

The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

2nd Quarter, 2023

ARN

The untimely event of June 22nd leaves us with heavy hearts and a lingering disbelief. Arn, a unique personality, championed protection of cold water fisheries and their habitat both professionally and in retirement. As much as time permitted, he was in the field conducting, directing, or planning actions to preserve or improve.



These, for Arn, were lifetime commitments. They began in southwestern Connecticut with limited natural habitat. He learned fly fishing through visits to Connecticut's Farmington River drainage where he also began ice fishing. In doing these activities he came to know the seasonal changes of the natural world. But Connecticut was limited for his growing outdoor interests, so it was off to the University of Idaho to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree in fisheries management. After completion, he did seasonal jobs in such as Idaho's Clearwater drainage. Then he went on to Winnemucca, Nevada to study the status of cutthroat and red band trout. Next was a move to Utah state BLM office for more agency fisheries studies. When in the early 2000s an opening arrived in the Idaho Falls Bureau of Land Management office, he applied for then filled the opening to conduct frequent field studies. Colleagues recall his good nature and energy while in the office being tasked to compile results. Such characteristics gained him hunting and fishing companions from among fellow workers. He discovered upland game bird and pheasant hunting, and through these offered some wildlife actions. When hunting season came about off, went his fly fishing hat and on went his hunting hat. With beloved dogs in tow, it was off to the hills. Winter meant ice fishing, coaching youth hockey teams, tying flies, and rooting for the New York Rangers. But the status of regional cold water fisheries was always in mind. Continuing through retirement years he tackled cold water fish situations on waters large and small. From nearly endangered cutthroat trout in the east in such as Tincup Creek and Grays Lake Outlet to endangered bull trout in the Little Lost River and other drainages to the west, it was pure joy for Arn to apply efforts and skills to their wellbeing. Fisheries study also entered his private life: wife, Laura, is a practicing fisheries biologist for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Pocatello. Son Eric became, like his Dad, a fly fisher of note. He joined the Snake River Cutthroats (SRC) a Trout Unlimited and Fly Fishing International affiliate and quickly became the conservation chairperson. It was a natural action because of his connection with agency personnel and his own passion for natural resources. From there he moved on to chair the East Idaho Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo and organizing youth and volunteer actions within. Then in 2021 he became president of the SRC for two years always continuing conservation activities.

Few are the persons as dedicated and accomplished as is Arn in his chosen field. The same can be said about his generosity in sharing status information. The name "A Trout's Best Friend" was fashioned for Bud Lilly years ago. In east Idaho we have another person worthy of that name. That person is the unforgettable Arn Peter Berglund.

(Thanks goes to Dan Kotansky, LeRoy Cook, Madison Hyde and Eric Berglund for help with article)



A Message from the President

Allow me to take this moment to introduce myself and thank everyone for the privilege of being your new chapter president. My name is Dan Smith. I have been an Idaho resident now for 12 years. I grew up chasing trout in the Adirondack Mountains in Update New York. I joined the SCR board 2 years ago and am really excited for the years to come.

Early this summer we had some amazing groups get together on our Rainey Creek restoration projects and Highway Clean Up. You can learn more on that in the Conservation Section of the newsletter or by visiting our website: snakerivercutthroats.org) and reading the updates from our Conservation VP Andy Bosworth (see below). We hope to have more and more conservation opportunities for volunteers going forward so watch our website and look out for emails. Coming up this summer on July 19th is our annual picnic. It should be a good time and I look forward to seeing everyone there. Picnic details are below. Let me conclude by saying I am honored that you considered me for this role, and I am hoping I can live up to the big shoes of our excellent past presidents. I hope everyone is having a great season so far and has had great opportunities to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

Tight lines,
Dan

Conservation Update. May 13 and 20, 2023

A hearty crew arrived at Rainey Creek on the 13th to plant trees in the newly Conservation Update. May 13 and 20, 2023

A hearty crew arrived at Rainey Creek on the 13th to plant trees in the newly constructed floodplain just upstream of Route 26 in Swan Valley. Unfortunately the creek was pretty high and we only were able to plant 40 cottonwood seedlings on the upslope edge of the floodplain. We returned on the 20th for the roadside clean up and to plant trees again. Twenty one volunteers arrived and we promptly split the crew in half. Dan Smith took charge of the roadside clean up and Jaime Campell led the tree planting effort, this time on Third Creek. (a spring fed tributary that feeds into Rainey just upstream of the confluence with the South Fork).

This tree planting is a cooperative effort between the Cutthroats and South Fork Initiative of the Henry's Fork Foundation.

Thank you to all the volunteers that made this work happen.

Andy Bosworth

UPCOMING EVENT

Annual Summer Picnic

Wednesday, July 19th, 6:00 PM



Annual Summer Picnic

At New President Dan Smith's Home

Wednesday July 19th, 6 PM
(Different location from last year)

4439E 168 N Rigby, ID 83442

Exit Route 26 onto N 105 E. This is the road the Shelton Church is on.
After you cross Countyline Road (E145th N), 105 becomes N 4400 E.
Stay on N 4400 E for 1.5 miles and make a right onto E 150 N
In 0.3 miles make the first left onto 4433 E (Trailblazer Estates)
At the T Make the right onto E 168 N. I am the house on the left at the Cul-de-sac
From Route 20 North or South
Take County Line Road Exit 318
Head East on County Line Road for 5.9 miles and turn left onto N 4400 E (N 105 E).
Stay on N 4400 E for 1.5 miles and make a right onto E 150 N
In 0.3 miles make the first left onto 4433 E (Trailblazer Estates)
At the T Make the right onto E 168 N. I am the house on the left at the Cul-de-sac

Club Provides: Main dish, condiments, soft drinks (BYOB)

Last Name begins A-J: Bring a Main Dish (ie baked beans)

Last Name begins K-T: Bring a Salad

Last Name begins: U-Z: Bring a desert

Sign up at Jimmy's (Fly Fish Food) before July 17th so we can get a head count.
Bring your own chairs. Invite a friend.
Consider being a clean-up volunteer.

A Celebration of Life for Arn

All his personality qualities were positive. Passionate, determined, friendly, generous, humorous and more. But he was also self effacing. On passing he wanted no formal service or formal dress. So his family has decided on a form of memorial that is becoming common these days. That would a celebration event. Make note that Arn's Celebration of Life event will be held Saturday, July 22nd at Idaho Brewing Company, 775 South Capital Avenue, 4-7 PM.

Electronic Newsletters Available

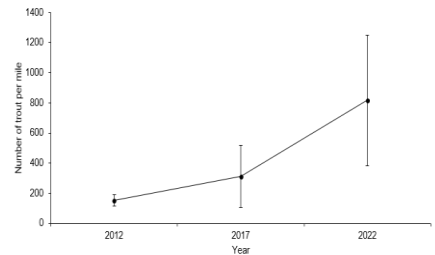
For those still receiving hard copies of the newsletter via standard mail, but would prefer to receive it via email, please send your email address to Carol Staples, our membership chair, at carolastaples@gmail.com

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



Population Surveys Show Record Number of Trout in the Big Lost River
By
John Heckel, Regional Fisheries Biologist

The summer of 2022 marked nearly 40 years of basin wide monitoring of the trout and Mountain Whitefish populations in the Big Lost River basin. The first round of monitoring these populations began in 1986 and we have been continuing this work at the same sites into 2022. A lot has changed in addition to the numbers of fish that we encounter since the first year of monitoring. Those changes include water usage, diversions, fish passage, snow pack and precipitation, stocking rates, species introductions, harvest regulations, fish salvage, field crews, and fish sampling equipment. As a result of these changes, we also observe changes in fish distribution throughout the basin, and the number of fish that we count at our 30 standardized sampling locations. Some of the more recent changes that we have made to improve fishing include stocking Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout and translocating South Fork Snake River Rainbow Trout into the Big Lost River and its tributary streams upstream of Mackay Reservoir.



In addition, with the help of the United States Forest Service we have begun saving fish from being stranded (or entrained) in irrigation canals and diversions by electrofishing those canals and relocating fish back into the Big Lost River and its tributary streams, also known as fish salvaging. More than 13,000 Mountain Whitefish have been salvaged as a result of these efforts. These actions have made fishing better by boosting the number of fish in streams and by preserving and perpetuating the native Mountain Whitefish population.

To be more specific about the numbers of fish that we surveyed and the health of the fish populations in the Big Lost River basin, we counted more fish in 2022 than in 2017 (the last basin wide survey) at 72% of locations with increases in the number of fish up to 162%! One trend that we have noticed is an increase in trout and Mountain Whitefish abundance in the main stem of the Big Lost River upstream of Mackay Reservoir. Mountain Whitefish abundance is at a level not seen since the last decade, and trout abundance is the highest estimate on record. The figure (above, right) depicts the number of trout per mile in the upper main stem of the Big Lost River from 2012-2022.

We believe that through fish salvaging and changing stocking practices we have been able to boost the number of fish in this fishery and improve fishing for anglers. We will continue practicing fish salvaging both upstream and downstream of Mackay Reservoir, stocking Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, and translocating South Fork River Rainbow Trout to the upper Big Lost River basin to make fishing better for Idaho anglers.

**Recipe of the Quarter
(Because of requests to resume this item, we begin with this
one for Fish Balls.)**

Ingredients

- 1 pound fish flesh (try whitefish, South Fork rainbows or headwater stream brookies)
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- ¼ cup cold water
- canola oil



Instructions

1. In a food processor, grind the flesh into a thick paste. Alternatively, pound the fish flesh with the back of a knife until it turns to a thick paste.

In a bowl, combine the fish paste, salt, sugar, cornstarch, and water.

Using hands, stir the mixture until well combined and then shape into a big ball. Lift from the bowl and then slap back into the bowl. Repeat for about 10 to 15 minutes or until the fish paste is smooth and shiny and begins to pull away from the side of the bowl.

Alternatively, transfer the fish paste into the bowl of a stand mixer and using the paddle attachment, beat for about 10 to 15 minutes or until it begins to pull away from the side of the bowl.

Using a tablespoon, portion the fish paste and shape into balls by rolling between the palm of hands.

In a pot over medium heat, bring about 4 quarts of water to a boil. Gently drop fish balls into boiling water and cook for about 1 to 2 minutes or until they begin to float on top.

Using a slotted spoon, remove from the fish balls from water and allow to cool.

In a wide pan, heat about 2 inches of oil. Add fish balls and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden and puffed. Remove from heat and drain on paper towels.

Serve with the sweet and spicy fish ball sauce.

Sweet and Spicy Fish Ball Sauce

1. In a saucepot, combine water, soy sauce, garlic, shallots, chili pepper, brown sugar, flour, cornstarch, salt, and pepper. Stir well until well blended and smooth.

Bring to a boil, stirring regularly, for about 3 to 5 minute or until thickened. The sauce will thicken more as it cools.

Fish Survey Update for Southeast Idaho's Blackfoot Reservoir

By
Cynthia Nau, Fisheries Regional Biologist

Blackfoot Reservoir (located approximately 16 miles north of Soda Springs in southeast Idaho) was sampled in early June 2022 by the fisheries staff of Fish and Game's Southeast Region. The standard suite of gear was deployed in randomly selected locations across the reservoir. The purpose of this survey was to evaluate the contribution of stocked rainbow trout to the fishery as well as to monitor the growth and distribution of the introduced smallmouth bass population.

A total of 24 rainbow trout were captured during the survey, with an average size of nearly 15 inches and an average weight of 1.4 pounds. The largest rainbow trout captured was 19 inches long and weighed 2.6 pounds. Based on the wear patterns on their fins, these individuals were classified as:

- likely stocked as a hatchery catchable (greater than 6 inches long when stocked)
- Or, a fingerling (less than 6 inches long when stocked)

Since catchables spend more time in the hatchery to grow to a larger size, they often have an arched dorsal fin while fingerlings spend a shorter time in the hatchery and usually have very little or no wear on their fins.

All rainbow trout stocked into Blackfoot Reservoir are sterile to avoid interbreeding with the native Yellowstone cutthroat trout, so we know there is no wild rainbow trout natural reproduction present in Blackfoot Reservoir. Most of the rainbow trout (88%) were classified as stocked as catchables while only 8% were classified as stocked as a fingerling, 4% were not classified. Because most rainbow trout in Blackfoot Reservoir appear to have been stocked as a catchable, biologists and hatchery staff are currently working together to find ways to provide more catchable rainbow trout to Blackfoot Reservoir to improve angler catch rates in the future.

Smallmouth bass were illegally introduced into Blackfoot Reservoir and first documented in surveys in 2015. Smallmouth bass are known predators of juvenile trout as well as capable of outcompeting trout for habitat and causing changes in trout diets by eating a trout's preferred prey. Smallmouth bass are also able to thrive in river environments, leading to concerns that this illegal introduction could expand up into the Blackfoot River watershed and further threaten the recovering native Yellowstone cutthroat trout population.

Biologists have been monitoring the smallmouth bass in Blackfoot Reservoir to determine what level of threat they pose and whether management actions may be necessary. In 2022, 21 smallmouth bass were captured all in the boat electrofishing portion of the survey. This species was only found along rocky shorelines on the southern and eastern shores of the reservoir where the habitat is more suitable for bass. The average size of smallmouth bass captured was 9 inches and average weight was 0.6 pounds. The largest smallmouth bass sampled was 16.5 inches and weighed 2.6 pounds.

Fisheries staff are currently conducting a year-long creel survey on Blackfoot Reservoir to get a better understanding of angler catch rates and opinions about the fishery. Smallmouth bass were also tagged as part of this year's survey to get an idea of angler catch rates and harvest of this species. Anglers who catch a tagged smallmouth should report it through the ["Tag! You're it!" website](#) or call the phone number printed on the tag. Remember that bass regulations on Blackfoot Reservoir changed in the last regulation cycle with no limit to harvest. Fisheries staff will continue to monitor the smallmouth bass population in Blackfoot Reservoir but for now, the population appears relatively small and localized to the rocky habitats.

Seven Yellowstone cutthroat trout were also captured in the survey. This low catch rate is likely due to the survey taking place during their spawning season when the majority of adult Yellowstone cutthroat trout leave the reservoir and migrate to the upper basin.

Fly of the Month

Extended Body Green Drake

Doug Gibson’s extended body green drake has been chosen for the logo for the 2024 East Eastern Idaho Fly Tying and Fly-Fishing Expo (EIFTE). Doug created this pattern and supplied it to Bud Lilly’s Trout Shop in West Yellowstone. It became immensely popular and is still tied this day by contract fly tiers. Doug also tied other drake patterns (brown, gray and green) for Bob Jacklin’s shop.

- Hook:** Mustad 94840, Size 10
- Thread:** Olive 3/0
- Body extension:** Dyed olive elk body hair
- Rib:** Tying thread
- Tail:** Tips of elk hair body extension
- Body:** Dyed olive elk body hair
- Wing:** Elk body hair
- Hackle:** Dyed olive grizzly



2023 Calendar

Date	Activity
Last Board meeting was held Wednesday, June 7 th at Papa Tom’s Pizza	
Last membership meeting was Wednesday, June 14 th	
Outings are being organized for the summer months. Refer to the website to see when these become scheduled. One that is scheduled is below.	
Last weekend in July	Club South Fork float trip. Contact Rob Knox
Club Board meetings will resume with a meeting on Wednesday, September 6 th and Wednesday, October 4 th both at Papa Tom’s Pizza.	
Membership Meetings will resume beginning second Wednesday of October	
Note: Board meetings are held at Papa Tom’s Pizza with a ZOOM hook-up. Visit www.snakerivercutthroats.org or the Cutthroats Facebook page for a link to access membership meetings at Fairbridge Inn, outings, and other activities. .Board meetings are open to all members.	

Snake River Cutthroats
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Snake River Cutthroats

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Ex. Vice President: TBA
VP Conservation: Andy Bosworth (207-713-3457)
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Secretary: Jeff Armstrong (208-351-1333)

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Ron Hover
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Marvin Stucki

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Membership: Carol Staples (208-522-9242)
Historian/Newsletter: Bruce Staples (208-522-9242) (new email bstaples9740@gmail.com)
Education: Jeff Armstrong (208-522-7005)
Expo: Scott Long (208-520-3750), Rory Cullen (208-419-8477)
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Outings: Marv Stucki (208-589-9677), Scott Long (520-3750), Rob Knox (760-419-1682)
Youth: Paul Stembridge (208-569-2890)
IT/Web Site: Myles Pawlaczyk (949-701-1767)



