

# The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

February, 2020

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

Well, we've made it through the dog days of January and, before long, better weather and open water will let us test our skills as fishermen! January has provided us with good moisture. The snowpack levels are rising in both the South Fork and Henry's Fork watersheds. Reservoir storage is looking very good as well. All of this is good news for fish and fishermen!

If you have been following the news, you should be aware that the current administration has dialed back many stream protections under the Clean Water Act. The oil and gas industry have lobbied hard to severely cut or eliminate clean water protections. These actions could be disastrous in so many ways and certainly horrific for the waterways and fish we care about.

Congressman Mike Simpson has typically been a champion for conservation issues in Idaho. He recently stated that he hoped he lived long enough to see healthy populations of salmon and steelhead return to Idaho. Unfortunately, Representative Simpson is supporting the degradation of the Clean Water Act. Perhaps the political pressures of partisan politics outweigh common sense and a commitment to our environment. Call, write, e-mail all our legislators to let them know your position. Be a citizen lobbyist for those things you really care about.

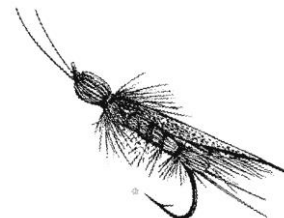
Stay well-informed and do not hesitate to let those who represent you hear from you.

Trout Unlimited, in concert with other conservation organizations who place a high value on clean air and water, work hard at both the national and state level every day to fight for our rivers and streams. Thank you for your ongoing participation and support of Trout Unlimited.

### UPCOMING EVENTS



**Mike Glissmeyer**  
**Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM**  
**Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls**



Snake River Cutthroats

1

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



## Enjoying Winter Fishing

Mike Glissmeyer

Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30

PM

Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls



This time of the year most of us put fly-fishing on the back burner and turn to fly tying, rod building, or catch up on reading. Mike Glissmeyer is one of those hearty souls that does not let Old Man Winter interfere with his fly-fishing. Born and spending some of his youth in southern Utah, his Dad Kelly introduced him to the joys of fly fishing and fly tying. You could not find a better teacher than his Dad for passing on these activities. With this base and through moving to east Idaho he experienced our unmatched array of quality waters. Now Mike has arrived as an experienced professional managing Idaho Fishing Outfitters where he continues his quest to learn how to fish regional waters including during winter. How to enjoy winter fishing with emphasis on comfort, equipment, and strategy will be the subject of his presentation.

## Bug Club and Tie One On Chugging Away



Brandon Morrison Ties One On



Buck Goodrich ties a Bug Club Bug

Both these get-togethers feature camaraderie as well as fly tying and storytelling. Tie One On meets 7-8 PM the third Tuesday each month through March at Tap & Fill. The Bug Club meets 8-9 AM alternate Saturdays through March at Shari's Restaurant.

### 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.



## Teton River 2019 Electrofishing Summary

by  
**Brett High and Jenn Vincent, IDF&G**

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game surveys two monitoring reaches on the Teton River every other year to provide valuable information for management decisions. Management goals for the Teton River are 1: Preserve genetic integrity and population viability of wild native cutthroat trout; 2: Restore connectivity and natural hydrology, as possible, to improve spawning, rearing migration success of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT); and 3: Minimize impacts of land use and development on fish habitat and water quality. Information from our population surveys provides valuable insight into how management efforts are affecting fish populations relative to management objectives. The two monitoring reaches regularly sampled are the Nickerson and Breckenridge reaches, both in the Teton River valley. The Nickerson Reach is near the confluence of Teton Creek, and the Breckenridge reach is near the Packsaddle or Cache Bridge. The following is a preliminary summary of the results from the 2019 surveys.

**Nickerson Reach-** We estimate there are 697 Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT)/mile which is similar to our 2017 estimate of 704 YCT/mile and the ten year average of 561 YCT/mile. Rainbow Trout abundances have decreased over the last two surveys to an estimated 526 RBT/mile. The ten year average for Rainbow Trout is 736 RBT/mile. Brook Trout (BKT) followed the same downward trend as Rainbow Trout. We estimate the 2019 Brook Trout abundance to be 1,603 BKT/mile which is lower than our last two surveys but higher than the ten year average of 1,351 BKT/mile.

**Breckenridge Reach-** The abundance of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT) in this reach is similar to our estimates conducted over the last eight survey years. We estimate that there are 67 YCT/mile in 2019. The 10 year average is 31 YCT/mile. Rainbow Trout (RBT) abundances have decreased over the last 3 surveys to the 2019 estimate of 802 RBT/mile which is also lower than the 10 year average of 1,257 RBT/mile. We estimate an abundance of 673 Brook Trout (BKT)/mile which is slightly lower than our 2017 estimate of 886 BKT/mile. The ten year average of Brook Trout is 549 BKT/mile. Brown Trout (BNT) have been observed at the Breckenridge Reach during electrofishing surveys since 2007. Between 2007 and 2013, we captured low numbers (one to seven fish) of Brown Trout in our population surveys. Since 2013 Brown Trout (BNT) catches have increased to 28, 32 and 145 during our 2015, 2017 and 2019 surveys respectively. This indicates a change in the trout species composition for this reach. Over the last three survey years our percentage of catch has increased for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, Brook Trout and Brown Trout while simultaneously decreasing our Rainbow Trout catch (Table 1).

**Table 1.** The percentage of catch per species for the 2015, 2017 and 2019 in the Breckenridge monitoring reach, Teton River.

	YCT	RBT	BKT	BNT
2015	2.5%	70.8%	24.7%	1.9%
2017	5.4%	52%	39.9%	2.8%
2019	4.2%	34%	54%	7.9%

## A Great Product for Combating Giardia



The Solution

It used to be that many of our streams and some still waters offered safe drinking water. For example, Jim Gabettas, Senior has stories of no problem repeatedly using spring water for drinking and cooking while working in his Dad's sheep allotment during the 1950s in the mountains of the Tincup Creek drainage. Up until about twenty years ago I regularly drank from many of Yellowstone Park's back country waters. I found an isolated spring feeding east Idaho's Cranes Creek. I drank from it regularly during a day of enjoying Cranes Creek's superb but currently much depleted cutthroat, brookie, and brown trout populations.

Then came awareness of what Giardia Lamblia can do to your innards. I watched friends that had ingested this protozoa and witnessed their resulting misery. During a fishing outing it is impractical to boil natural water, and dissolving iodine or purifying tablets left the water with a lousy taste. After asking around for a better solution, Dave Vanek a retired surgeon and fishing friend, suggested trying a PUR water filter. I bought one from a local outdoor business. Operation of the unit consisted of pumping water through an external particulate filter from a natural source to and through its fraction-of-a-micron internal filter then into a container from which to drink. It worked just fine for many years with essential maintenance being annual internal filter cartridge replacement and an end-of-the-fishing season thorough washing. The only drawback to this fine product was its relative bulk (about a foot long and three inches in diameter), external pump, and lengthy plastic tubing through which water is hand-pumped past the external filter then into and out of the unit. Being a "travel light, but travel right" enthusiast, I recently began looking around for a less bulky but equally effective product. I soon found it in the LifeStraw water filter. Let me pass on some details and relate that a LifeStraw filter can be purchased locally for about twenty bucks. It weighs 2 oz. and can fit in a shirt or fishing vest pocket. Sip on the 'Straw, and water is filtered through a hollow fiber membrane on the way to your mouth. Sip water directly from its surface through the 'Straw, or fill your bottle with water then sip it through the 'Straw. The 0.2 micron filter removes 99.9999% of all bacteria and 99.9% of all protozoa such as giardia and cryptosporidium. It purifies as much as 1000 liters. Blowing through the 'Straw after drinking keeps its filter clean and prevents clogging. You can see more details of this product on its web site [info@lifestraw.com](http://info@lifestraw.com).



## Mackay Reservoir Cutthroats Cold Kokanee Catch Trip By Arn Berglund

On Saturday Jan. 25 the hearty of the club headed out on the hard water of Mackay Reservoir for the inaugural Cutthroats Cold Kokanee Catch. We headed out complete with ice rods, Swedish Pimples, meal worms, ice augers, ice shelters, food, a grill and a variety of liquid refreshment both hot and cold. The weather was good, the scenery unbelievable and fishing was great. The hearty participants included: Andy and Jamie Bosworth, Justin and Liam Stover, Cory and Mary Ann Lyman, Jordon Doty, Arn and Eric Berglund, Hanna Olson, Trayson Mallow, Dave Pace, Brian King, Wes Stumbo, Dan Kotansky and Dale Calflin. Not sure if Jack Daniels or Jim Beam was present! Close to a hundred kokanee are headed to the brine and smoking, along with a couple of trout. A good time was had by all.



**Recipe of the Month**  
**By**  
**Arn Berglund**

I think kokanee, landlocked sockeye salmon, are at their best when they are smoked. Being a diehard Swede smoking fish is in my blood. Here is my recipe.

**Brine**

1 c. Kosher salt  
¼ tsp garlic powder  
¼ tsp onion powder  
¼ tsp red pepper flakes  
10 c. water



1. You can either fillet your kokanee or just remove the heads and gut, which is the way I do it.
2. Mix up the brine ingredients in a covered plastic bowl big enough for the brine and up to 8 kokanee. Make sure it is well mixed. Put the fish in the brine and let them sit covered for 24 to 36 hours.
3. Cut your flavoring wood into chips no larger than 2" X ¼" chips. Soak your flavored wood until it is well soaked. Save the water and put the wood chips in an aluminum foil packet and punch a few holes in the packet.
4. I use a charcoal smoker, and wet smoke. So when I have the charcoal lit in my smoker, I put the flavor packet on top of them. Put the soaking water in the water bowl and add water to fill the bowl about ¾ full. Make sure the bowl is not sitting on the coals. My smoker suspends it above them.
5. I oil my grill and I can put up to 8 kokanee on a 16" grill. Be sure the fish are spaced so the smoke can get all the way around them. I put the grill in the smoker and put on the smoker lid and smoke the fish at 175-200 degrees. I usually smoke at night in the winter and just leave the fish in the smoker until it burns out. By morning the fish have cooled down and are ready to package.

Get in touch ([fishvik@aol.com](mailto:fishvik@aol.com)) if you have questions.

**Glad att äta**

## Fly of the Month

### Syl's Midge

Sylvester Nemes was the ultimate soft hackle fly champion. He offered a soft hackle pattern for most aquatic insects, especially for their emerging stage. Emerging midges make up the bulk of aquatic insect activity in regional streams for the next several weeks. Thus Syl's Midge, easy to tie, and made from common materials should be a fly box standard during this period. Present it downstream to rising fish by using the old but effective Leisenring Lift.

**Hook:** Daichi 1170, or equivalent, #16  
**Thread:** Olive, 8/0  
**Body:** Peacock herl  
**Hackle:** A turn or two of small grey partridge hackle



### 2020 Calendar

Date	Activity
Saturday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sixth Bug Club Meeting 8 AM, Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday, February 4 <sup>th</sup>	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Shilo Inn
Wednesday, February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Membership Meeting, Guest Mike Glissmeyer, Shilo Inn
Saturday, February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Seventh Bug Club Meeting 8 AM, Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday, February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Tie One On Meeting, 7 PM Tap & Fill
Wednesday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>	Steelhead and Salmon meeting, 7 PM IDF&G office
Saturday, February 29 <sup>th</sup>	Eighth Bug Club Meeting 8 AM, Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	SRC Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, location TBD
Wednesday, March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Membership Meeting, Climate Change Impacts, location TBD
Saturday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ninth Bug Club Meeting 8 AM, Shari's Restaurant
Tuesday, March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Tie One On Meeting, 7 PM Tap & Fill
Friday, Saturday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	East Idaho Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo, location TBD
Tuesday, April 7 <sup>th</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**  
291 Dale Drive  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**NON-PROFIT STD**  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
Idaho Falls, ID  
Permit no. 15

## ***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)