



President-Bill Betts

P.O. Box 734
Weiser, Idaho 83672

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.

Join in the Fun!

Committees

Outings: Rod Jones, Al Sillonis,
Bob Maki

Library: Rod Jones, Dick Garrett,
Annie Steppe

Fund Raising: Lynette Jones, Sara
Gulu, Annie Steppe, Mary Thompson

Membership: Dave Steppe,
Bob Maki

Conservation: Mark Sands,
Nando Mauldin

Budget: Mary Thompson, Lynette
Jones

Publicity: Mike & Diana Thomas

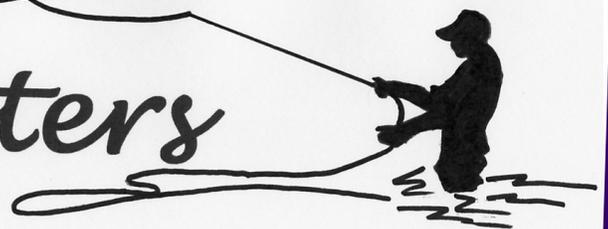
Newsletter: Perry & Sally Kelley,
Mary Thompson, Dick Garrett

Education: Marv Orwig, Mike
Thomas, Frank Thomas, Bill Betts,
Jim Gulu, Perry Kelley

Youth Activities: Mike & Frank
Thomas, Mark Sands, Ken Gissell

Historian: Suzanne Orwig

News Casters



April 2010

President's Message by Bill Betts

My lilac bushes are beginning to sprout leaves. I do believe spring is here. YES!! I have been tying some flies and did buy new leader to replace last year's supply. I think I am ready. Janet Baker told me she has been going to the pond after a day of teaching and catching fish. Way to go, Janet. The pond was stocked on February 4 with 566 Hayspur Rainbow Triploids and on March 10 with 680 Hayspur Rainbow Triploids. These are described as 6" catchables. See (<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/stocking/year.cfm?region=3>) to follow the FG stocking program for Southwest Idaho. I hope the pond will be stocked in April because several people can be found fishing at the pond each day. The **Woolly Buggers**, a youth fly fishing group headed by **Clayne Baker of Boise**, will visit on the **15th of May** and there is to be a planting of fish shortly before that visit. Please plan to be at the pond that day to help our Weiser youth to fly fish with Woolly Buggers. The Woolly Buggers are reported to be the largest fly fishing group in the USA. Also, if you can, please come to the pond on the evenings of the

fourth Tuesday of each month and make yourself available to teach those who have an interest in learning to fly fish. You may have to share your rod or bring a spare. We will plan to do this for the rest of the year. We are planning to conduct classes through the **Weiser Recreation Department** to teach children to fly fish in late **April and May**. Let Perry Kelley, Mike or Frank Thomas, Marvin Orwig, Jim Gulu or myself know if you wish to help teach those classes. If you forget to let them know, we will be calling for help. Oh, if you want to sharpen your casting skills or learn to fly cast, we will be hosting a **fly casting clinic** at the pond on **May 1**. Tell your friends. The time is yet to be set so stay tuned.

As noted in the Weiser Signal-American the vaulted toilet has been installed. The city wants to recognize the Indianhead Fly Fishers for their part in building the pond so we have decided on a boulder with an inscribed copper plate. This will be placed at the head of the handicap walk near the gate. We have Lynette Jones to thank for facilitating that recognition for the club. Two picnic tables with benches have been ordered and will be placed later this



Fly fishermen spend hours tying little clumps of fur and feathers on hooks, trying to make a trout fly that looks like a real fly. But nobody has ever seen a natural insect trying to mate with a Fanwing Ginger Quill.

Ed Zern

Fly Fishing for Panfish

(From *Fly Fishing Basics* by Dave Hughes)

Panfish are named for their convenient fit in a frying pan, and for the delight they provide once they get there. But the primary delight to be derived from these feisty little fish is their willingness to take a fly, and the dogged fight they put up once they're hooked. Because most species have small mouths, and therefore feed on small insects and crustaceans, they are best duped with the size lures that are easily cast with fly rods. They're perfect fly rod fish.

All panfish congregate in schools, and most panfish species are prolific spawners. It's common for them to overpopulate a body of water and become stunted. You will help the overall fish population by frying a few. This will increase the average size of those left, and thereby improve your own fishing.

Here are a couple of great panfish recipes for you to try! Enjoy!

Cornflake Crappie

By Terry Borne

(from Fly Anglers on line)

My mom came up with this recipe out of necessity one night while my family and I were out camping. My dad, brothers and I came in with a big batch of crappie and Mom realized she had no cornmeal to use for the batter. She did have a box of cornflakes though and so she improvised the following recipe which proved to be so tasty we have since preferred it to most others.

Ingredients:

Crappie or any other panfish fillets. Equal parts of flour and finely crushed cornflakes enough to accommodate the amount of fish you have. 2 cups milk 1 egg

Salt and Pepper to taste

Method:

In a cake pan, whisk egg into milk and add fillets to soak. Mix flour, crushed cornflakes, salt and pepper in a large baggie. Remove soaked fillets from the milk bath a few at a time, place in baggie and shake until coated. Fry fillets until golden brown in a medium to medium high heat skillet with enough oil to cover them. Remove to drain on paper towels.

Panko Crappie

By Mary Thompson

This is a great recipe if you like your fish light and crispy.

Ingredients:

Crappie or any other panfish fillets 1 egg 1 Tbsp water
Panko Japanese bread crumbs, these can be found in the oriental section of the grocery store. (I have found the best ones at Red Apple in Ontario.)

Method: Whisk egg and water, add fillets to soak, roll in Panko and fry in oil on medium heat. Drain on paper towels.

Stand back so you don't get run over by the crowd!

month. One picnic table will honor the memory of John Buterbaugh through donations made by his friends and family after his tragic death while salmon fishing on the (**President's Message** continued from page 1) Washington coast some dozen years ago or so. The other table and benches are paid for by the Mellon Grant. The Mellon Grant gave us \$9000 to be used over a three-year period. That money will be used for benches, tables, etc. The wildflower planting at the pond has begun—the ground on either side of the handicapped ramp, on the south side of "Billy Creek" (from the rock bubbler to the gravel trail) and on the old rail siding on the east side of the pond will all be wildflower beds. Thanks again to Lynette for her efforts to beautify the pond and work with the city in developing the pond area. And thanks to Rod Jones for volunteering his time to pick up litter and spray for weeds at the pond. IFF has reimbursed the city for another set of pond aerators that will be placed later this spring. We hope to prevent some of the algae bloom that is sure to happen later this summer. If people will refrain from cutting the new trees for props to hold up their fishing poles, we should have an aesthetically pleasing pond in a few years.

The **Clean Up of the Owyhee River** on **April 24** has become well known throughout the valley by fly fishermen. This has become the signature event of our organization. Please, set that date aside to come help. We have been able to turn out larger numbers each year so that the time

needed to clean the river corridor has shrunk to less than three hours. There will be a barbecue of hamburgers and hotdogs when we finish. The afternoon will be free for fishing. There always seems to be plenty of trash to pick up, but each year there seems to be a little less than the year before. A wiser person than I told me last month that the reason so many people toss their empties out while driving along the river is because of the no-open-container law. I never thought of that, but it makes sense. But, the law has changed in Oregon—at least for littering. On the way back from Newberg, Oregon, last week I noticed signs along I-84 warning drivers that the maximum fine for littering is \$6,250. Wow. I don't know what the fine is for having an open container in the vehicle, but one sure does not want to be caught littering in Oregon. Thanks to Perry and the ten students who turned out for the fly tying lesson. We learned to tie the balanced fly. It is a technique that can be used to tie many types of flies. And thanks to Charlie Bagley for the fun program and prizes. This month's program will be a night of tales by are very own, **Nando Mauldin**. He spent a life time of running down the bad guys working for the New Mexico and U.S. Fish and Game agencies. He has had some amazing experiences and is a masterful spinner of yarns. **Welcome to our new members Dave Henderson of Ontario, Tom Dyer of Cambridge and Tiffany and David McPheeters of Vale**. I hope that you find the meetings interesting and informative. If you have suggestions, don't be shy.

Fish On!



Bill

Membership Dues

Past Due: Travis Curry, Larry Parks, Grant Baugh, Jim Mosier, Frank Puccio, Herb Haun, Bob & Karen Maki, Nando & Roberta Mauldin, Marv & Suzanne Orwig, Ray Perkins,

Due in April: Mike Bishop,, George Kautz, Ron Mooney,

Thanks for your continued support!

Where to Fish?

by Perry Kelley

You are on your dream vacation driving across the west, fly fishing on every good-looking stream you come upon. Let's say you see a great-looking little river with good public access and apparently no other fishermen. It is early evening, and the hatch should be starting. However, nothing does happen—no hatch, no rising fish and no other fishermen. Why? How can you tell if a stream will be good? Are the only productive streams those with elbow-to-elbow fishermen? What does make a stream a good fishery?

Let's talk about streams and what to look for. Now I have to admit that I have very little expertise in these matters. The only "ology" I have after my name is the "bee-esse-ology" but I do know that there is more than just good access for hatchery trucks to make a good trout stream. Actually streams can be categorized into at least four different types: freestone, tail water, spring creek and free flowing. Each type has merits as a fishery, both good and bad. Let us discuss them.



Freestone rivers are, by my definition, streams that either are not impounded or they are upstream from a lake formed by a dam. The water source is from snow melt and other forms of precipitation. They have dramatic variances in volume of water during the year. Spring run-off, flash floods, summer drought will have an effect on the aquatic life of the stream. Water temperature will go from ice in winter to warm in late summer. The water quality is usually cool in freestone rivers, especially in the mountainous areas. However, if the source of the stream is high altitude granite-formed mountains, the water is usually void of nutrients necessary

to sustain quality aquatic life (plants, insects and fish). Thus the pristine, clear water is deceptive. Fish growth is limited and there are not large aquatic insect populations. A good example is the South Fork of the Payette River above the Banks area. On the other hand, many freestone rivers can be very fertile, especially if volcanic rock formations are part of the mountain structure. The South Fork of the Boise River above Anderson Dam is a good example of a freestone river that is both a good fishery and scenic.

If one were to make generalities about freestone streams, you could say the fish are generally small and probably not too numerous. Because fishing pressures can rapidly deplete fish, wild fish populations in these streams are often heavily planted, making bridges ideal places to fish. Special regulations are often employed on these streams. A slot limit will help to sustain the wild trout populations. The scenery is usually wonderful and crowds tend to be moderate. They are great places to camp.

Tailwater rivers are much different. These are rivers directly below a dam. Often they have magical qualities as a fishery. Tail water flows are usually quite predicable. However, they will often change during the day. Rivers are dammed for several purposes: flood control, irrigation, and hydroelectric production. Each of these will dictate the flow. Water release from dams usually comes from the bottom part of the reservoir; thus water temperatures are usually cool providing a friendly habitat for trout and aquatic life. Water flows, especially during the irrigation season, can be somewhat high and become lower during the rest of the year. Flows can fluctuate during the day if the purpose is power production. Insect life is quite predictable, and the numbers are remarkable. Mayflies, caddis flies and stoneflies all love tailwaters. The waters are always full of midges. Often special regulations are in effect in tailwater sections, thus the trout are virtually wild. Fishing

pressure is such that one seldom gets lonely. Fish can be challenging to catch. These tailwater fisheries are all well publicized. The South Fork of the Boise and Snake Rivers and the Owyhee below the dam are well known tailwaters. Fish tend to grow large and again they can be a challenge to hook.

Spring Creeks are the utopia for the fly fisherman. There is nothing quite like them. Their water source is from the ground. Snow melt is not an issue for the waters travel underground, sometimes for many years, picking up mineral nutrients and eventually come to the surface in the spring creek. The temperature is ideal for trout and the minerals promote aquatic plants (much like an aquarium) and incredible insect life. The water temperature is consistent year round, thus giving fish nourishment and vitality. Fish tend to grow large and are quite active. Insects are predictable and hatch in large numbers. You can often set your watch by the hatches.

Spring creeks are usually crowded. Some spring creeks are private, requiring the angler to reserve a rod on the stream in advance. Silver Creek in Idaho is a classic example. It was part of the old Sun Valley Ranch. When the Sun Valley resort changed hands, the Nature Conservancy purchased part of the creek. It now has free access, but you are limited to where you can fish. Henry's Fork of the Snake is actually a spring creek. The source is from a huge spring coming out of a mountain. Other spring creeks in the west are the Metolious River in central Oregon and Armstrong, Nelsons, and Dupys in Montana.

Free-flowing rivers are as the name implies; they are without dams or impoundments. The Weiser River is technically a free flowing river, although there are a couple of feeder creeks that are dammed. The characteristics of free-flowing rivers are much like freestone. Like many other rivers the mineral or nutrient content in the water dictates the quality of fishery. Water temperatures and flows greatly fluctuate during the seasons. The Salmon River is also a free-flowing river which can have huge runoff flows. Water can be diverted for irrigation several ways, including

pumping and return as waste water. This process usually raises the water temperature and changes the fishery from trout to warm-water species. Much of the Clearwater River system is free flowing. The North Fork is impounded, but the South Fork, the Middle Fork (Selway and Lochsa) are free flowing.



Now to answer the original posed question: where to fish? I haven't a clue! Tail waters and spring creeks grow big fish and are exciting to fish if you don't mind your PMD finding a soul mate with the guy downstream from yours-BWO. You know, when you are making a back cast and he is making a forward cast and the flies become intertwined (or perhaps I should say "intermonofilimated"). For camping there is nothing like the freestone waters. You probably won't catch many fish and not likely big ones, but you will have incredible fresh air and solitude. Maybe you should float the Clearwater. You might catch a cutthroat, small mouth, salmon or a big bull trout, and you will have great scenery at least from the river's perspective. Wherever you go, have fun and make a plan for the embellishment of your successes Most important. tell your stories enough times that you are consistent.

**People who fish for food,
and sport be damned,
are called pot-fishermen.**

**The more expert ones are called
crack pot-fishermen.**

**All other fishermen are called
crackpot fishermen.**

This is confusing.



P.O. Box 734
Weiser, Idaho 83672

Be sure to check out the article:
How the Weather and the Moon Really Impact Fishing By Trevor Kugler,
that accompanies this newsletter!



“Three-fourths of the Earth's surface is water, and one-fourth is land. It is quite clear that the good Lord intended us to spend triple the amount of time fishing as taking care of the lawn.”

Chuck Clark

“The fisherman who isn't plagued with suggestions is fishing alone.”

Beatrice Cook

April 2010

- April 6 - IFF Board
7 pm Idaho Pizza
- April 13 - IFF Membership
6:00 Fly Tying
7 pm Program
- April 20 - Fly Tying
7 pm Weiser Library
- April 24 - Owyhee River
Clean-up
- April 27 - Fly Casting
7 pm at the Weiser
Community Pond -
Assistance with Casting



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 IFF Board	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 IFF Membrs	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Fly Tying	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Fly Casting	28	29	30	

Owyhee River
Clean-up