

The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

May, 2016

A Message from the President *by Paul Patterson*

As you read this newsletter, the East Idaho Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo has wrapped up for another year. This event does not happen without a lot of hard work from the dedicated members of the Expo Committee and many volunteers. I would like to thank everyone involved with the Expo, but in particular I would like to acknowledge the significant contributions of Wade Allen, Arn Berglund, Leslie Del Lago, Scott Long, Jim Mathias, Dave Pace, and Bruce and Carol Staples. The Expo Committee is in need of individuals who are willing to take responsibility for a number of key areas. The first meeting for the 2017 Expo will be in September. If you want to help, contact me or any other Expo board member.

Everyone can now focus on fishing opportunities for this coming season. If you are looking for some ideas, see the Cutthroat's sponsored outings, which are shown on page 3. Or perhaps you can think back to some of streams mentioned by one of our speakers this past winter. Bottom line, plan to fish at least one new place this year.

On page 4 you will see a write-up on our spring conservation project, which is scheduled for May 21st. While I can't guarantee good weather, I can guarantee that you will have a good time, eat some great food, work with some outstanding people, and will feel the satisfaction that comes from giving something back to the resource. An opportunity like this, helps with Trout Unlimited's mission: to conserve, protect, and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. If you plan on attending, please sign up in advance. It helps with our meal planning.

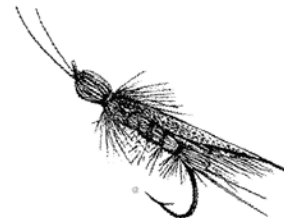
Our May meeting is our annual business meeting and our last meeting before our summer break. We elect officers and directors, eat pizza, and some of us drink beer. The slate of 2016-17 candidates is shown on the next page. I would like to thank all of those who have served on the board this past year and those who are stepping up to serve over the next one to three years. The Snake River Cutthroats is a great organization, but it won't continue to exist without the dedicated effort of volunteers willing to serve on the board.

Our next newsletter will arrive in July with details about the summer picnic. Like the Christmas Party, the summer picnic is a potluck event with the club furnishing the main course. It is tentatively scheduled for Mike and Ann Millers place north of Shelley, right around the 13th. So pencil that in on your calendar.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Business Meeting
Papa Tom's

1830 South Woodruff, Idaho Falls
Wednesday May 11th, 5:30 PM



Snake River Cutthroats Annual Business Meeting and Pizza Pig-Out

Papa Tom's
1830 South Woodruff
(SW Corner of Woodruff & 17th)
Wednesday May 11th
Social Hour: 5:30 PM
Pizza Served - 6:15 PM

The club buys the pizza, salad,
and soft drinks. You buy your
own beer.

While the primary purpose of the
annual business meeting is to
elect new officers and directors,
it is also a time to reflect on the
past year, plan for the future,
and to socialize with other
members of the Snake River
Cutthroats. The proposed slate
of officers is shown to the right,
but nominations will also be taken
at the business meeting. We
currently have no candidates for
the Executive VP position, which
is basically president elect.

So please join us. No RSVP is
required.



Proposed 2016-2017 Snake River Cutthroats Officers and Board of Directors Ballot

Officers: (term expires)

President (2018)	Rory Cullen
Past President (2018)	Paul Patterson
Executive VP (2018)	Open
Conservation VP (2017)	Jeff Armstrong
Treasure (2017)	Jim Mathias
Secretary (2018)	Tim Crain

Board of Directors: (term expires)

3-Year (2019)

Open
Open
Open

2-Year (2018)

Arn Berglund
George Klomp
Matt Woodard

1-Year (2017)

Wade Allen
Pat & Susan Marushia
Open

Candidates For Open Director Positions:

Rob Knox	3-Year
Mike Avery	3-Year
Joe Timchak	3-Year
Mike Miller	1-Year

Note: Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

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.



Snake River Cutthroats 2016 Outings Schedule

For more information, contact the outings host or Mike Miller.

Outings Chair: Mike Miller, 357-5569, riverroosters@live.com

Date	Location	Host/Contact
May 21	Spring Conservation Project Canyon Creek – Lemhi County	Paul Patterson Cell 208-569-8031
June 4	Twin Lakes	Jimmy Gabettas Shop: 208-524-7160
June 24	Shoshone Lake in Yellowstone Park Fishing for Lake Trout and Browns	Bruce Staples Home: 208-522-9242
July 14-16	Strawberry Reservoir in Utah High Country Fly Fishers Heber City, UT	Bill Quapp 435-709-7277
July 29-31	South Fork – overnighter Float from Palisades to Byington One or two nights	Dave Pace Home: 208-529-9290
August 13/14	Upper Blackfoot Campout Conservation Project Tour and Fishing	Matt Woodard Cell: 208-201-1353
September 24	Daniels Reservoir Fishing from boats	Dave Pace Home: 208-529-9290
October 21	Lower Blackfoot River Wade fishing for Rainbow & Cutthroats	Bruce Staples Home: 208-522-9242



Spring Conservation Project: May 21st



The Cutthroats 28th consecutive spring conservation project is scheduled for Saturday May 21st. This year's project is on Canyon Creek, a small Lemhi River tributary stream east of Leadore where we worked last year and also in 2013. It's roughly 120 miles to Leadore, or just under 2 hours. We will be placing a number of structures in-stream and planting willows, similar to what we've done before. Hip boots are more than adequate for anyone working in-stream. Chest waders are handy if it rains. A sturdy pair of work boots and gloves would be helpful for anyone not working in-stream. The weather is unpredictable, so plan accordingly. Hopefully, we won't get snowed on. But rain is always a possibility. Forest Service bunkhouses will not be available, so we will be camping at the BLM Smokey Cub Campground 2.5 - 3 miles east of Leadore along Highway 29 (Railroad Canyon Road), which is the road to Montana. This is the same location we camped last year. There is good parking for trailers and campers, as well as good spots for tents. There is a bathroom at the campground, but no potable water. The club provides breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, as well as lunch and dinner on Saturday. There is an informal potluck dinner on Friday night between 6 and 7. Bring something to grill for yourself, and a dish of your choice to share. The club will furnish baked potatoes. The club also provides paper plates, cups and utensils. The work site is another 5 miles further east (upstream). If you are driving up on Saturday morning, all volunteers and Forest Service personnel will be meeting at the Smokey Cub campground at 8:30 for introductions and a safety meeting before we drive up to the worksite. Camp chairs come in handy for lunch and dinner. We should be finishing between 4 and 5 o'clock on Saturday, with dinner around 6 o'clock. So you should still have time for dinner if you want to get back home on Saturday night, or you can campout and enjoy breakfast on Sunday morning.

If you need more information or wish to sign up, call or send an email to Paul Patterson: 208-569-8031, pattersn@gold.uidaho.edu.

Jackknife Watershed Restoration Project Receives the 2016 Idaho Chapter American Fisheries Society

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Trout Unlimited and Partners was awarded the first ever annual Aquatic Habitat Award by the Idaho Chapter American Fisheries Society for the Jackknife Watershed Restoration Project. This award recognizes significant contributions towards improving fish and aquatic habitat resources in the state of Idaho. "We are honored to receive this award as it exemplifies the outstanding partnership and collaboration that has occurred through the implementation of numerous projects on and off forest with a common goal of improving water resource conditions in the Jackknife Watershed", stated Louis Wasniewski, Forest Hydrologist on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The tremendous partnership development and the collaboration centered around common goals were brought together by Trout Unlimited, USFWS, Bonneville County, NRCS, Eastern Idaho RAC, Private landowners, Idaho Fish and Game, Idaho Parks and Recreation, Eagle Rock Backcountry Horsemen and NW Youth Corp. In addition to external partners the strong internal integration with District Rangers, Staff Officers, Forest Supervisor, Engineers, Recreation Specialist, Fisheries Biologists, Hydrologists, Soil Scientists, Botanists, Range Specialists, force account Road Crew and equipment all made this possible. Without the efforts by each and every one of these partners none of the Jackknife Watershed Improvements would have been possible. Many of the projects implemented also have improved the trails, trail bridges, roads and road stream crossings for recreational users to benefit. The details of the project results can be found on the following link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd490200.pdf.



Free Public Casting Classes

These will be held Tuesday, May 17th and Thursday, May 19th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at Tautphaus Park south of the fountain (at corner of South Boulevard and Rogers Street). No registration is required, just show up. It is best to bring your own rod and reel with line. You do not have this equipment? No problem; rods and spooled reels will be available at no charge. Each class will be for beginner and intermediate levels. Attend one or both classes. Questions? Contact Jeff Armstrong at 522-7005.

**Repeat of Update on County Line Road Hydro Project
by
Jeff Armstrong**

The Cutthroats first heard about the County Line Road Hydroelectric Project in 2011. The Idaho Irrigation and New Sweden canal companies' pre-application proposal was to divert 2000 cubic feet per second (cfs) during the winter from the Snake River into the canals, seven miles above Idaho Falls. With an average winter flow of 2750cfs, this would leave a minimum winter flow of less than 1000cfs in the river. There has been only one day in the last 30 years when the flow has been below 1000cfs.

As part of the FERC pre-application process, fish entrainment, hydrology and habitat studies were done by the canal companies. Stakeholders, composed of state and federal agencies, NGO's such as Trout Unlimited, and the Bear Island Water Association representing homeowners on the river, were allowed to review and provide comment during the study phase. Most Stakeholders hoped, at the very least, that there would be agreement on minimum flow. As the studies progressed the Stakeholders continually expressed concern about the very limited scope of the analysis that looked only at brown and rainbow trout while neglecting other wildlife and winter ice conditions. The results of the studies were both surprising and disturbing suggesting that fish habitat would actually improve at extremely low flows of 1000cfs. Stakeholders said this was incompatible with habitat studies done on other rivers and that flawed computer modeling and neglect of ice formation resulted the contradictory conclusions. The canal companies' final proposal was for a minimum flow of 1000cfs during the winter. This was after a failed attempt to compromise at a minimum flow of 2000cfs. Last April the final pre-application documents were filed with FERC.

A minimum flow of 1000cfs will condemn the river during winter to severe drought like conditions and extensive ice formation. According to state and federal agencies it could be very detrimental to fish and wildlife. The islands and back channels that provide habitat for fish and other wildlife will cease to exist in winter. This part of the river will likely no longer provide safe haven for migratory birds common along this stretch. Ice and freezing water in the canals during winter could introduce hazardous safety and flooding issues for area residence and potentially depress home values. Motorized vehicles will have access to the river bottom during winter. And all this to produce about one windmill's worth of electricity.

The FERC public scoping meeting was held last July. The purpose was to allow the public to comment on the scope of the upcoming application process. The meeting was attended by over 100 people jammed into the Temple View/River View room at the Shilo. The overwhelming majority were opposed to the project.

In a recent article in the Post Register, despite public concerns, Mr. Thiel, a New Sweden Director, had no reservations about the project, that it is moving forward and that it will provide a new revenue stream for the canal districts. Mr. Bassista a biologist with IDFG indicated that if this project is successful other canal companies on the Snake will likely pursue similar projects. If this is true it does not bode well for other reaches of the Snake River. On the South Fork of the Snake alone there are 10 canals that divert water including the Great Feeder Canal.

What can we do? Our local club is a small player with limited resources. I am not sure what the government agencies like IDFG and national NGO's like TU are planning. Maybe Matt Woodard can give us more information on that front. I believe the governmental agencies and NGO's will continue to argue against the project but how effective that will be is hard to say. And obviously FERC's position is unknown.

One Stakeholder, the Bear Island Water Association has the most to lose and is determined to carry on the fight to oppose this project. They are looking for any support we can give them. One thing club members can do right now is sign their petition at the link below. It only takes a minute, so please sign up.

<http://www.uppersnakeadvocates.com/sign-petition/>





Money Fish in the South Fork of the Snake River
by
Brett High, IDF&G Regional Fisheries Biologist

Once again Idaho Department of Fish and Game is encouraging anglers in 2016 to harvest South Fork rainbow trout to benefit the native cutthroat trout. IDF&G is continuing the Angler Incentive Program to increase the harvest of these rainbow trout. This program has a potential cash reward for anglers for turning in rainbow trout heads.

The Angler Incentive Program began in 2010 and is an ongoing project. Each year the IDF&G marks rainbow trout in the South Fork of the Snake River with tiny coded wire tags. The tags are placed in the snout of these rainbow trout and may be worth anywhere from \$50 to \$1000.

IDF&G marks rainbow trout with money tags each year to ensure that there is a constant supply of “incentive fish” to keep anglers interested. You keep the South Fork of the Snake river rainbows, and bring the rainbow heads to the IDF&G Regional Office (4279 Commerce Circle) for a chance to win some \$\$\$\$.

 <div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">2015-16 Calendar</div> 	
Date	Activity
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 See page 4)
Sometime in mid-July	Summer picnic (Date TBD)
Wednesday, September 28 th -Saturday, October 1 st	2016 TU National Meeting, Bozeman, MT
Wednesday October 12	General Membership Meeting, 6:30 Speaker: TBA
Wednesday November 9	General Membership Meeting, 6:30 Speaker TBA
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
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

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Snake River Cutthroats

Club Officers

President: Paul Patterson: (208-569-8031)
Past President: Gary Barnes (208-538-7881)
Ex. Vice President: Rory Cullen (208-419-8477)
VP Conservation: Jeff Armstrong (208-522-7005)
Treasurer: Jim Mathias (208-684-4200)
Secretary: Tim Crain (208-821-1646)

Senior Advisors

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

Board of Directors

3 Yr Directors

Arn Berglund (569-2243), George Klomp (680-2762), Matt Woodard (221-1353)

2 Yr Directors

Christina Assante (270-0347), Pat & Susan Marushia (523-1591), Wade Allen (390-3130)

1 Yr Directors

Open , Ron Hover (529-9791), Mike Miller (357-5569)

Committee Chairs

Membership: Carol Staples (208-522-9242)
Historian/Newsletter: Bruce Staples (208-522-9242)
Education: Jeff Armstrong (208-522-7005)
Expo: Wade Allen (208-390-3130)
Programs: George Klomp (208-680-2762) & Marv Stucki (208-524-1825)
Outings: Mike Miller (208-357-5569)
Website: Tim Woodard (208-201-1669)
Youth: Christina Assante (208-270-0347)