



# The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

October, 2015

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

I hope everyone had a great summer and has some new stories to tell about new water fished, big fish caught, or the one that got away. We will be launching our 2015-16 monthly meetings in the Temple View/River View rooms of the Shilo Inn with a presentation on the Henry's Fork and surrounding areas by Todd Lanning. See below for details. A fly tying demonstration and story-telling will start at 6:30 and the program will begin at 7:00.

If you didn't make it to the July picnic at Mike and Ann Miller's place, you missed a great end to last year's monthly club activities. Certified brat chef Buck Goodrich (obscured by smoke) was assisted by sous chef Pat Marushia. Thanks to Mike and Ann for their hospitality and willingness to share with us their beautiful place on the Snake River.

While it is still a long way until our election in May, please give some thought to serving on the board. If you don't want that level of commitment, consider volunteering at the 2016 Expo or helping out on a conservation or education project this next year. The pay isn't great, but the reward certainly is. While our membership continues to grow as new people move to the area, our cadre of volunteers seems to be shrinking and we are certainly getting older. VP Rory Cullen made a good point at our September board meeting when he said we needed to focus on increasing participation, not just increasing the number of members.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Todd Lanning on  
Fly-Fishing the Henry's Fork  
Wednesday October 14th, 6:30 PM  
Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls**



Snake River Cutthroats

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



**Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>,  
6:30 PM**

**Todd Lanning  
Fly Fishing the Henry's  
Fork and Surroundings**



**Todd is an east Idaho guy who loves fly-fishing. As a result, he has been part of the regional fly-fishing industry for several years. Until recently we knew him as part of the South Fork scene. He has done some guiding. He is a superb fly tier having a number of his patterns published. A while back he served a stint on the Snake River Cutthroats Executive Board. More recently he has been part of Mike Lawson's Henry's Fork Anglers in Island Park. Here he has added more experience to an already considerable Henry's Fork expertise and has become an important part of Mike's shop. You can see his name on the Henry's Fork Anglers web site where he offers information and authors Henry's Fork Anglers fishing report entries. For sure this information is as good as it gets because Todd takes time to research Henry's Fork drainage fisheries. He will share the results of his accumulated Henry's Fork experience during our October meeting.**

**Rogue Sturgeon Given Chance to  
Make Amends**

In 2007, IDFG began stocking sturgeon from the aquaculture program at College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, Idaho. The first year 74 sturgeon were released. Another 401 were released in 2010, 201 in 2013, 230 in 2014, and 179 in 2015. Most of the hatchery fish released have been at least 18 inches long, although some have been a few feet in length. This last release had fish that ranged from two feet to more than four feet long.

"We've been stocking in Idaho Falls since 2007, and reports from anglers who have caught a sturgeon in town are now routine. We look forward to expanding the program in the coming years, and hope to build a quality fishery for the anglers in and around Idaho Falls." said Garren. The white sturgeon is native to the lower Snake River complex. It has been planted in other locations to help create a unique recreational fishing opportunity. All sturgeon fishing in Idaho is Catch & Release only, except for certain tribal agreements. Sturgeon can grow to be extremely large, thanks to the fact that they can live to be 100 years old.

**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.

## 2015 Board Trip to Sheridan Reservoir

By  
Bruce Staples



Once again, thanks to Steve Hyde's generosity, SRC Board members were offered an outing to test the waters of the fabled Sheridan Reservoir. Steve manages and operates Eagle Ridge Adventures, which owns Sheridan Reservoir. Eagle Ridge headquarters is on the Old Shotgun Road. Eagle Ridge succeeds a series of private owners. Going back into the early twentieth century it was first owned by the Woods Livestock Company and the reservoir was formed to provide water for livestock. John Stringer bought the portion containing the reservoir which became known as Stringer Lake. It was then the legends of large Kamloops rainbow trout stocked within began as well as stories of trespassers trying to catch them. Later, under Ferguson family ownership, the name became Sheridan Reservoir after the creek that provides its water.

Eagle Ridge offers much more than fly-fishing for trophy rainbows on Sheridan Reservoir. A year round full service destination it offers hunting, fishing, hiking, ice fishing, lodging, photographic, horseback, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling adventures. Services are available for group or single persons. This complete array of activities is not found elsewhere in the Island Park community. For details, go to [www.EAGLERIDGEADVENTURES.com](http://www.EAGLERIDGEADVENTURES.com), or call 208-558-0900.

Mike Miller coordinated things again, so our outing took place on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. A bit before midday, in came Board members with drift boats, pontoon boats, and contraptions looking like duck hunting devices. The day began ideal for still water fishing with only slight breezes, but as time went on thundershowers arrived to become strong enough to put an end to fishing by around 4 PM. Most of us remembered Mike's location suggestions and got into fish. Once again, "Mike done right by us!," as the old country saying goes, he offered to many of us his #6 version of Bill Schiess's Halloween which proved highly effective when presented on an intermediate line. Midge pupa patterns under an indicator also did very well, as did a #10 Jack Gartside wet mouse presented on an intermediate line. I still believe that fly simulated the snails of which numerous shells lay around the shoreline. We saw no surface activity at this early date, but what a time could be had when damselflies and speckled duns come alive to mate and lay eggs! Mike also offered that the grasslands that border much of the reservoir produce summertime hoppers which winds blow onto the reservoir surface making for more top water fun. Then the wind came up and brought in the thunder-boomers. Sheridan fish gave us all appetites for dinner, so we wound up our lines and headed home.

## Shoshone Lake Trip

Bruce Staples



Have you ever caught enough fish to come to the point of “I’ve had enough!”? One way to get there is to try Shoshone Lake in June. Three of us got to that point late Friday afternoon, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

We left Idaho Falls. in the early AM. Arriving at West Yellowstone Visitor’s Center by mid-morning, and learned that we had to proceed to the Old Faithful Ranger Station to secure non-motorized boat permits and submit our float tubes to an invasive species inspection. All that went like clockwork after arrival, so we proceeded to the DeLacey Creek trailhead about halfway between Old Faithful and Thumb Junction. The three-mile hike down to the lake happened without incident, and soon we were on the lake looking for action. The day was almost cloud-free, and for the first time in my many years of Shoshone Lake fishing experience the wind never came up much more that to ruffle the surface only slightly. As a result because of the near calm conditions, some speckled duns were emerging and mating. Out on the lake some fish rose to take egg laying females. But spacing of rises was far enough apart to make casting for results ineffective relative to presenting wet flies. So instead we applied the reliable technique of looking for weed beds where fish hang out looking for scuds, leeches, and small baitfish. That strategy worked to the point that it was no problem making contact with juvenile lake trout running 17-21 inches. Sadly, no brookies or browns seemed to be present, were smarter than us, or not eating that day. A lot of tourists came to the lake and returned up the trail. A bit of fun happened when a skinny dipping couple proved that the lake was too cold to swim! What was interesting fishing-wise on this near wind free day was that on sitting in your float tube cruising fish would go by in the clear water beneath. Once in a while one would hit a presented fly just after getting out of sight. About 5 PM we landed, packed our gear and headed out. About a mile from the trailhead the repaired left ankle of yours truly began to give out and impacted my stride to the point of slowing me to a near crawl. Mike and Danny were patient enough to stay with me until we reached the parking area. So we got out, made it to West Yellowstone for dinner, then on to home. Tired as we were it had been another great day.

**Summer Field Work at Henry's Lake**  
**by**  
**Damon Keen, Henry's Lake Fish Biologist, IDF&G**

This year the summer at Henrys Lake has been busier than usual. A temporary crew collects data, maintains riparian fencing, monitors fish screens, and implements new habitat projects. These efforts promote natural spawning and improve water quality including sediment input and temperature. Henrys Lake is unique in that Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) makes an annual wide spread effort to maintain fish habitat. It's a commitment made years ago by IDFG. That commitment continues to this day. Tributary Monitoring: This year, the Henrys Lake crew is evaluating natural production of four tributaries. The tributaries include Howard Creek, Targhee Creek, Duck Creek, and Timber Creek. The crew checks fry traps on each tributary seven days a week. They count and release Yellowstone cutthroat fry below the trap. Then they dye and release fry above the trap to determine trap efficiencies. (These are percentages of the migrating fry that are actually trapped). The temporary dye is visible for several days. The crew also collects tributary flow data weekly. This extensive flow data is valuable to correlate flows/temperatures with fish production. Fly Trapping on Henrys Tributary Taking flow measurements New Habitat Projects: The Henrys Lake crew will install several miles of cattle exclusion fencing on Duck Creek, Targhee Creek and Howard Creek this year. They will also install four rock hardened cattle crossings to promote better fish passage and reduce sediment input. The hardened crossings should provide long term rehabilitation of the streams. . Example of degraded cattle crossings on Duck and Howard Creeks Fish Screens and Riparian Fencing: The staff is responsible for maintaining eleven fish screens and over ten miles of electric fencing. At least twice a week, the staff maintains screens to ensure cutthroat fry are not lost to irrigation. They also check electric fences twice a week to ensure riparian areas remain protected from cattle encroachment.

**No Insect in Its Right Mind**

Old-time wet flies were designed to represent emerging caddis or may flies as they ascended to the surface. More colorful patterns were meant to simulate small baitfish. Later came patterns to simulate leeches. The presentation of these works best as the angler slowly worked downstream, taking several steps after each cast and swing of the fly. This is the same methodology used for steelhead and Atlantic salmon fishing with wet flies.

The thinking angler may wonder why a brown, rainbow or cutthroat trout might stoop to chasing an emerging caddisfly or mayfly look-alike during an October snowstorm when no insect of right mind would be present. This is obviously a good question that must be answered by believing the trout is reacting out of instinct or anger. Sometimes there also is competition among run fish moving upstream to spawn. Regardless, swinging wet flies works best when trout are active.

## Recipe of the Month

### BAKED FISH ITALIAN STYLE

2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil  
 2 tbsp. butter  
 1/2 lb. mushrooms, sliced (or 1 cup canned)  
 2 cloves garlic, finely minced  
 2 tbsp. sliced green onions  
 2 tbsp. minced fresh parsley  
 salt and pepper, to taste  
 4 trout (or other fish fillet)  
 4 tbsp. fine dry Italian style bread crumbs  
 lemon wedges

Oil or spray a shallow baking dish with olive oil non-stick spray. Add sliced mushrooms, onions, 1 tablespoon of parsley and garlic. Arrange fish in dish. Season lightly with salt and pepper; brush with olive oil and dot with a tablespoon of butter.

Melt remaining butter and toss with bread crumbs. Sprinkle over fish.

Bake at 375°F for 20-25 minutes, or until fish is tender, opaque and flaky and crumbs are lightly golden. Sprinkle with remaining parsley.

Sprinkle with parsley, and garnish with lemon wedges.

Makes about 4 servings.

## Remaining 2014 Outings

**Oct 16 or 17 Lower Blackfoot River (Host: Bruce Staples or Matt Woodard depending on water level)  
 Meet at O'Brady's 1438 W. Broadway, Idaho Falls 8 AM for breakfast. Leave for the river at 9:00 AM.  
 Wading only. Excellent stream to fish with nymphs and other wet flies.**

**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.**

## Calendar of Events

Tuesday, October 6 <sup>th</sup>	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30, Keefer's Island
Wednesday, October 14 <sup>th</sup>	General Membership Meeting, Shilo Inn, Guest is Todd Lanning
Fri.-Sat.- October 16 <sup>th</sup> or 17 <sup>th</sup>	Blackfoot River Outing
Tuesday, November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30, Keefer's Island
Wednesday, November 11 <sup>th</sup>	General Membership Meeting, Shilo Inn, Guest TBA
Sat.-Mon. Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	Steelhead Outing
Tuesday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30, Keefer's Island
Wednesday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Xmas Party, Senior Citizen's Center (tentative)
Tuesday, January 5 <sup>th</sup>	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30, Keefer's Island

## Fly of the Month



**Slough Creek Cricket**

The days for using terrestrial patterns are rapidly coming to a close for the year. It is obvious why this one is so named. Slough Creek's meadows are loaded with crickets, and so are the areas around all our meadow streams, but soon a killing frost will work its way down to those in lower elevation, and crickets will be gone for the year. This simple pattern originated in Blue Ribbon Flies a few years ago.

Hook: Daiichi 1280, or equivalent, #8-10  
 Thread: Black 6/0  
 Body: Black closed cell foam  
 Legs: Black rubber legs  
 Indicator: Tuft of poly yarn, color of choice

**Snake River Cutthroats**  
**291 Dale Drive**  
**Idaho Falls, ID 83402**

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## ***Snake River Cutthroats***

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**Exec. Vice President:** Rory Cullen (208-419-84773)  
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