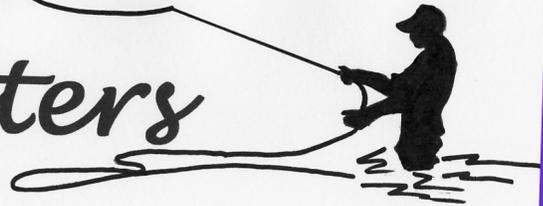




News Casters



P.O. Box 734
Weiser, Idaho 83672

Officers

President-Bill Betts
549-0686
1st Vice Pres-Dave Stepp
549-1468
2nd Vice Pres-Mike Thomas
549-2473
Past President-Jim Gulu
549-0796
Secretary-Lynette Jones
549-0430
Treasurer-Mary Thompson
608-0067

Board Members

Roy Davis 642-2366
Mark Sands 549-2545
Nando Mauldin 549-2883
Dick Garrett 549-1311
Bob Maki 642-6971
Frank Thomas 549-0237

Meetings are held the 2nd
Tuesday of each month at Idaho
Pizza, 1255 State Street,
Weiser. Fly tying at 6 pm,
meeting at 7 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

October 2009

President's Message by Bill Betts

So many topics about which could be written, but let me start with the number one priority. Fishing. We have just passed through September and are rolling into October-- two of the best months of the year to catch fish. The reservoirs and streams are low and the fish, having felt those first freezing temperatures, have kicked into their annual fall feeding frenzy. So you had better make plans to get to fishing. Whether your preference is trout or bass, catfish or crappie, carp or bluegill, this is the time of the year to be fishing in earnest. Get used to the grass of your lawn being a little high and the leaves piling a little deeper than you prefer. They can wait. The fish won't. You have big boy and big girl toys so go forth and play. On September 18 I hiked into Upper Hazard Lake and observed how the experiment of planting nearly five hundred six inch tiger-musky into the lake is working. I will report further at the next general meeting. I also found three boletus mushrooms and found myself spending much of the day looking for more. On the way home I came upon a band of Soulen sheep being moved along the mountain road and talked to the herder for a few minutes. The weather was beautiful and I got some nice pictures. As often, when one goes fishing, there is much to enjoy from the experience besides the fishing.

I would like to share with you my impressions of my first two weeks on the job as your new president. Wow! I hope I can measure up. We have an absolutely amazing group of officers, board members, and many very, very talented members who are willing to put hours into making this club so successful. I am just floored by the talent. Mary, Annie, Sarah, and Lynette are our grant writers. It would be enough to just have their talent for writing, but they have fertile imaginations and are visionary.

What Mike Thomas and the others

who have supported him throughout the Pond Project have done is, well, I can hardly find words adequate for the praise Mike and they deserve. Persistence may be the best word. Mike seems to have assimilated the Wolverine characteristics while serving so many years as a teacher at the high school. And to Jim Gulu, you have completed a year in which the club has grown and come together, has completed several major projects very successfully, and has become well known throughout the community as never before. Great Job, Jim, and to Sarah because as we all know behind every great person stands an even greater spouse. How is that for political correctness, Mary and Lynette? I am so thankful the club has developed in the manner it has. Perry and Mike assured me that being the president is not such a difficult task because there are so many members willing to do their part and run with the ball. Even setting policy is a group undertaking at the board meetings.

As a member you can affect the manner in which the club grows. Contact a board member with your idea. Come to the board meeting to observe and make comments. Ask to be placed on the agenda of either the board meeting or the general meeting. In order to run both meetings efficiently, please ask to be placed on the agenda before the meeting. Do you have an acquaintance that may enjoy being a member of the club? Invite them to attend. Bring them as you guest. Biologists say that if an entity is not growing, it is dying. So, go forth and grow and play!

Jim Gulu reports that the outing Saturday was a bust. The wind blew so hard in the canyon that they could not fish. Jim also says that the pond is rising two inches a day.

Please consider serving on a committee. Tell an officer or board member in what committee you are interested.

Bill

More Awesome Fly Tying Tips

By Perry Kelley



Perhaps due to my journalistic efforts as of late and my somewhat tainted reputation as a fly fisher, an article expounding on fly tying tips will be taken with a grain of salt. Perhaps too, you as readers will equate my tying methods and technique as a negative element in my futile efforts in the pursuit of trout and other game fishes. You are probably correct; however, I have on occasion provided flies to my fly fishing friends and they seem to have impressive results. Thus I will bestow upon you some of my latest fly tying gimmicks and encourage you to give them a try.

One of the beauties of fly tying is that there are many ways to achieve results and in reality there is no right or wrong way, as long as you get satisfactory results. My first tip is a variation of a technique that has been a staple in fly tying. One note, I will refer to left and right hand. For you southpaws, reverse the hand.

1. Starting your tying thread. To begin the process of tying a fly, most tiers use a form of a jam knot. This is simply wrapping your tying thread from the eye of the hook rearward. It is common to hold the thread with your left hand, bring the bobbin over the shank of the hook and wind toward the back. Most tiers will start right at the hook eye. My tip for today is to start under the shank and about four thread wraps behind the eye. Make a couple of wraps of thread around your left hand index finger. You will need to hold the thread on the far side and under the shank with the left hand. The first wrap is simply bringing your left hand over the shank and also bringing your bobbin hand over the shank at the same time. Actually you are reversing your hands. After wrapping four or five wraps, bring the tag end of the thread straight forward and give a jerk. When done correctly, the tag end breaks off neatly and you will not have to use your scissors. The space from the thread to the

eye will give you space to complete the head of the fly. One very common mistake made by even the most experienced fly tiers is to crowd the eye. Make it your goal to think through the proportions of the fly and leave ample space for the head. Also make it a goal to tie the head neat, small, and tapered to the eye.

2. Wax your thread. Most of us tie with pre-waxed thread. Sometimes you need to add additional wax when dubbing spiky material such as angora goat or coarse dubbing. Most waxes come in a tube that can be fed out like a chap stick container. One problem seems to be that the wax does not come off the container evenly. Sometimes there are globs of wax on the thread which can mess up the subbing. Some fly tiers rub wax on their fingers and then wax the thread. This does a good job with the waxing the thread, but dubbing with waxy fingers leaves a lot to be desired. Here is another idea worth trying: Get a small zip-lock bag—the kind that chenille or dubbing comes in. Lay it flat on a table and rub the center with tying wax. Fold the bag over the thread and rub on the wax. This gives you an even coat of wax that difficult dubbing will adhere to. One caution: When through, place the zip-wax bag somewhere else than on the bench where you place your hackles and marabou.

3. Get hair from a tail. Most of us have an assortment of tying tails for our hair wing flies. Squirrel, fox, calf, deer tails all are commonly used by fly tiers. A problem that is common with us is how do you trim the hair from the tail? Some of us start from the base of the tail and cut off enough hair for one fly. Sometimes the hair at the base is not the best. Here is another technique that seems to work quite well. Find a section of hair from the tail that you think would work for the pattern you are tying. Grasp the hair by the tips with your left hand and gently pull so that it is perpendicular to the tail. Open the scissors and

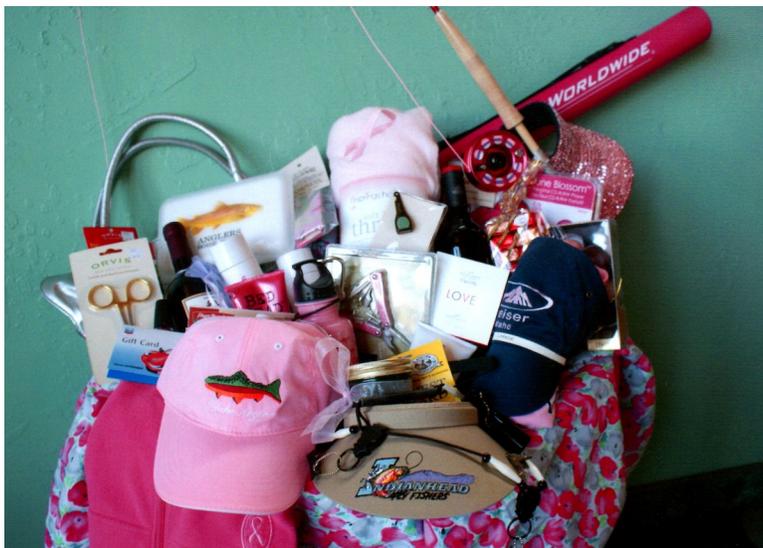
push into the bunch of hair at the base rather than cut. Make sure you keep the tension on the hair tips with your left hand. In other words, you are using the scissor blades as knives. There are advantages to this method. You can cut from anyplace in the tail. You will not get as much fur, or short unusable hair; thus the hair wing will require less cleaning. You will align the tips of the hair, eliminating stacking, and with experience, you will be more likely to get the right amount of hair. This push technique is also useful for trimming material. You cut only the material in which you have tension. A good example would be a hackle feather. By pushing rather than cutting, you remove only the stem rather than some of the wrapped hackle.

4. Brush up you tying. Tailing material comes from many sources. If you are tying small dry flies, you are likely to use either hackle barbs, microfibre, or hair. This summer I tried another method and really like it—paint brushes. Microfibre are great, but they are quite thin and wispy. Bristles from a paint brush have a lot more body and still balance on a size 16 or 18 fly. One purpose of hair tails is to help float a dry fly. Stiffness is a virtue in dry fly material, especially with May fly imitations. Paint brush fibers really excel in this department. They hold their shape, and with mod-

ern floatants they keep the fly upright in the water. Not all brushes are suitable for tying. Check out the size, the taper of the bristle and the color. I find that cream or light brown works for most of the flies I tie. One two-inch brush will give you enough tails for a lifetime.

5. Be a real cut-up! Fly tying scissors are one of your most important tying tools. Take good care of them. Have an old pair of sacrificial scissors if you tie with a lot of wire or other materials that tend to dull your scissors. Actually most wire can be broken off at the tie off point by bending it several times. Coarse hair like deer hair can be hard on scissors. There are scissors that are designed for hair trimming. They can be a good investment. Know where to cut with your scissors. The tips should be used for delicate trimming and cutting off material by the head of the fly. Learn to use just the tips. Also be aware of the angle you trim. Trim wing material to enhance the taper of the body. Use the butt section of the scissors for trimming hackle stems and other hard-to-cut material. Keep your scissors clean; be careful around head cement and super glue. Don't store your scissors in a drawer with other tools. And of most importance, replace them when they no longer work. Tying with dull scissors is quite ineffective.

I hope these tips are helpful to you. Keep tying.



“Casting for Support”

Indianhead Fly Fishers
Fundraiser for Angel Wings
Network in Weiser and
MSTI in Fruitland.
Limited Edition **Ross** “Pink”
Rod, Reel and case, a variety of
fly fishing equipment and many,
many “pink” items!
Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5

Drawing to be October 30!

Urban Fishing for Mr. Whiskers

By Joe Kozfkay, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Across the Treasure Valley and surrounding area, you'll find them tucked behind subdivisions, surrounded by a park or hidden down by the river. They are a true treasure—urban fishing ponds. Idaho Fish and Game manages about 20 of these ponds in southwest Idaho from east Boise to Payette. Veteran's Park, Riverside, Rotary, Merrill, Wilson Springs, Sawyer's and Horseshoe Bend's Mill Pond are just a few examples.

Within a stone's throw of more than half a million people, these ponds are easily accessible and receive high angling use, especially from families with youngsters looking for a quick backyard adventure. The demands on your time are greater than ever; Fish and Game understands that and considers these ponds crucial in the fight to keep children interested - and participating - in the great outdoors.

Most of these ponds are the byproduct of now defunct gravel mining operations near the Boise, Payette, Weiser and Snake Rivers. With the gravel extracted, the gravel companies left, and cool, clear groundwater quickly seeped back into the resulting hole. Having no use for these flooded lands, many owners sold or even donated the properties to Fish and Game or local municipalities. This collection of public fishing ponds - particularly along the Boise River - has evolved into one of the best urban fishing programs in the West and accounts for about 1000,000 fishing trips each year.

Initially, largemouth bass and bluegill were trapped and transferred from nearby waters to populate these ponds and create fisheries. Prolific spawners, these species have flourished in their new homes and continue to provide fishing opportunity. But because of the high amount of fishing pressure, larger bass and bluegill tend to be removed rather quickly.

To keep ponds productive, put-and-take hatchery programs have been developed to bolster fishing success and provide harvest opportunity. Rainbow trout are stocked in most ponds on a bi-weekly basis during the cool and cold water period from October thru May. At eight to ten inches, these fish are ready to bite shortly after hitting the water and provide plenty of early spring and early fall fishing action.

During the summer months, however, these ponds have often gone wanting. In the broiler months of June, July, August and even September in some years, water temperatures exceed 70 degrees in many of the Valley's ponds. These temperatures suit bass and bluegill just fine but are borderline lethal for trout. As such, Fish and Game refocuses rainbow trout stocking efforts away from local ponds during these months and places these fish in local streams and rivers where survival conditions are better.

The timing, of course, could not be worse. Just when everyone's looking for a place to fish - the weather is warm and school is out - a favorite fishing hole suddenly has less fishing opportunity.

The Nampa Fish and Game fisheries staff has come up with a solution: channel catfish. Catfish do well in warm water environment, are good "biters," fight very well and taste great. What more could a budding young angler ask for?

A pilot program has been initiated to improve fishing opportunities in local ponds by stocking channel catfish. Earlier this year, fingerling channel catfish were purchased from commercial

suppliers and stocked in several ponds across the valley. Ranging in size from 6 to 14 inches, these young catfish will grow quickly. The larger ones should provide fishing action right away, while the smaller ones will need at least a year before they become big enough to catch.

There's more. On three occasions this summer, Fish and Game employees ventured down to the Snake River, collecting adult-sized channel catfish and transferring them to several Treasure Valley ponds including Park Center, Quinn's, Caldwell, McDevitt, Beach's (at Wilson Springs), Sawyer's and Mill Pond in Horseshoe Bend.

Channel catfish are highly abundant and under-utilized in the Snake River. Moving a few hundred fish won't hurt Snake River populations and will provide many young anglers with the opportunity to catch a whopper. Most transferred fish were in the three- to seven-pound range, but a few large fish up to 20 pounds were stocked. Reports of monster cats caught or broken Spiderman fishing rods have not yet come in, but it is hoped that these bruisers will keep folks excited about pond fishing through the remainder of the summer and into the fall.

In the coming years, hatchery and transplant programs will be evaluated to determine their effectiveness, both in terms of cost and catchability. Regardless of your target species, pond fishing represents angling simplicity at its finest. A rod, reel, hook, bobber, a few sinkers and a dozen worms are all you need. And remember that many of the valley's urban ponds are designated Family Fishing Waters, where six fish limits for trout and bass and no limits on other species are the rule.

Other ponds are managed differently, so check the fishing rule book to determine what rules govern your favorite fishing hole. Brochures detailing the location of Valley ponds are available at local Fish and Game offices or on the department's website: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/>.

Don't forget to pick up a fishing license for \$25.75; a youth license for 14- to 17-year-olds costs \$13.75, and youngsters under 14 years of age can fish for free. Call the Nampa Fish and Game office at 465-8465, if you have any fishing questions; we are always ready to help you have a great fishing experience, whether in the wilds of Idaho or down the street

Joe Kozfkay, is a fisheries biologist in the Southwest Region.

Membership Dues notice for October

\$30 Individual; \$45 Family

Rob Presley and Dave & Anne Steppe

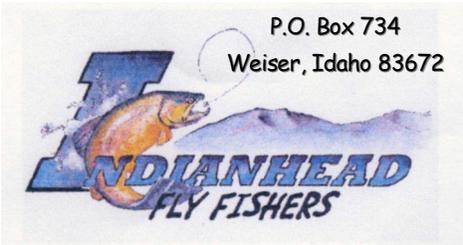
Past Due

Dick DeHaven, Dave & Patricia Johnson, David Robidou & Larry Parks

Thanks to everyone for your support and participation!

Late Bulletin

The Weiser chamber of Commerce announced earlier this week that the Indianhead Flyfishers were selected as the **Nonprofit organization of the year** for the city of Weiser. We can pat ourselves on the back for this outstanding accomplishment. Everybody contributed, but it was the leadership of Jim Gulu and the officers of the club that was the driving force. Congratulation everybody!



One of Marvin Orwig's masterpieces.



It's hard to get some people to pay attention!



And some people are really slow learners



Then others are mere spectators.



Master Teacher

"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)

October 2009

Oct 6 - IFF Board
7 pm at Idaho Pizza

Oct 13 - IFF Membership
6 pm—Fly Tying
7 pm—Membership

Oct 17 - Pond Grand Opening

Oct 20 - Fly Tying
7 pm Weiser Library

Oct 30 - Drawing for raffle basket "Casting for Support"



Grasshopper fly tied at the September fly tying class

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 IFF Board	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 IFF Members	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Fly Tying	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

