre and the Hoback. Be prepared for the serious dispelling of myths about the size and fight of the Snake's cutthroat trout and the quality of fishing during the "offseason".

## Chris Helm Passes

To those that knew him, Chris Helm was an artist and a gentleman. He was magical; armed with foam, fur, feathers, thread, tinsel, and deer hair, but from that array of items he could create life in the form of fishing flies that would fool even the most wary brown trout or bonefish. In 2004 Chris received the Federation of Fly-Fisher's Buz Buszek award for his contributions to the fly tying art.

Chris Helm died at home in Toledo, Ohio on his 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday, Thanksgiving Day, several years after making his first battle in his long war with a wretched blood cancer known as Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia.

We of the Snake River Cutthroats regret Chris's passing because of his past support for our activities, especially the Eastern Idaho Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo. He had planned to take part in the 2015 version by presenting workshops on hollow hair tying techniques and hollow hair selection. Now the Expo will not be graced with Chris's presence.

### 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](mailto:casbas@ida.net).

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

## **Chester Dam Nears Completion**

For the first time in several decades all species of fish can migrate past the Chester Dam and not be diverted into canals. The Crosscut canal diverts water users on the east side of the river and eventually into the Teton River just below the Hog Hollow Bridge. The West Side canal serves water users on the opposite side of the river. Fall River Rural Electric Co-Op finished construction of the Chester Hydroelectric Project this summer. The last part of the project, installation of the three segment inflatable rubber bladder on top of the dam diverts water from spilling over the dam to be used to run power plant turbines and allow more water to go to the fish passage structures. Despite concerns that the bladder would inundate habitat upstream of the backwater, increase in depth and extent of inundation appears to be minor. For example, I fished the "Grassy Bank" area above the Hooray Ranch near the top of the backwater back in November and saw that the water was about a foot deeper than the same time last year.

With stabilization of the water above the dam, personnel from the CO-OP and IDF&G adjusted flow rate and water level in the fish ladder to allow best conditions for fish migration upstream. An underwater camera has been installed at the top of the ladder to observe fish passage. Images are relayed through a web server to be viewed remotely. During autumn, 2014 fish of all sizes were observed moving upstream through the ladder.

IDF&G tested effectiveness of the canal screens by releasing fish above the canal intakes on either side of the river, then recapturing them below the dam. The screens are designed to funnel fish into channels that return them to the river downstream of the dam. IDF&G observes that fish pass through these channels without entering the canals. During high flow periods with water spilling over the dam, fish can also migrate downstream through this flow as in the past. But hopefully the near spectacular sight of fish trying to jump over the dam is gone because of an effective fish ladder.

Let's hope that working together all new components at the dam will restore fish passage into the river above and away from entrainment into the two canals coming out of the Chester Dam.

### **South Fork Snake River 2014 Fall Population Estimates**

**Brett High**

**Idaho Department of Fish and Game**

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game continued annual fish population monitoring at the Conant and Lorenzo monitoring reaches of the South Fork Snake River in the fall of 2014 to evaluate the effectiveness of management actions on the river. Data from these surveys are used in decision making aimed at achieving the goals outlined in the state fish management plan which include preserving the genetic integrity and population viability of native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout and reducing Rainbow Trout abundance to less than 10% of the species composition at the Conant monitoring site in the upper river. We monitor two sites annually - the Conant monitoring reach near the highway 26 bridge in Swan Valley and the Lorenzo monitoring reach in the lower river near the highway 20 bridge. This is an initial summary of our 2014 data from these two sites and may be subject to change with further review and analysis. In 2014, we generally observed fewer trout than we have captured in the

previous couple years. Across the board, for all species at both monitoring sites, abundances decreased in 2014 relative to the previous few years when abundances were near all-time high.

### Conant

Total trout abundance at Conant decreased from 5,372 trout/mile in 2013 to 3,671 trout/mile in 2014. All three trout species (Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout [YCT], Rainbow Trout including hybrids [RBT], and Brown Trout [BNT]) experienced declines (Figure 1; Table 1). Cutthroat declined by 771 fish to 1,487 YCT per mile, and this decline was statistically significant (Figure 1). The lesser declines in Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout were not statistically significant. The Rainbow Trout estimate for 2014 at Conant was 1,418 RBT/mile and Rainbow Trout comprised 29% of the catch. The brown trout estimate at Conant in 2014 was 765 BNT/mile and comprised 32% of the catch. The ratio of Cutthroat Trout to Rainbow Trout is similar to what it was in 2010 and 2011, with nearly similar densities of both species.

Year	YCT/mile	95% CI	RBT/mile	95% CI	BNT/mile	95% CI
1982	1,180		16		256	
1983						
1984						
1985						
1986	4,659	648			1,034	408
1987						
1988	2,404	239			548	500
1989	2,595	174	102	42	308	261
1990	3,756	278	330	104	594	214
1991	2,255	219	216	87	314	83
1992						
1993	2,437	241	177	82	218	125
1994						
1995	1,983	236	436	116	474	284
1996	2,421	362	958	677	506	126
1997	1,845	123	974	118	595	327
1998	2,726	329	743	127	401	58
1999	2,977	262	1,055	204	825	273
2000						
2001						
2002	1,355	191	1,265	314	463	197
2003	1,353	192	1,501	364	386	160
2004	771	99	854	168	618	328
2005	1,061	331	678	340	333	169
2006	1,207	168	1,092	287	531	113
2007	2,224	228	1,329	182	854	189
2008	1,716	251	925	174	612	92
2009	1,331	140	2,270	486	495	77
2010	1,953	457	1,893	1,073	772	220
2011	1,975	357	1,919	412	1,283	267
2012	1,707	167	1,931	286	1,438	179
2013	2,258	256	1,902	538	1,212	342
2014	1,487	213	1,418	277	765	96

**Table 1.** Point estimates for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT), Rainbow Trout and Rainbow x Cutthroat hybrid trout (RBT), and Brown Trout (BNT) per mile with respective 95% confidence intervals for the Conant monitoring reach of the South Fork Snake River from 1982 through 2014.

### Lorenzo

At the Lorenzo monitoring reach, abundances of both Brown Trout and Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout were lower than those in 2013 and both declines were statistically significant. The

Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout abundances decreased for the first time since the early 2000's, decreasing by 293 fish per mile while Brown Trout abundances decreased by 559 fish per mile (Figure 2; Table 2). We captured 33 rainbow trout during our 2014 electrofishing surveys at the Lorenzo reach which represented 3% of the total catch and was similar to the previous five years. We captured 190 YCT and 1,078 BNT during the survey, representing 15% and 83% of the catch, respectively.

We will be continuing to analyze this year's data in an attempt to identify the factors involved with these declines in abundance.

## Snake River Cutthroats 2015 Class Schedule

**Beginning Fly Tying Class** - Beginning fly tying classes will start on Tuesday, January 13th, 2015 and will run for 6 weeks. Classes are 2 hours each starting at 7:00 PM. All basic fly tying techniques are taught with emphasis on fly patterns that work well locally. All required materials and hooks are supplied for the basic cost of \$30. Instructors are some of the best in the country with an average of 20 years teaching fly tying. This is a great way to get started in a hobby for a lifetime. All ages are welcome. The students need to bring the following: fly tying vise, scissors, a bobbin and other useful tools. If you have doubt on what to buy, come to the first class and there will be extra equipment to use. For further information and to sign up for this class contact Jeff Armstrong: Phone 522-7005; email elkhorn83354@yahoo.com.

**Fly Rod Building Class** - Rod Building Class will be held on Saturday February 7, 2015, from 10am to 6 pm. An introductory class will be held on Thursday evening from 6 pm to 7:30 pm, January 22, 2015. The introductory class will allow instructors will help students decide which rod blank and components they will need for the class and where to buy the rod blank and components. The class is designed for building a quality rod for fresh or salt water. The novice can easily build a rod with patience and this class. The cost is \$30.00. This is your chance to get a fantastic rod at half the cost. Build a rod you will love to fish with. For further information and to sign up for this class contact Wade Allen: Phone 390-3130; email Wade Allen wnallen@cableone.net.

**Free Fly Casting Class** - On Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 starting at 6:30 pm there will be two free casting classes taught by FFF casting instructors. Classes last for approximately 2 hours and are located at Tautphaus Park by the fountain (southeast corner of the park off Boulevard). This is open to everyone. No registration is required. Just show up. The class is designed for beginners and intermediate casting levels. This is a great chance to start casting or improve you casting ability, and it is free. For more information contact Ross Slayton; phone at 270-0805 or email at troutbum4ever@gmail.com. Some equipment can be provided for the students to use during the class. Please bring any equipment you have. Attend one or both classes.

## Recipe of the Month

### Bill's Skyline Chili Dog

Skyline Chili began in Cincinnati where it was served with chopped onion and grated cheddar over pasta. That prep would be tough to take for an on the water lunch.

#### CHILI INGREDIENTS

1.5 lbs 80/20 ground hamburger boiled with salt & pepper then separated into small granules. Refrigerate brew overnight so fat can easily be skimmed away.  
1 Tbsp chili powder  
1 Tbsp cumin  
1 chopped large onion  
5 cloves chopped garlic  
1 Tsp paprika  
1 tbs cocoa powder or four pieces baker's chocolate  
3 cups tomato sauce  
1 Tbsp freshly ground black pepper

#### PREPARATION:

1. Simmer chili for three hours and add additional salt and pepper to taste. Add red chili flakes for heat
2. Use a bun of choice, but something large such as a hoagie roll sliced in two.
3. Use a ¼-pound hot dog of good quality such as Nathan's or Hebrew National
4. Add hot dog to sliced bun
5. Add chopped onion in liberal amount
6. Add grated cheddar in liberal amount
7. Add chili in liberal amount

Pack in foil or in plastic container for an enjoyable lunch.

## Calendar

Tuesdays, Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	Beginning Fly Tying Class, see page 5
Wednesday, January 14 <sup>th</sup>	General Membership Meeting, Shilo Inn, Guest is Boots Allen
Tuesday, February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	SRC Board Meeting, Shilo Inn, 6:30
Saturday, February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Rod Building Class, see details above
Wednesday, February 11 <sup>th</sup>	General Membership Meeting, Shilo Inn, Guest TBA
Tuesday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	SRC Board Meeting, Shilo Inn, 6:30
Wednesday, March 11 <sup>th</sup>	General Membership Meeting, Shilo Inn, Guest TBA
Tuesday, March 31 <sup>st</sup>	SRC Board Meeting, Shilo Inn, 6:30
Wednesday, April 8 <sup>th</sup>	General Membership Meeting, Shilo Inn, Guest TBA
Thurs.-Sat. April 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Eastern Idaho Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo, Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls

## Fly of the Month

### Marv's Fly

This fly began as a fully hackled leech pattern. Marv Taylor soon trimmed the hackle short, then eliminated it altogether to be fished as a damselfly nymph pattern. It has been on his "Deadly Dozen" list for about twenty-five years. It is his light olive damsel pattern, while his Little Green Thing is his dark olive damsel pattern. You cannot find a much easier pattern to tie than Marv's fly.

Hook: 3x long streamer, #8-14  
Thread: Black 6/0  
Tail: Lt. olive marabou or mottled chickabou  
Body: Variegated gold/dark olive chenille



Snake River Cutthroats  
291 Dale Drive  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

NON-PROFIT STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Idaho Falls, ID  
Permit no. 15

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## ***Snake River Cutthroats***

### **Club Officers**

**President:** Paul Patterson (208-569-8031)  
**Past President:** Gary Barnes (208-538-7881)  
**Exec. Vice President:** Rory Cullen (208-419-8477)  
**VP Conservation:** Jeff Armstrong (208-522-7005)  
**Treasurer:** Jim Mathias (208-684-4200)  
**Secretary:** George Klomp (208-528-6248)

### **Senior Advisors**

Dave Pace  
Jimmy Gabettas  
Marv Stucki  
Buck Goodrich  
Scott Long  
Jim Mathias  
Bruce Staples

### **Board of Directors**

#### **3 Yr Directors**

Christina Assante (270-0347), Pat & Susan Marushia (523-1591), Galen Smolik (523-5092)

#### **2 Yr Directors**

Ron Hover (529-9791), Mike Miller (357-5569), Ross Slayton (283-3066)

#### **1 Yr Directors**

Matt Woodard (221-1353), Roger Blew (604-3569), Cloyd Bland (756-7304)

### **Committee Chairs**

Membership: Carol Staples (522-9242)  
Education: Ross Slayton (270-0805)  
Expo: Wade Allen (390-3130)  
Programs: Wade Allen (208-390-3130), Marv Stucki (208-524-1825)  
Historian/Newsletter: Bruce Staples (522-9242)  
Outings: Mike Miller (357-5569)  
Publicity: Roger Blew (604-2539)  
Social: Cloyd Bland (756-7304)  
Web Site: Tim Woodard (201-1669)  
Youth: Christina Assante (270-0347)