

# The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

January, 2020

## A Message from the President *by Matt Woodard*

Happy New Year to You!

We made it through the holidays with that great Christmas party, and now we are in January in Idaho: snow, cold, slick roads, wind, etc.!!

Wintertime here provides us time to sit down at the fly-tying desk and build our favorite patterns at the vise. If you're like me, there are certain patterns that I use a lot and having quantities of these in your fly box is never a bad thing. It can also be a time to maybe think about building a new fly rod. Buying a blank and assembling your own custom-built rod is very satisfying. Our club offers several fly tying and rod-building opportunities.

It is shaping up to be another good water year. Reservoir storage on the Upper Snake is at 72% for the whole system with Palisades Reservoir sitting at 87% of capacity today. Snowpack levels are improving as well. The flow out of Palisades is 1,280 cfs and the flow at Heise is 1,780 cfs. Not quite optimum but we will take it. Likewise, flow out of Island Park Reservoir is a bit over 500 cfs, adequate to benefit especially young trout in the Henry's Fork below. More water gives us more insect life and provides more interstitial spaces for young trout to avoid being eaten by bigger fish. If we continue to have these flows and possibly even higher flows, we can look forward to great future fishing.

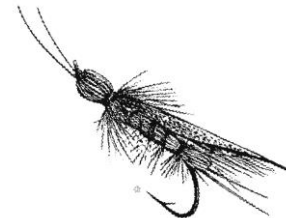
As we start into 2020, the Snake River Cutthroats is making an important change. This is moving the East Idaho Fly-Tying and Fly-Fishing EXPO to another location. We communicated with the Shilo some time back and they told us that they had neither a chef that could take care of us nor a working heating and cooling system. The EXPO committee has been working very hard to get a new location dialed in. This has been no easy task and I certainly appreciate the hard work and long hours that Scott Long, Rory Cullen, and a host of others are putting in to make this happen.

I hope to see you at the general meetings, the Tap and Fill fly tying gatherings (Nice job at the last one, Arn!), and most definitely the EXPO. Put these dates on your calendar now! Check out our website for times and dates at <https://snakerivercutthroats.org>

### UPCOMING EVENTS



**Boots Allen**  
**Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM**  
**Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls**



Snake River Cutthroats

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[www.snakerivercutthroats.org](https://snakerivercutthroats.org)



Denise Larsen



Boots Allen is a third generation fly fishing guide and tournament angler who each year

Boots Allen

12 Months in the Greater Yellowstone

If you visit the Yellowstone region anytime during the year, you will probably have a chance to fish within a two hour drive of your location. *Twelve Months in the Greater*

*Yellowstone* examines a diverse year-round fishery, emphasizing events such as winter midge and bwo emergences on the Henry's Fork, pre-runoff fishing on the Snake River, opening day on the Firehole and Madison rivers, Harriman State Park, and the Yellowstone River, fall brown runs above Jackson Lake, and fabulous stillwater fishing on Henry's, Hebgen, and Lewis lakes. If you are looking for a unique fishing experience in the Greater Yellowstone area, this informative and humorous presentation is for you.

<https://www.bootsallen.com/12-months-in-the-greater-yellowstone>

Denise Larsen passed away on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Born in Iowa but residing in and loving eastern Idaho, she had few peers with respect to a life-long love of children. She had six of her own, but through coaching, compassion, and motivating, many more benefitted from her love and devotion. Also an avid music lover, Denise played piano, sang in the local A Capella Chorus, and harmonized in the Upswing Barbershop Quartet.

Those were not Denise's only interests and commitments. She loved the outdoors and was a TU member. Whether hiking, photography, or fly-fishing she was an ardent participant. Yellowstone Park was special to her. With husband Chris she ventured as far as hiking to Shoshone Lake to enjoy some outstanding fly-fishing. Again with Chris, she had a lengthy record of participating in organizing the Eastern Idaho Fly-Tying & Fly-Fishing Expo, especially its live auction.

So Denise, a wide-scale and generous contributor, is a loss for all of us. She is the kind of person this world needs in bigger portions.

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](mailto:casbas@cablone.net).

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



This entry level fly tying class is the second oldest public event (first is the springtime public fly casting clinic). Stan Yamamura first offered this class during the winter of 1972-1973. He conducted it for two years, then Bruce Staples took over and conducted it until the winter of 1994-1995. Buck Goodrich has conducted it since. Since the 1970s local fly tying offerings have grown significantly. First, All Seasons Angler (ASA) offers an entry level class having a thirty year run. Likewise, ASA Saturday fly tying demos have the same run in time, along with certain special subject workshops. The Bug Club began meeting in the late 1990s, and Tie One On is in its third year. Fly tying is also taught in both local school districts.

## Snake River Cutthroats 2020 Beginning Fly Tying and Fly Rod Building Classes

**Beginning Fly Tying Class** - Beginning Fly Tying Class will start on Tuesday, January 21st, 2020 and will run for 6 weeks (Jan 21, 28, Feb 4, 11, 18 & 25). Sessions are 2 hours each starting at 7:00 PM. All basic fly tying techniques are taught with emphasis on local patterns that work. All materials and hooks plus comprehensive notes are supplied for the cost of \$40 (materials and hooks supplied by Jimmy's All Seasons Angler). Instructors are very experienced with an average of 20 years teaching fly tying. This is a great way to get started in a hobby for a lifetime. Students need to be 10 years old or older. Students need to bring the following tools; fly tying vise, scissors, a thread bobbin, hackle pliers, bodkin, half hitch tool, hair stacker and other useful tools. Not sure what tools to bring? Tools will be available to use at the first session. Tools can be purchased at Jimmy's All Seasons Angler 275 A Street, Idaho Falls (208-524-7160) or Sportsman's Warehouse in Ammon. For further information and to sign up contact Buck Goodrich 208-357-7328 ([www.snakerivercutthroats.org](http://www.snakerivercutthroats.org)).

**Fly Rod Building Class** - Rod Building Class will start on Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Meet at Jimmy's All Seasons Angler, 275 A Street, Idaho Falls at 6 pm. At this first session the students will learn what components to buy and where to buy the components. At later sessions the students will assemble and finish their fly rods. A comprehensive sets of notes will be supplied along with the use of all necessary tools to assemble and finish your fly rod for the cost of \$40. The instructors, Wade Allen and John Rivera are highly qualified with many years' experience both teaching and building rods. The class is designed to build a quality fly rod for fresh or salt water. The novice can easily build a rod with patience and this class. This is your chance to get a fantastic rod at half the cost. For further information and to sign up for this class contact Wade Allen at 208-390-3130 ([www.snakerivercutthroats.org](http://www.snakerivercutthroats.org)).





## 2019 Trout Population Estimates for the South Fork Reach of the Snake River

By  
P. Kennedy, 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 reach of the Snake River in fall, 2019 to evaluate the effectiveness of management actions on the river. Data from these surveys are used in decision making to achieve 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 reach in the upper river. This is an initial summary of our 2019 data from these reaches and may be subject to change with further review and analysis.

### Conant

In 2019, the total trout (Yellowstone Cutthroat, Brown, and Rainbow trout) abundance at Conant decreased from 6,253 trout/mi. to 4,953 trout/mi., but is higher than the 10-yr. average (2009-2018) of 4,625 trout/mi.

The Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT) estimate (1,962 YCT/mi.) was not significantly different than in 2018 (1,832 YCT/mi.), and was above the 10-yr. average (1,714 YCT/mi.). The estimated abundance of YCT comprised 39.6% of the total trout abundance estimate.

The Rainbow Trout (RBT) estimate (2,210 RBT/mi.) decreased significantly from record high last year (3,073 RBT/mi.), but was still above the 10-yr. average (1,860 RBT/mi.). The estimated abundance of RBT comprised 44.6% of the total trout abundance estimate.

The Brown Trout (BNT) estimate (781 BNT/mi.), decreased significantly from 2018 (1,347 BNT/mi.) and was below the 10-yr. average (1,051 BNT/mi.). The estimated abundance of BNT comprised 15.8% of the total trout abundance estimate.

### Lorenzo

In 2019, the total trout abundance in the Lorenzo reach (2,093 trout/mi.) increased from 2018 (1,513 trout/mi.), which is now above the 10-yr. average (1,862 trout/mi.).

The Yellowstone Cutthroat (YCT) estimate (483 YCT/mile) was not significantly different from the 2018 (460 YCT/mi.) was higher than the 10-year average (394 YCT/ mi.). The estimated YCT abundance comprised 23.1 % of the total trout abundance.

The Brown Trout (BNT) estimate, (1610 BNT/mi.), increased significantly from 2018 (1,052 BNT/mi.) which is now above the 10-yr. average (1,464 BNT/mi.). The estimated abundance of BNT comprised 76.9% of the total trout abundance estimate.

The catch for Rainbow Trout (RBT) was too low to generate an estimate so is not directly comparable to the other estimates of species composition listed here. However, we caught 36 Rainbow Trout during sampling which comprised 2.2% of total trout catch.



## Scoping Process Begins for Madison River Alternatives

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Park (FWP) is beginning a public process to gauge public support and collect feedback on various alternatives for dealing with crowding and conflict on the Madison River.

The process, known as scoping, will ask the public their opinions on various alternatives to addressing four main issues: commercial fishing outfitter management, social conflict management on the upper river, lower river recreational management, and angler use management on the upper river. The form of this process will be a public survey.

Additionally, the public will weigh in on their support for a management goal for recreational use on the river.

The scoping process comes at the direction of the Fish and Wildlife Commission, which met earlier this month to hear petitions from various interest groups proposing solutions to recreation management on the Madison River. The commission denied all three petitions but directed the department staff to insert the options proposed within the petitions into a scoping process.

The public will have 40 days to comment. Once the scoping process is complete, the department will consider the survey results and draft a proposed rule, which is slated to go before the commission in February. The commission will then choose whether or not to put the proposed rule out for public comment.

"It's taken a long time and a lot of work to get to this point where we can officially collect input on our next steps," said FWP director Martha Williams. "People are passionate about the Madison River, and we know it's important for us to consider all interests in moving forward. We're committed to doing just that."

In addition to taking the survey, people can submit written comments to [madisonrivercom@mt.gov](mailto:madisonrivercom@mt.gov).

The survey can be found at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RDWKFXW>.



## Recipe of the Month

### Trout Baked in Foil

#### INGREDIENTS

- **Extra virgin olive oil**
- **4 small (10-12 inches) trout, boned**
- **Salt**
- **freshly ground pepper**
- **2 lemons, one sliced, one cut in wedges**
- **8 fresh tarragon or dill sprigs, or 4 rosemary sprigs**
- **Chopped fresh tarragon, dill or parsley for serving**

#### PREPARATION

1. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Cut four sheets of heavy duty aluminum foil or eight sheets of lighter foil into squares that are three inches longer than your fish. If using lighter foil, make four double-thick squares. Oil the dull side of the foil with olive oil, and place a trout, skin side down, on each square. Season both sides with salt and pepper, and open them out flat. Place two tarragon or dill sprigs (or one rosemary sprig) and two lemon slices down the middle of each, and fold the two sides together. Drizzle 1/2 teaspoon olive oil over each fish.
2. Making sure that the trout are in the middle of each square, fold up the foil loosely, grabbing at the edges and crimping together tightly to make a packet. Place on a baking sheet, and bake for 10 to 15 minutes, checking one of the packets after 10 minutes. The flesh should be opaque and pull apart easily when tested with a fork.
3. Place each packet on a plate. Carefully cut across the top to open it, taking care not to let the steam from inside the packet burn you. Gently remove the fish from the packet, and pour the juices over it. Sprinkle with fresh tarragon, dill or parsley. Serve, passing the lemon wedges.

## Fly of the Month

### Blackfoot River Special

The Blackfoot River hosts a big crawfish population, and this is a reason for its good trophy cutthroat population. This pattern by Larry Criner is meant to imitate a crawfish. So all you Blackfoot River enthusiasts should have some in your fly box no matter where you fish the river.

Hook: Mustad 9672, size 1-2  
 Thread: Black 6/0  
 Optional weight: 0.030-in. diameter fuse wire  
 Rib: Counter-wrapped oval gold tinsel  
 Body: Hot orange chenille  
 Hackle: Soft ginger palmered around body  
 Collar: Mallard flank tied soft hackle style



### 2019-2020 Calendar

Date	Activity
Saturday, January 4 <sup>th</sup>	Third Bug Club Meeting 8 AM Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday, January 7 <sup>th</sup>	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Shilo Inn
Wednesday, January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Membership Meeting, Guest Boots Allen, Shilo Inn
Saturday, January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fourth Bug Club Meeting 8 AM Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday, January 21 <sup>st</sup>	Tie One On Meeting, 7 PM Tap & Fill
Saturday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Fifth Bug Club Meeting 8 AM Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday, February 4 <sup>th</sup>	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, location TBD
Wednesday, February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Membership Meeting, Guest Mike Glissmeyer, location TBD
Saturday, February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Sixth Bug Club Meeting 8 AM Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday, February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Tie One On Meeting, 7 PM Tap & Fill
Saturday, February 29 <sup>th</sup>	Seventh Bug Club Meeting 8 AM Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, location TBD

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**  
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Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
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## ***Snake River Cutthroats***

### **Club Officers**

**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  
Cal Johnson  
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)