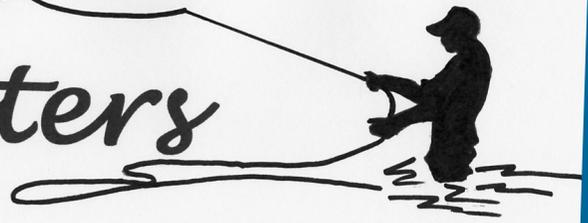




News Casters



P.O. Box 734
Weiser, Idaho 83672

Officers

President-Jim Gulu
549-0796
1st Vice Pres-Bill Betts
549-0686
2nd Vice Pres-Dave Steppe
549-1468
Past President-Perry Kelley
549-0538
Secretary-Lynette Jones
549-0430
Treasurer-Mary Thompson
608-0067

Board Members

Roy Davis 642-2366
John Hickey 452-6357
Marv Orwig 642-4667
Mark Sands 549-2545
Nando Mauldin 549-2883
Dick Garrett 549-1311

Meetings are held the 2nd
Tuesday of each month at Idaho
Pizza, 1255 State Street,
Weiser. Fly tying at 6 pm,

Committees

Outings: Jim Gulu, George Kautz,
Rod Jones, Al Sillonis

Library: George Kautz, Rod Jones,
Dick Garrett

Fund Raising: Lynette Jones, Mary
Thompson

Membership: Bill Betts,
Dave Steppe

Conservation: Mark Sands,
Nando Mauldin

Budget: Mary Thompson, Lynette
Jones

Publicity: Dave Steppe

Newsletter: Perry & Sally Kelley,
Mary Thompson, Dick Garrett

Education: Marv Orwig

Youth Activities: Mike Thomas,
Mark Sands, Ken Gissell

Greeters: Dave & Anne Steppe

Historian: Suzanne Orwig

September 2009

President's Message by Jim Gulu

Can you believe it! We are about to begin our ninth year as a Fly-Fishing club. We continue to attract new and retain existing members each year. That is a compliment to our membership who support and share the excitement of the club and the activities we support and participate in.

In our September 8, 2009, meeting, the membership will vote to approve a new slate of officers and two new board members for the 2009 - 2010 season of the club.

The Club's second annual picnic was held in August. We had another great turnout with some outstanding food, great conversation and some games for the members to enjoy, (Corn Hole and Moose Balls*). We even had a joke teller. Thanks, to all who participated in and coordinated the picnic.

As, you all are aware the pond is under construction and nearing completion. If you haven't taken the time to visit the site, I highly recommend you take the time to do so. It's quite a sight, to see

our dream turning into reality. Big thanks to all the members who made this reality happen. The Mayor is planning on having the grand opening sometime in October. We will keep the membership informed as to the final plans and requesting participation from the members.

In closing let me say: I'm looking forward to this year, working with returning and new members. If you have any ideas on programs you would like to see or participate in, please contact our program director, Dave Steppe, or your new president, Bill Betts.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jim



Speaking of Jim, he claims to have caught this 22" (his measurement) smallmouth. We are wondering if anybody can verify this claim.

PREDATORS

By Perry Kelley



Last month I lamented on how the fishing this summer was not especially kind to me, at least the catching. I made a call for excuses or justifications why the success rate was minimal. I would like to express to those of you who responded. It seems that bad luck has company. At least some of you shared with me the frustration of driving for a couple of hours to a lake or stream and not having the bountiful angling experience that we anticipated. One of the excuses that seems to be in most of our minds is “too many fishermen.” Today I am going to express my frustration with this theme “too many fishermen” but not the human fisherman-type but those that Mother Nature has provided. Now before you read any further, be aware that exaggeration and “tongue in cheek” will be liberally employed in this article.

The other day someone raised the issue of how many natural enemies do the fish species we pursue have? When we think about it, there are many. This summer I have seen a number of them doing their thing. Wildlife predators do not abide with seasons, bag limits, or “catch and release” regulations. Mammals can be fish predators. Mink, raccoon, otter, bear and some canines all include fish in their diets. It is a fairly common sight to see mink fishing the banks of lakes and streams. Their larger cousins, the otters, are extremely efficient fishing machines. Both mink and otter love trout and neither practices “catch and release.” Raccoons, which are experiencing a huge population explosion, are also adept at fishing. Although raccoons are not fly fishermen, I did see one catch a hopper and throw it in the water. When a trout made a rise to the hopper, the raccoon pounced on it. They can be quite clever.

Of the natural predators, birds are probably the most proficient. Think of all the species of birds

that are fish eaters. Kingfishers, herons, pelicans, grebes, loons, bitterns, ospreys, bald eagles, mergansers, several species of ducks and probably the worst of all—cormorants. Now if the bird predators numbers complied with that phenomenon called “balance of nature,” they probably wouldn’t be a problem. It does seem that some species of birds seem to get more plentiful each year, and simply by size they consume large numbers of fish. Take the pelican. The white pelican has a wing span of up to ten feet. A bird that large needs a lot of fuel to keep it going. I have no idea how many fish a pelican eats each day, but it has to make a dent in the fish population. Are pelicans problems in our waters? Just count the numbers on the Snake River down by the Indian Crossing in late summer and fall. It seems that each year the numbers increase.

Another efficient fishing critter is the blue heron. Herons seem to have the patience of Job. They stand motionless for hours waiting for a fish to swim by. With the speed of light, they spear the fish. Herons are also large birds. They are non-migrating, so they fish the year around in our waters.

Many of the aquatic birds are swimmers. Loons and grebes and other diving birds are excellent underwater predators. I have observed grebes herding fish. They work in groups and flap the water with their wings and concentrate several schools of fish. Then they dive and have a feast.

Loons are not common in this part of Idaho and Oregon, but grebes can be found in most waters. Incidentally, they really put on a show in the spring. Their mating ritual is something to watch.

Ospreys and bald eagles are fish eaters that seem to have a good reputation. One thing is both species

are indigenous to this area. They are fascinating to watch, and both are magnificent birds. One species that is not indigenous and numbers are increasing at an alarming rate are the cormorants. These are the dark, almost black duck-like birds that you see drying out their wings. Cormorants seem like miniature Count Draculas strutting with their capes. I wouldn't be surprised if they didn't quack with a Romanian accent. Cormorants are trained to catch fish for humans in the Orient. Fishermen tie a leash around the neck so the cormorant cannot swallow the fish it catches. Cormorants numbers are increasing dramatically each year. Their range is also increasing. They seem to have a taste for game fish. They have to consume large numbers of fish.

Now how to control the numbers of fish predators. This is my solution. Clothing style is the answer. Make a comeback in popularity of mink coats and coonskin hats. For incentive, the various state Fish and Game departments should give a fee reduction for those sportsmen that wear such apparel when purchasing their licenses, permits and tags.

For the birds the problem is somewhat more difficult. Pelicans are huge, elusive and seasonal. In Eastern Idaho the Fish and Game department has searched out pelican nests and with a spray that makes the eggs infertile. Perhaps fly fishers should be armed with a spray can to *infertilize* pelican eggs. There is one other way of reducing pelican predation. The old limerick somewhat illustrates this idea:

*There is an old bird called the pelican
Whose beak can hold more than his bellycan.
He can hold in his beak, enough food for a week,
But I don't know how in the bellican.*

Simply have Rio (fly line company) design a pelican lasso fly line. When you catch one you then

insert a styrofoam strip in the pouch of his beak . He would then have to eat each fish he catches. This might reduce the gluttonous nature of the bird.

Heron feathers are greatly prized by fly tiers, especially for steelhead and Atlantic Salmon flies. Because of the federal protected status, it is highly illegal to possess heron feathers. Perhaps there should be a permit system for a limited harvest of herons. Avid fly tiers would pay up to \$500 for each permit. This could be a boon for the Fish and Game department.

Now for the cormorant problem. Definitely a permit system should be used to reduce these most infamous of fish killers. I doubt if their feathers have any fly tying value, and I'm positive their meat would be nasty tasting. Perhaps they should be live-trapped and given to those of us (fly fishermen) who have a tailing loop and find our back casts are constantly in the bushes behind us. We could then have our pet cormorant on a leash tied to our kick boats. Whoops! What would those of us who practice catch and release do? Perhaps some of you could advise me.

Keep sending me your favorite excuses for not catching fish.



Eat-Tomology

Here's a couple of recipes to use with all those huckleberries you picked this summer while going to or from fishing. They were brought to the Club Picnic and people asked for the recipe - so Enjoy!



Wild Idaho Huckleberry Cheesecake

Crust

1 1/4 cups graham cracker crumbs 1/4 cups sugar 1/3 cup margarine, melted

Mix together, press into pie pan, freeze crust for 5 minutes, or bake at 375 for 5 minutes.

Filling

1-8 ounce package cream cheese 1 cup whipped cream 1/2 cup powdered sugar

Mix cream cheese and powdered sugar, then slowly fold in the whipped cream. Pour into cooled crust. Refrigerate.

Topping

2 tbsp. Cherry gelatin 1-2 tbsp. Corn Starch 1/3 cup sugar dash of salt

3/4 cup water 2 cups frozen huckleberries

Mix all ingredients except berries. Cook until thick and clear on medium heat, stirring constantly. Cool slightly. Add frozen berries, pour over pie. Chill several hours.

Wild Oregon Huckleberry Pound Cake

This recipe is from Jeanette Sillonis

It's a Betty Crocker Pound Cake mix. Follow the directions on the box but use milk instead of water. Gently fold in 1-2 cups of huckleberries (depending on how many you prefer) to the batter. Divide the batter into two generously buttered and floured loaf pans. Don't skimp on this part or it will stick on the bottom. I cook them longer than the box directions especially if I use frozen berries. I watch for the golden color and how it pulls away from the side. Then use a tooth pick to test make sure they are done. Be sure to let them cool at least 10 minutes before you try to get them out of the pans or they will stick.



to

(Jeanette picked the berries in Oregon that she used in the pound cake at the picnic.)

Membership Dues notice for September

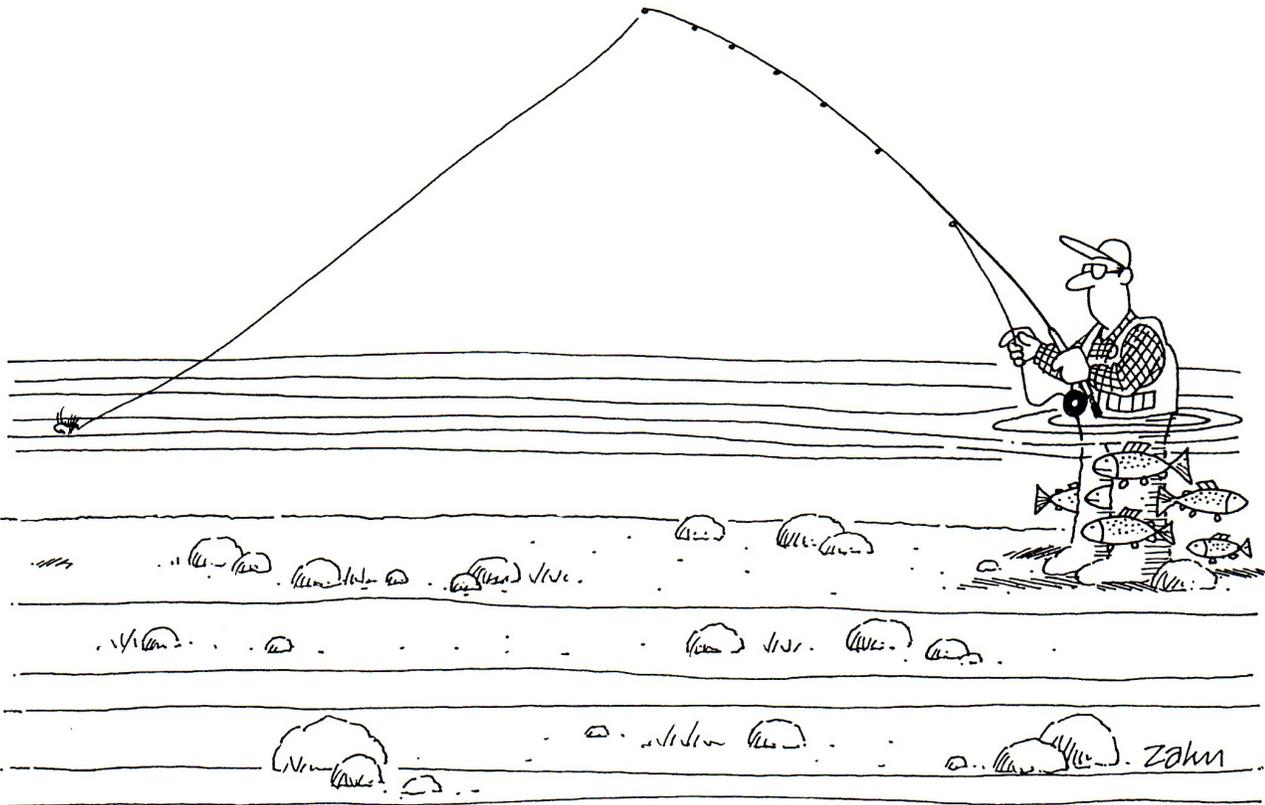
\$30 Individual; \$45 Family

Janet Baker, Bill Betts, Eileen Boots, Dick DeHaven, Dave & Patricia Johnson,
David Robidow,

Past Due

Chris Burke, Spencer Chandler, Wayne Chandler, Sharon Truax & Larry Parks

Thanks to everyone for your participation!





A good time was had by all that attended the 2nd Annual IFF picnic held at Memorial Park in Weiser August 22.



"If a man is truly blessed, he returns home from fishing to be greeted by the best catch of his life."
 ~ E. Hubbard (thanks Robert)

Coming Events

- Sept 1 - IFF Board**
7 pm at Idaho Pizza
- Sept 8 - IFF Membership**
6 pm—Fly Tying
7 pm—Membership
- Sept 15 - Fly Tying**
7 pm Weiser Library



September 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 IFF Board	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 IFF Mem- bers	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Fly Tying	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			