

# The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

May, 2021

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

Greetings, Anglers!

As the weather continues to improve, I hope that many of you have had a chance to get out and wet your lines and maybe get a tug or two.

We usually have an annual business meeting in May, in part to select new officers and oversee a "changing of the guard". I will be stepping down as Chapter President and Arn Berglund has agreed to take on that position. I will become Past President. Arn's job as Conservation VP will be open and we should not expect him to do both jobs. The Executive Vice President position is open as well as three of the one-year Directors positions. If those currently serving in the one-year slots wish to keep serving on the Board, please let me know. We are always interested in having new people join our Board of Directors and help with various chapter functions. If you have questions about the duties and responsibilities of any position in the club, please contact me. We are currently trying to decide if we can / should have this May business meeting outside in someone's back yard with ample room for social distancing. If that does not work, we will fall back to a Zoom meeting.

We had Damon Keen (Henry's Lake Foundation) and Jennifer Vincent (IDFG Fisheries Biologist) scheduled April 14<sup>th</sup> Zoom to talk about Henry's Lake. If you miss the opportunity to see this, you can watch their presentation on Facebook.

I hope that some of you have participated in the online raffles that the chapter has been running. There have been some nice items, and we will continue these based on participation. My thanks to Dave Pace and Myles Pawlaczyk for managing the raffles.

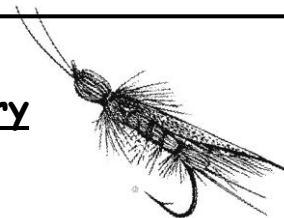
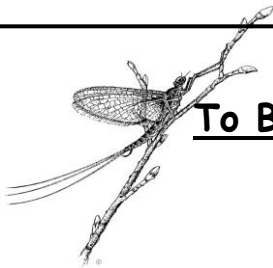
It has been a challenging time to keep things moving in a positive direction and stay relevant as a club. We miss spending time in each other's company. The pandemic wears on us after a while.

We are looking into the possibilities of resuming our annual Fly-Tying Fly-Fishing EXPO for 2022. Hopefully, a year from now, the worst of the COVID Pandemic will be behind us!

Be well and stay safe!!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

To Be Determined Pending C-19 Recovery



Snake River Cutthroats

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



April was a month of sadness for  
East Idaho flyfishing

### Allen Thiel

Many of us did not know Allen. He was a member of the Thiel family that farms extensive land west of Idaho Falls. Allen was a man not easily swayed from his convictions. One of which he held dearly was the protection of regional cold water fisheries and their immediate habitat. He had a special love for waters in Yellowstone Park where he worked seasonally. Allen was in Dr. Jim McCue's group that founded the Snake River Cutthroats back in 1972. Allen remained an SRC member up to his passing in April.

### Dr. Harley Reno

Known for his doctorate level education in fisheries science, approachability, and for utmost generosity in sharing information on all aspects of cold water fisheries, Dr. Reno passed in March. Science and being a university level professor were not only of Dr. Reno's (known to many of us as Harley) accomplishments in and gifts to fly fishing. He designed, fashioned, and applied fly tackle, created fly patterns, guided, and was an collector of antique angling equipment. Harley, a long time SRC & FFI member and EIFTE contributor will be sorely missed.

### Report of the April SRC Board of Directors Meeting By Paul Voegeli

Brett High IDFG Regional Fisheries Manager presented an update on local/regional fisheries. Waters discussed were: Henry's Fork, Teton River, South Fork, all of which are generally in very good shape. One major goal in 2021 for IDFG is the removal of 12,000 rainbow trout to attain better balance and opportunity for the native Yellowstone Cutthroat species. IDFG appreciates anglers helping to remove rainbow trout from the South Fork in particular. Brett discussed details of the generally very healthy fish numbers in all three local waters

Usual and customary SRC business was conducted next via Zoom meeting with the following matters of note for the SRC/TU general membership:

The Board of Directors voted unanimously in favor of allocating requested grant funding submitted in the amount of ten thousand dollars by Dave Westkamp of the South Fork Initiative for their "Bridge to Bridge" project. The grant helps fund South Fork reclamation and restoration a major focus SRC/TU on our home waters. The Eastern Idaho Fly Tying Expo was discussed frankly and in detail by the Board.

The many variables and considerations for the Expo were brought forth for review. After careful consideration, the Board voted to proceed with getting underway so that this venerable tradition of the Eastern Idaho fishing and fly tying culture and community it will again be a much-anticipated event in t Spring of 2022.

The venue for the upcoming SRC May general membership meeting is being arranged and will be announced once final arrangements have been made. Please consider becoming active in the SRC as a member of the Board of Directors or participating in club activities. May is the month for the election SRC officers and directors.

### 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 projects. The fish will appreciate your cost-saving efforts.



## Trout populations are Strong in the Henrys Fork near St. Anthony

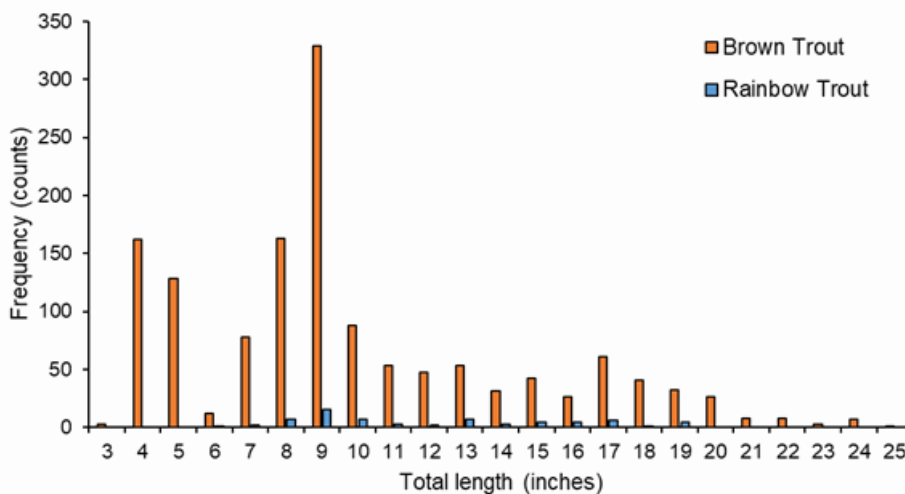
by

John Heckel, Regional Fisheries Biologist

In early [October 2020](#), we conducted our 6<sup>th</sup> population estimate on the St. Anthony reach of the Henrys Fork Snake River. This estimate is conducted in the fall every three years and extends from the Railroad Bridge downstream to the Red Road Bridge. Based on our sampling data since 2010, we can see an increasing trend in Brown Trout abundance in this reach.

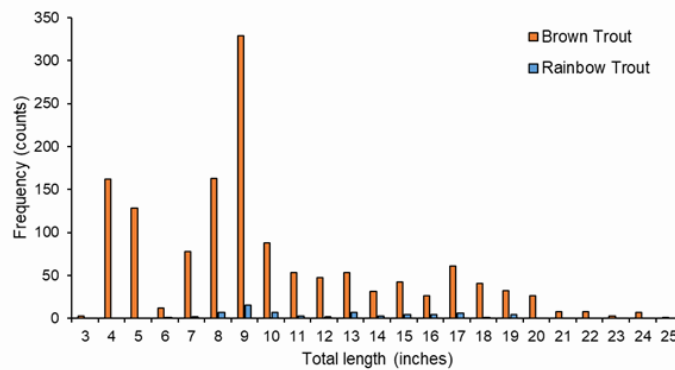


We can see in the figure above that the number of Brown Trout per mile has been increasing since we started surveying the reach in 2004 while Rainbow Trout abundance has remained low and relatively constant. Currently, Brown Trout make up 96% of the trout composition in this reach where we caught 1,468 trout in total. As can be seen in the images, there are some very large Brown Trout with fish up to 25" in this reach!

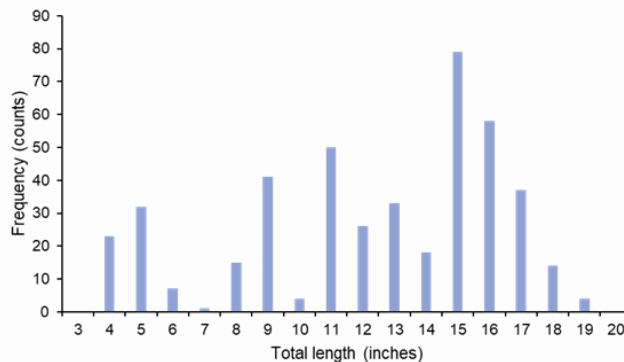




The trout population in this portion of the Henrys Fork is managed as a wild trout fishery, so these large trout captured in this reach are in fact wild fish. Therefore, referring to the length distribution of fish captured here, this section of river grows some very large trout.



Although water temperature in this section of the Henrys Fork can become warmer than 70°F during portions of the summer, trout can find thermal refugia from groundwater and spring inputs that help coldwater fish remain cool. In addition to Brown and Rainbow trout, we also estimated Mountain Whitefish abundance in the reach. There were 685 whitefish per mile. Based on our length frequency data from Mountain Whitefish we observed several age classes present, which is evident by the multiple peaks in different length groups.



Survey results indicate sport fish populations in the St. Anthony reach are healthy and in good numbers. Managing this section of the river as a wild trout fishery with a 2 trout limit appears to be conducive for growing large fish and allowing population numbers to increase.

## Bing Lempke and the Blue Dotter



During his broadcasting days, Dizzy Dean used the term Blue Dotter to describe a three-base hit. Bing admired Dizzy and his baseball broadcasting style, and thus named one of his dry mayfly dun patterns Blue Dotter. Tied in a manner close to that of Catskill dry flies it has four basic components on a hook: tail, wing, body and hackle, all near Catskill proportion. Not only did Bing create patterns tied in this style, but he created stone fly dries in the Trude and in other styles. Known for his elegant extended body patterns for mayflies and hoppers, he created others such as his WR-16 emerger, rusty spinner, and aquatic wasp patterns.

One June day in the late 1960's Bing was fishing the Wood Road 16 area of the Henry's Fork in the lower Railroad Ranch and having good success presenting his Blue Dotter to rising trout. On his wife Dorothy's request, he kept a three-pound rainbow trout for dinner. On heading back to his truck he noted Dorothy talking to another fisherman's wife with that man approaching from another direction. As this man came up to Bing and the women, he told of catching only one fifteen inch rainbow. He asked Bing about fishing success to which Bing displayed the dinner-bound rainbow.

"What fly did you use to catch that fish?", harrumphed the angler.

"One of my creations I call Blue Dotter. It sure worked well today," Bing replied.

"I never heard of a blue and yellow fly, growled the frustrated angler while walking away.

The next day Bing returned to the same water and the Blue Dotter remained just as effective.

Upstream he saw the angler he encountered the previous day. After catching and releasing several fish, he walked upstream to ask of that angler's success. "How are you doing?", Bing asked

"Not so well." Came the grumpy reply to which Bing responded, "Try a Blue Dotter. They're working well today!"

"Naw, you ain't gonna get no fish on a blue and yellow fly." came the reply.

"Here just take and try some. You won't be sorry," Bing responded.

All right!," came the grudging reply, and Bing turned to continue fishing. At the end of the day

Bing found the angler waiting by his truck. "Did those Blue Dotters work for you?", he asked.

"They sure did, and I want to thank you for them. They made my day!" So besides catching fish, the Blue Dotter made a friend for Bing.

I offer this information to show that Bing was a fly tier of broad-ranged skills. Add this to his generosity in gifting examples of his flies, his uncanny ability to read waters, his knowledge of aquatic insect life cycles, and his uniquely positive and cheerful personality and it is no wonder he is considered Idaho's most renowned fly tying personality.



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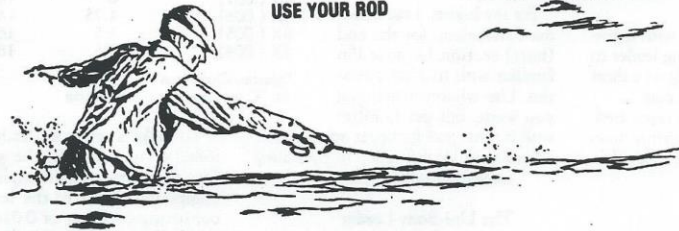
## 2 How To Wade A River

Wading looks easy enough, but it can turn into a dangerous situation if you are swept off your feet in the swift current. The rules for safe wading are simple. First, never take a step in any direction unless your rear or anchor foot is firmly planted. Next, *slide* your lead foot forward until it is secure. When your lead foot is firmly planted, then slide your anchor foot ahead. Never try to wade by lifting your feet. The current will swing your leg out from under you and throw you off balance. Avoid wading big, wide stretches of river. It is safer to wade from pool to pool, taking advantage of slower current to rest. There are several other points to remember when wading:

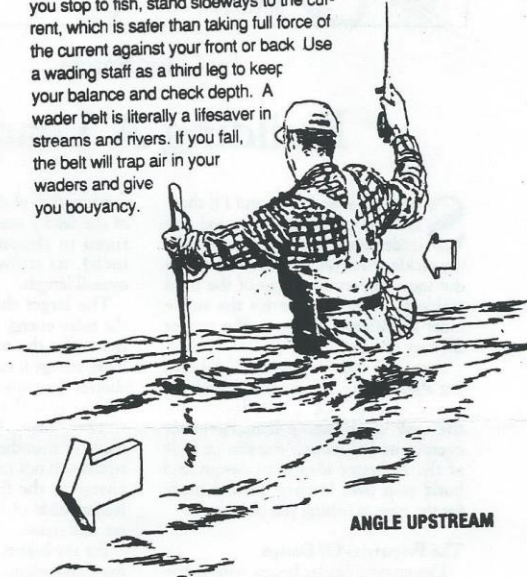
**PLAN A ROUTE** before you step into any stream. Always wade at an angle, quartering upstream as much as possible. When you stop to fish, stand sideways to the current, which is safer than taking full force of the current against your front or back. Use a wading staff as a third leg to keep your balance and check depth. A wader belt is literally a lifesaver in streams and rivers. If you fall, the belt will trap air in your waders and give you buoyancy.

**LOSING BALANCE** in a fast current can be frightening, but you can always use your fishing rod to keep from going down in the current. When you feel yourself falling, lower your rod into the river and push it underwater. Its buoyancy will often be enough to help you regain your balance. Don't worry. You won't break the rod.

USE YOUR ROD



ANGLE UPSTREAM



**IF YOU FALL**, don't panic. Always ride downstream feet first until you can grab a branch or rock and get yourself back on your feet. Never ride the current head first. There is always the danger of striking your head. Make the current work for you. Use your arms and pick a course toward shore and safe ground.



IF YOU FALL

76 OUTDOOR LIFE/MAY 1995

## Fly of the Month

### Blue Dotter

Bing created this pattern in a manner close to the Catskill mayfly dun style. It could be used as a Pale Morning Dun (PMD) when tied in size 14-18. Bing used it as such primarily on the Last Chance-Harriman and Wood Road 16 reaches of the Henry's Fork, and at certain times on the South Fork for a pink albert and likely as a PMD on the upper Teton River and on the Snake River in the Tilden area as a snowflake dun. In smallest sizes it simulates a trico. It is tied with easily available material but has not been in popular use for decades.

**Hook:** TMC 100, or equivalent, size 14-20  
**Thread:** Black, 8/0 or 6/0  
**Tail:** Medium blue dun hackle fibers  
**Body:** Pale olive dubbing or yarn  
**Wing:** Upright and divided mallard quill segments  
**Hackle:** Two dry fly quality medium blue dun hackles



### 2021 Calendar

Date	Activity
Wednesday, May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Annual Business Meeting
Depending on regional C-19 reduction progress, club outings may begin this summer. These will be announced on the SRC web site and will include destination, time, and contact information.	
Note: all membership and board meetings are held via ZOOM until further notice. Visit <a href="http://www.snakerivercutthroats.org">www.snakerivercutthroats.org</a> or the Cutthroats Facebook page for a link to access membership meetings, outings, and other activities via ZOOM.	

**Snake River Cutthroats**  
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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:** Arn Berglund (208-569-2243)  
**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  
Bob Starck

### **Board of Directors**

**3 Yr Directors:**), Dakota Roberson (307- 389-5896), Mike Glissmeyer (208-569-3843) Jamie Campbell-Lavallee (207-212-0595)  
**2 Yr Directors:**Charlie Allen (208-360-1302), Andy Bosworth (207-713-3457). Brian King (530-310-0529)  
**1 Yr Directors:** Wade Allen (208-390-3130), Paul Voegeli (303-324-0104), Lee Morse (208-252-0703)

### **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)  
**Youth:** Joe Timchak (208-569-0630)  
**IT:** Miles Pawlaczyk (949-701-2767)