

The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

December, 2019

A Message from the President *by Matt Woodard*

For over 20 years, Snake River Cutthroats Chapter (SRC) members have worked on a variety of projects near Leadore and North Fork Idaho to help Salmon, Steelhead, and resident trout. This work was facilitated by Forest Service Fisheries Biologist Dan Garcia. The work was demanding but it helped create life long relationships. Good stories and a communal sense of accomplishment were shared around the campfire.

Turn the page to 2019. Dan Garcia is poised to retire. The reality is that great people are promoted and move on, or, like Dan, retire after years of service to conservation. We were lucky to be able to partner with Dan and the Salmon Challis National Forest for so long and to complete some outstanding work.

Our job as the Snake River Cutthroats is to look forward and outward at possible new connections and partnerships to continue our commitment to fisheries conservation. One important opportunity we are looking at is working with Bryce Oldemeyer and The South Fork Initiative. There will be some new stream protection projects including fencing cattle off stream and willow plantings. We are constantly talking with our conservation partners to see where our chapter can best contribute.

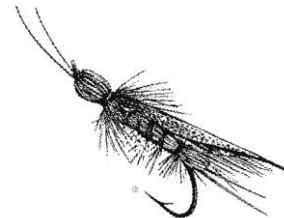
Everyone is busy this time of year, but I hope to see you at the Christmas Party on December 11th.

As the end of 2019 nears, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
(and great fishing wherever you cast a line!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 11th, 6:00 PM
Senior Citizen Center, Idaho Falls



SNAKE RIVER CUTTHROATS

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www.snakerivercutthroats.org



Christmas Party



**Wednesday December 11th Senior
Citizen Center West 25th St
Idaho Falls
Festivities begin at 6:00 PM
With dinner at 7:00 PM**

**Sign up at Jimmy's All Seasons Angler
Before December 5th**

\$15.00 per person

This is sure to be another fun event. Gifts and games will be part as well as great food. The club will provide another great catered meat.

According to your last name, please bring the following:

A through I - Will bring some kind of hot dish

J through R - Will bring some kind of desert,
S through Z - will bring some kind of salad

See functions to the right for which volunteers are needed.

Want to donate an item for the gift swap? Leave it at Jimmy's any time before Wednesday, December 5th.

Help Needed to Make Christmas Party a Success

Would you like to volunteer? Here's where help is needed.

Set-up: Be at the Senior Citizen's Center at 5:30 PM to help arrange tables and seating.

Gift Wrapping: We have someone to purchase gifts, but we need a few volunteers to help wrap these gifts. Time & place TBD

Clean-up: We need volunteers to clean up the Center and put things away after finishing. This will be done between 9 and 10 PM

**Contact Dave Pace: 208-360-5657,
dbpace@q.com**

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@cablone.net.

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



Don't Overlook Catching Whitefish in Idaho's Rivers and Streams

by

Roger Phillips, IDF&G

Anglers may be overlooking one of Idaho's abundant and fun-to-catch stream fish – mountain whitefish – and late fall and winter are some of the best times to catch them.

Before talking about catching whitefish, let's clear up a few misconceptions. Whitefish are not a so-called "trash fish," they're a native Idaho gamefish found in many rivers and streams, as well as some lakes. Some anglers might mistake them for suckers because of their slightly down-turned mouths, but whitefish are in the Salmonid family along with salmon, trout, char and grayling. They are plentiful in many rivers and streams throughout the state. According to Fish and Game's stream surveys, it's common for whitefish populations to outnumber trout by five to 10 times where the two coexist.

"Our past harvest records show catching whitefish was once a very popular activity in Idaho, but for some reason, interest has waned," said Joe Kozfkay, Fish and Game's State Fisheries Manager. "I can assure you it's not for a lack of fish, and anglers should reconsider whitefish and take advantage of this good fishing opportunity for a very plentiful species." Because whitefish are so abundant, Fish and Game offers a generous bag limit, typically 25 per day, but check rules for the body of water you're fishing to be sure.

Anglers should also be interested in whitefish because they will readily take a well-presented bait, fly or lure, they're similar in size to an average trout, they're scrappy when hooked, and they're a tasty, yet admittedly, a little bony. They are particularly well suited to smoked and pickled preparations, similar to the famous whitefish of the Great Lakes.

Whitefish spawn in the fall, typically in November, and school up during the spawning period, so where you catch one, you stand a decent chance of catching more. While some anglers may question targeting whitefish while they're spawning, angling pressure is unlikely to affect whitefish populations. One reason for the large population is each female produces many eggs. In one instance, a female sampled from the Big Wood River had 40,000 eggs. By comparison, trout average between 2,000 to 3,000 eggs with a large fish having 4,000 to 5,000. Young whitefish grow rapidly through their first three-to-four years, typically reaching 10 to 12 inches, and after reaching maturity, whitefish usually spawn every fall for the rest of their lives.

Whitefish can be long-lived, but slow growing as they age. A four-year-old whitefish might be 12-inches long, while a 15-inch fish could be 8 to 10-years old. One 16-inch fish sampled from the South Fork of the Snake River was 19 years old.

Whitefish are frequently found in pools and deeper runs below riffles. They tend to congregate near the bottom, which is the most likely place to catch them. They will also eat insects off the surface, but most of their feeding is below the surface. Fly anglers should try drifting weighted caddis, midge and stonefly nymphs through slow-to-moderate current, and they may want to add split shot or similar weights to quickly sink the flies near the bottom. Tandem flies with a larger, heavier fly trailed by a smaller fly is a good combination that will often attract hungry trout as well as whitefish.



It is Fly Tying Season!

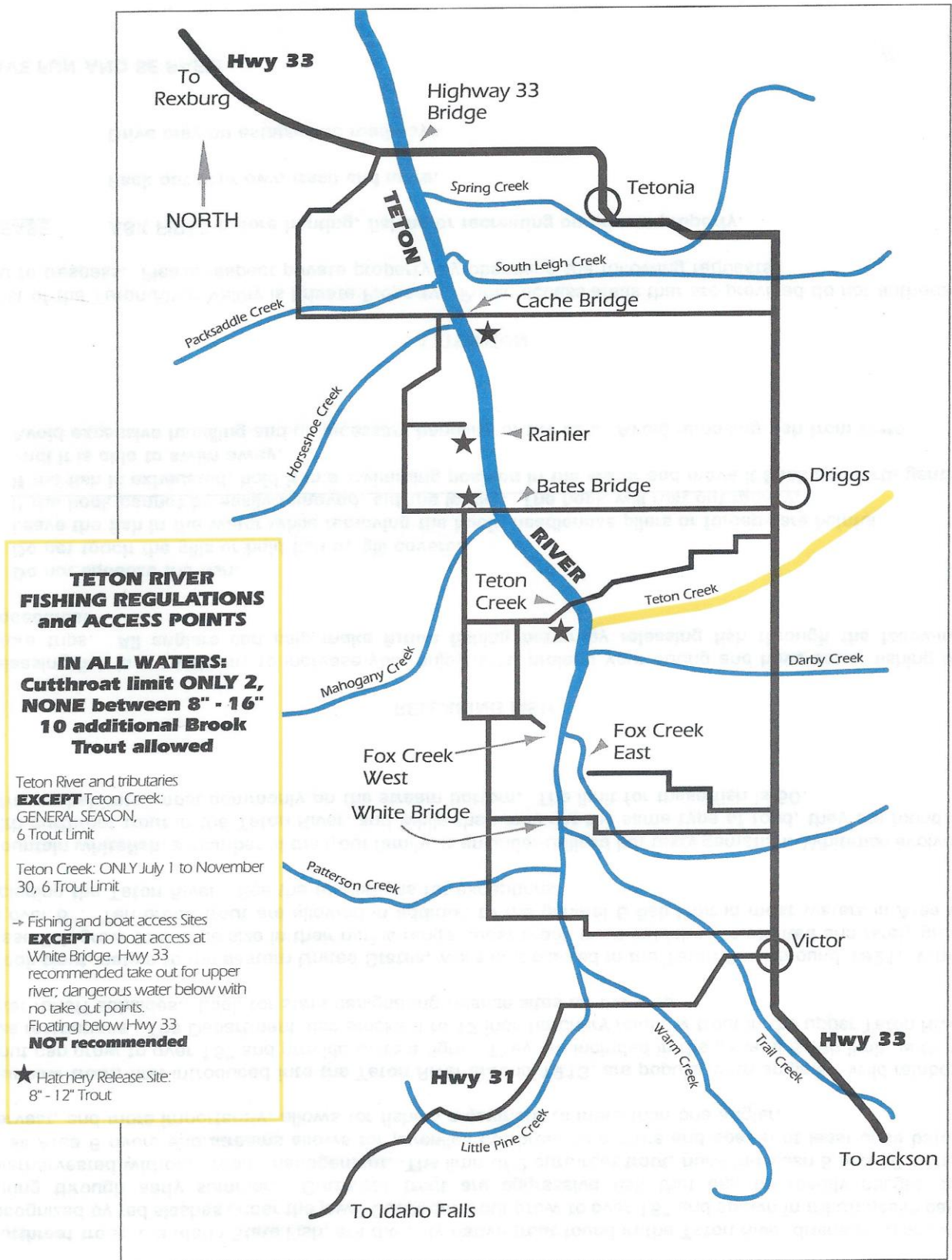


As happens this time of year, Ma Nature begins putting the hammer on fly-fishing. Ice in the guides and reels, cold extremities, bulky clothing, and hazardous road conditions or closures take some of the earlier season joy from being on the water. And as the season changes those of us living in the Snake River Plain experience the joys of living in a natural Venturi. That condition exists because prevailing westerly winds speed up to pass through the narrowing Plain bounded by impinging mountain ranges.

But fly-fishing has a multitude of facets, and many adherents turn to these when winds and low air temperatures make for seasonal outdoors discomforts. Fly-tying seems to be the most popular of these, and this can be observed by its activities that begin this time of the season. Local fly shops offer subject classes with entry-level workshops being the most popular. On demand, subjects within other levels of experience are offered. Locally, All Seasons Angler offers the longest tenured entry-level fly class by a retail shop, but the longest tenured entry-level fly tying class in the area is offered by the Snake River Cutthroats. This class, continuing to this year, began in 1972. Not to be outdone, All Seasons angler has offered winter time fly tying demonstrations for decades. It has also offered workshops by icon tiers including Royce Dam, Dave Whitlock and Chris Helm.

The east Idaho fly tying subculture is extensive and varied. With roots about the mid 20th century, it offered Bob Bean, Marcella Oswald, and Wally Welch. Later came Joe Ayre, James Bowen, Paul Bowen, Chuck Collins, Jimmy Gabettas, Doug Gibson, Buck Goodrich, Bing Lempke, Mike Lawson, Wes Newman, Doug and Maryanne Siepert, Bruce Staples, Stan Yamamura, and the House of Harrop, then more recently Kelly Glissmeyer, Gary Barnes, Gerry Randolph, Todd Lanning and John Stenersen, all achieving national attention on various levels with a few receiving awards. From it also came the Eastern Idaho Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo, first offered to showcase the local tying subculture but growing to a national event. Outside of the EIFTE, tying workshops offered by icon tiers include those on Atlantic salmon flies, and classic antique flies. Going further, fly tying clubs were formed. The longest tenured of these being the Bug Club, starting twenty-five years ago as the Rocky Mountain Fly Tying Guild to promote the tying and preservation of Atlantic flies, but developing into the Bug Club with purpose of preserving tying techniques and specific patterns. The Bug Club begins its 2019-2020 season, meeting alternate Saturdays starting this December 7th, for breakfast at Shari's Restaurant, Idaho Falls, 8 AM, with tying activities beginning at 9 AM. Contact Buck Goodrich (208-357-7328, or fayebugG@cableone.net) for schedule and details. Formed three years ago the club "Tie One On" has the purpose of spotlighting developing talent and bringing it to connection with the local subculture. Tie One On meets the third Tuesday each month October through March at Tap and Fill. Contact Rory Cullen (208-419-8477, or jc1313@cableone.net,) for schedule and details. So considering the low population of eastern Idaho, it is near impossible find any other area with a fly tying subculture that offers such a number of accomplished tiers per capita and generously promotes the art.

FYI



Recipe of the Month

Whitefish Chowder

3 – 4 quarts of fish stock (see recipe)

1 bay leaf

1 yellow onion, diced

2 ribs of celery, diced

2 garlic cloves, crushed

2 carrots, diced

2 cups of frozen corn

1 lb of baby Yukon gold potatoes cut into chunks, skins on

1½ – 2 lbs of whitefish chunks, no bones (Filet fish carefully first to remove bones)

1 cube of garlic scape pesto or 2 small garlic cloves finely diced

2½ sticks of butter

1 cup flour

½ cup of fresh Italian parsley, chopped

salt and pepper to taste

garnish with crispy bacon pieces (optional)

In a stockpot melt four tablespoons of butter (½ stick). Sauté onion, celery, carrots and garlic for 5 – 10 minutes over medium high heat, until onions are translucent. Add the fish stock, bay leaf and potatoes, bring to a boil, cook at a low boil for 20 minutes until potatoes are firm and fork tender. Add the whitefish chunks, corn and garlic scape pesto. Stir.

The Roux (thickener)

Melt two sticks of butter in a sauté pan over medium heat. Add flour to the butter a spoonful at a time, whisking continuously. Add enough flour to form a paste.

Slowly add the roux to the soup whisking constantly. This step is key to thickening the soup — going from soup to chowder with the snap of the fingers! The more roux you add the thicker the chowder becomes (thicken to your desired consistency). Add chopped fresh parsley, stir, salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with crispy bacon. Serve with your favorite oyster crackers or crusty bread. Bon appétit!

Fly of the Month

Brooks Montana Stone

This is Charlie Brooks' most enduring fly pattern. Created in the 1950's it still occupies fly bins in West Yellowstone fly shops. It is just as effective as the Rubberlegs for the upcoming winter season. Drift it over rocky substrate.

Hook: Mustad 9672, size 4-10
 Thread: Black 3/0
 Optional weight: 0.030-in. diameter fuse wire
 Tail: Forked crow or raven primary feather fibers
 Rib: Gold wire
 Body: Black fuzzy rug yarn
 Hackle: Grizzly and dyed brown grizzly saddle, each with fibers stripped from one side
 Gills: Light gray ostrich herl wrapped at hackle base



2017-18 Calendar

Date	Activity
Tuesday, December 3 rd	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Shilo Inn
Saturday, December, 7 th	First Bug Club Meeting 8 AM Shari's Restaurant
Wednesday, December 11 th	Xmas Party, Sr. Citizen's Center, 6 PM
Thursday, December 12 th	EIFTE Organizing Meeting 6 PM All Seasons Angler
Tuesday, December 17 th	Tie One On Meeting, 7 PM Tap & Fill
Saturday, December, 21 st	Second Bug Club Meeting 8 AM Shari's Restaurant
Saturday, January 4 th	Third Bug Club Meeting 8 AM Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday, January 7 th	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Shilo Inn
Wednesday, January 15 th	Membership Meeting, Guest Boots Allen
Tuesday, January 21 st	Tie One On Meeting, 7 PM Tap & Fill
Tuesday, February 4 th	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Shilo Inn
Wednesday, February 12 th	Membership Meeting, Guest Mike Glissmeyer

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

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

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President: Matt Woodard (208-221-1353)
Past President: Paul Patterson (208-569-8031)
Ex. Vice President: TBA
VP Conservation: Arn Berglund (208-569-2243)
Treasurer: Jim Mathias (208-684-4200)
Secretary: Joe Timchak (208-569-0630)

Senior Advisors

Gary Barnes
Jimmy Gabettas
Buck Goodrich
Ron Hover
Scott Long
Dave Pace
Bruce Staples
Marvin Stucki

Board of Directors

3 Yr Directors: Andy Bosworth (207-713-3457), Brian King (530-310-0529), Terrance Scott (503-432-6953)
2 Yr Directors: Kim Campbell (435-232-6608), Lee Morse (208-252-0703), Paul Voegeli (303-324-0104)
1 Yr Directors: Wade Allen (208-390-3130), John Rivera (208-528-7997), Bob Starck (208-589-9339)

Committee Chairs

Membership: Carol Staples (208-522-9242)
Historian/Newsletter: Bruce Staples (208-522-9242)
Education: Jeff Armstrong (208-522-7005)
Expo: Scott Long (208-520-3750), Rory Cullen (208-419-8477)
Programs: George Klomp (208-680-2762)/Bob Starck (208-589-9339)
Publicity: Rob Knox (760-419-1682)
Outings: Marv Stucki (208-589-9677)
Website: Scott Long (520-3750), Rob Knox (760-419-1682), Tim Woodard (208-201-1669)
Youth: Joe Timchak (208-569-0630)