

The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

November, 2016

A Message from the President *by Rory Cullen*

Welcome back everyone. The Snake River Cutthroats had a great first membership meeting. First, Dan Garren with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game updated our group on this summer's whitefish kill on the South Fork. Second Dan did a presentation on Cutthroat/hybrid/rainbow identification. We had a quiz that followed and I think the expert fishermen and women passed, but it wasn't as easy as you would think. Thanks again Dan for all the information. Up next was our main event. Doug Colonel did an excellent presentation on the Patagonia region. Doug broke it up into three areas and his knowledge of Patagonia's surprisingly short fishing history was invaluable to anyone thinking of visiting this unique region. Doug is a local fisherman, who just happens to have a lodge and everything else you need for an unforgettable trip to Patagonia region. Contact info www.laspampaslodge.com. Thanks Doug.

Don't forget folks, second Wednesday of the month is our membership meeting. Raffles and fly-tying start at 6:30 and the featured speaker's presentations start a little after 7:00. We usually have a few business issues to discuss before we turn the time over to the speaker. Our membership meetings with a speaker go from now until May, with two exceptions. Our Christmas dinner takes the place of our December general meeting and the May meetings is our election meeting and pizza party. Check the calendar for future events and presenters.

Our Christmas dinner is on December 14 from 6:00 to 10:00 and will be held at the Senior Citizens Center. The cost is \$15 per person. A sign-up sheet will be at Jimmy's starting December 1st. The club supplies two main meats and club members bring some of the best potluck side dishes and desserts to be found. There are also some moments of chaos during the Cutthroat gift exchange (our version of a white elephant). All gifts supplied by the club. We also give out our club participation gifts, for each function you attend throughout the year, you receive entries into our drawing for some premium gifts. You must be present to win. This is a byob function. More details such as location, sign-up, potluck assignments, donated gifts and volunteer requests will be in the next newsletter.

Speaking of volunteers, we still have some key openings on the board. One of our greatest needs is a local person to be our webmaster. Someone to run our webpage and social networks. We also need the Vice President, social director, and asst. youth director positions filled. Please contact any board member if you are interested in stepping up for any of these positions.

UPCOMING Membership Meeting

**Kelly Glissmeyer on
Fly-Fishing Prince of Wales Island
Wednesday November 9th, 6:30 PM
Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls**



Wednesday, November 9th

6:30 PM Tying Demo
Kelly Glissmeyer

7:00 PM Kelly Glissmeyer
Fly-Fishing Prince of Wales
Island Salmon



No, that is not a Prince of Wales Salmon, it's a Sand Creek Pond "piggy. With Kelly in the orange hat. He, not the piggy, will talk about a Prince of Wales salmon fishing trip! His visit was during the last week of July when chums, sockeye and an early silver run was available. During the visit Kelly had an interesting accommodation experience, and wishes to pass on a few thoughts on it, and also he wishes to point out that good accommodations can be found on the island. This island is similar to Kodiak Island in that a road system gets the visitor to good fishing. Kelly will pass on "where to fish" details as well as thoughts on essential gear, tackle, technique, and flies. An added bonus is that Kelly will tie what he found to be the most effective fly patterns for the salmon encountered.

Bug Club to Resume Meetings



It's been around for decades, but had an interruption a while back. After we decided to include breakfast before fly tying, it came back strong. For several years, right up through 2014, we met at Dad's Frontier Pies just off I-15 Exit 113 south of Idaho Falls (IF). That restaurant closed, so the search went on for a new location. After several inquiries, Shari's on Broadway Street, just east of I-15 in IF, offered a great facility. The first 2016 meeting will be December 3rd at Shari's, breakfast at 8 AM, tying beginning around 9 AM. Following meetings take place alternate Saturdays into March, 2017 (In December next meetings are the 17th and 31st). We decide on the next tying subject at the end of each meeting. Everyone is welcome to take part. Want more details or want to take part? Contact Buck Goodrich (208-357-7328, fayebuckg@cableone.net).

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@cableone.net.

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



Southeast Idaho Reservoir Management Policy

By
Dave Teuscher, IDF&G

On September 2, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) placed Hawkins Reservoir on salvage until September 26, 2016, with a chemical treatment of the reservoir planned for September 27. The treatment will remove illegally introduced Largemouth Bass. IDFG would like the public to harvest as many fish as possible from Hawkins Reservoir prior to the treatment. There are no limits on trout or bass during the salvage period; however, a valid Idaho fishing license is still required. Completing the chemical treatment at Hawkins is an important step toward balancing bass and trout management priorities in the Southeast Region. Here's why. We are blessed with 24 irrigation reservoirs in the Southeast Region of Idaho. That large number of reservoirs offers a wide variety of fishing opportunities including a diversity of fish species, high quality options, and even some trophy fishing. Let's take a closer look at our current management by the numbers. Under IDFG management objectives, nearly half of these reservoirs (12 of 25; 48%) provide bass fishing options. Those bass fisheries are managed using three types of rules: "general", "quality", and "trophy" fishing. Glendale and Weston reservoirs are examples of quality management, with the goal that anglers will catch mostly 12 to 16 inch bass. Condie Reservoir is managed with trophy bass rules (2- bass limit, none under 20 inches) to provide consistently larger bass. Other Largemouth Bass fisheries are managed under the general bass rules (6-bass limit, none under 14 inches). The 14- inch harvest rule is new this year and was changed after years of research showed that a 14-inch minimum would do a better job balancing bass and bluegill populations and make fishing better for both species. Even though IDFG manages about half our local fisheries with bass, Largemouth Bass have been illegally introduced in Hawkins, Deep Creek, Devils Creek, and Treasureton reservoirs. Smallmouth Bass were illegally introduced in Blackfoot, Alexander, Twin Lakes, and Condie reservoirs. All of these introductions have occurred in the past 10 years. So you might be thinking, "Why don't we manage every reservoir for bass?" While we continue to offer a variety of bass fisheries, the water temperatures in southeast Idaho are actually better suited for coldwater fish species. Water temperature is an important factor driving how fast fish can grow. In reservoirs with only a few species, (trout and maybe a few dace), trout grow between 6-8 inches per year! In those cases, we can stock inexpensive fingerling trout that grow at maximum rates because food and water temperatures are ideal for trout most of the year. On the other hand, Largemouth Bass prefer much warmer water that is only available for three months during the summer. Local bass grow to 7 inches in about three years. After that, growth rates slow down to less than 1 inch per year. Add Bluegill and Crappie to the mix, and there is just not enough food to go around. In some of our reservoirs, there is intense competition for food, so growth is poor for all fish. We've also learned that in many of our small reservoirs, Largemouth Bass can have a big impact on trout survival. For example, we did a diet study this spring on the illegally introduced bass population in Treasureton Reservoir. About 81% of the bass diet was stocked hatchery rainbow trout! Long-term trout surveys show that none of the Rainbow Trout stocked over the past two years survived. While anglers are still catching a few big Rainbow Trout in Treasureton Reservoir, there are no replacements coming. Hawkins Reservoir is going down the same road. IDFG is committed to providing a diversity of quality fishing opportunities in southeast Idaho. We recognize the importance of our bass and panfish fisheries, but we also have an obligation to manage other waters for maximum trout production. Illegal introduction of Largemouth Bass in waters managed primarily or solely for trout takes opportunity away from anglers that prefer trout fishing. IDFG's objective to manage some waters solely for trout is not because we oppose bass. Rather, we are attempting to balance fishing opportunities to meet a diverse set of angling interests and offer as many different types of fishing experiences as possible at the lowest costs to our angling public. If you want to discuss this topic or any other fish management issue, please call me at 232-4703.



The River is Changing HFF Board Chair

It is no secret that over much of the summer, fishing has been slow on the Henry's Fork between Island Park Dam and Riverside. This reach is the most iconic on the river, the one that made its reputation as the best trout stream in the country, and the one that motivated a group of devoted anglers to form the Henry's Fork Foundation in the first place. The Board and staff of HFF have heard loud and clear from anglers – particularly those fishing the Railroad Ranch – that fishing is poor, releases from Island Park Dam have been well above average, and the water has been turbid. Many of us have personally experienced these same conditions and have stood in parking lots in Last Chance hearing directly from anglers, guides, outfitters, and business owners. We understand the negative impact that poor fishing has on the local economy, especially if current river conditions become the norm year after year. We understand that you are angry and frustrated, that you want answers to why the river is in its current condition, and that you want to know what HFF is doing about it.

As you've all heard before, the answers to these questions are complicated. Not a satisfying response to the current situation. However, the mission of the Henry's Fork Foundation is based on policies and actions driven by science and the legal and regulatory environment we live in. A technical memorandum to provide the facts behind the answers to the two questions can be seen on the HFF web site. To simplify, the short answers are these:

Why is the river in its current condition? – Answer: We are experiencing a nearly perfect storm of climatic and weather conditions that are resulting in adverse physical, biological, and chemical conditions in the river. Four years of drought; the hottest spring and summer ever recorded; reduced fish populations due to low winter flows; and much lower than average natural stream flows in the Henry's Fork watershed.

What is HFF doing about it? – Answer: Multi-faceted initiatives to increase winter flows, wild trout recruitment, and water quality have been underway for years. Our understanding of the chemistry and hydrology of the river informs policy-making at state and local levels to support these on-going efforts. When an opportunity arises to take action to achieve short-term positive effects, the HFF takes them. A recent case in point was holding Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative accountable for complying with the terms of its Federal Regulatory Commission license to operate the Island Park hydroelectric plant.

What next? Systemic changes in the storage, delivery, and use of water in Southeastern Idaho are necessary. Our goal is to identify 20 projects that would each provide 10 cfs of water that would replace water currently delivered from Island Park reservoir for irrigation, and thus provide 250 cfs of additional winter flow. These initiatives are described in the on the HFF web site.

The conditions we are experiencing now are symptoms of growing challenges of providing enough water, at the right temperature and quality, at the right times to secure the future of the Henry's Fork fishery. We welcome your input and questions and thank you for your love of and support for the Henry's Fork.



Youth Conservation Project - Garden Creek Willow Planting By Paul Patterson

One of Matt Woodard's early efforts for Trout Unlimited resulted in successfully reconnecting Garden Creek to the South Fork. However, initial efforts to reestablish willows on the lower portion of Garden Creek were less successful. Based on last year's successful willow planting youth project on Sheep Creek, Garden Creek was seen as another opportunity to involve the Snake River Cutthroats youth program in conservation.



Funds from the Expo were used to purchase potted willow and dog wood plants to increase the chance of successful plant establishment. Rockin T Construction, a company that has been involved in many Trout Unlimited stream restoration projects, used a track hoe with an auger to dig the holes, greatly speeding up the planting process. Plants were hauled to the site in a grain truck Matt borrowed from the family farm. While the youth group program focuses mostly on fishing, fly tying and other fun activities, having them involved in conservation is also deemed important.

Distributing the willows along the creek was the first order of business. Then it was time to break out the shovels to fill the hole to the appropriate level, insert the willow and fill the hole. Water was added to make sure the soil settled so there wouldn't be air pockets that would hurt the survival of the plants.

Thanks to the parents who provided transportation and to the parents who couldn't be there but allowed their children to participate in the project. Participants included five youth and eight adults. The youth group included: Garret, Landon, Cannon, Aiden and Daniel; and their parents/grandparent Kelly, Dana and Bob. Cutthroat members helping on the project included: Tim Cain – Youth Coordinator, Arn Berglund, Ron Hover, Matt Woodard and Paul Patterson. Thanks also to Conant Valley Ranch for allowing us to access the stream through their property.



Garden Cr. Willow Planting – Most of the Crew

Contact Tim Crain for more information about the Snake River Cutthroats youth program at 208-821-1646.

Recipe of the Month

Baked Trout Amadine

(Particularly good choice for cooking Yellowstone Park lake trout, South Fork rainbows and Fall River brookies)

. Serves 2 and is cooked in less than 30 minutes

Ingredients

- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 2 tbsp fresh parsley
- 1/2 tsp mustard powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- Pinch of black pepper
- 4 skinned trout filets (About 1 lb total)
- ¼ cup slivered almonds
- 1 tbsp melted butter

Directions

1. Put the buttermilk in a shallow bowl. In another shallow bowl, mix breadcrumbs, parsley, mustard powder, salt and pepper. Dip the trout filets in buttermilk, letting drain the excess, then put in the breadcrumbs flipping them to coat well (shake to remove the excess).
2. Put the trout fillets on a baking sheet that has oiled foil on it. Sprinkle almonds on them and drizzle with butter. Cook in a preheated oven of 450 F 8 to 12 minutes per inch of thickness or until it flakes easily with a fork.





Fly of the Month

Spuddler

Here's a fly out of the past that has a great reputation as a streamer and sculpin imitation. It was created by Red Monical and Don Williams and promoted by Dan Bailey. This is the time of year when streamer fishing is the best way to encounter big brown trout, and that is the original intent of this pattern.

- Hook: Mustad 79580, or equivalent, #2-8
- Thread: Brown 3/0
- Tail: Short brown calf tail
- Shoulder: Red wool
- Body: Cream wool
- Underwing: Brown calf tail
- Wing: Four dyed brown grizzly neck hackles
- Collar and head: Spun brown antelope hair clipped to shape of a spade



 2016-17 Calendar 	
Date	Activity
Tuesday November 1	SRC Board Meeting: 6:30
Wednesday November 9	SRC General Membership Meeting: 6:30 Speaker: Kelly Glissmeyer
Saturday December 3	Initial 2016-2017 Bug Club Meeting, 8:00 a.m. Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday December 6	SRC Board Meeting: 6:30
Wednesday December 14	Christmas Party Senior Citizens Center: 6:00 to 10:00
Saturday December 17	Bug Club Meeting: 8:00 a.m.
Saturday December 31	Bug Club Meeting: 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday January 3	SRC Board Meeting: 6:30
Wednesday January 11	SRC General Membership Meeting: 6:30 Speaker: Bruce Staples

Note: all membership and board meetings are at the Shilo Inn.
Board meetings are held in the VIP room and are open to all members.
General membership meetings are held in the Temple/River View rooms and are open to the public

Snake River Cutthroats
291 Dale Drive
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Snake River Cutthroats

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Outings: Mike Miller (208-357-5569)
Website: Tim Woodard (208-201-1669)
Youth: Tim Crain (208-821-1646)