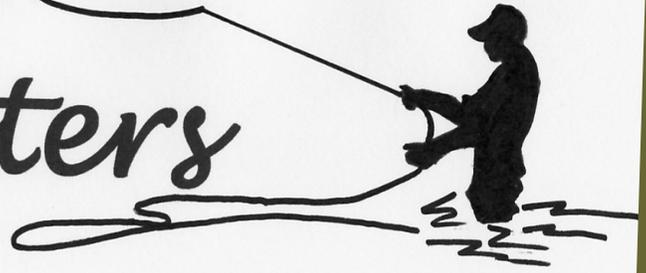




News Casters



April 2011

President's Message

by Mike Thomas

This issue of Newscaster is being put together in a unique way and hopefully arrives at your computer or home in a timely fashion. Perry and Sally are covering for Mary while they are out of email range while fishing in Arizona!

We will leave for our outing to Pyramid Lake somewhere around March 30-31 so we can start our guided fishing experience Friday morning, April 1. The guides will be available Saturday and Sunday April 2 and 3. Currently we have 13 or 14 members going on this adventure. If you have any questions about the trip, give past president Jim Gulu a call or email.

If you attended our March meeting you will remember Nando Mauldin and Frank Thomas passing the tackle box for donations to help a kid who had his tackle box stolen at Weiser Community Pond. Our members donated \$81.37 that included the new tackle box. Al Sillonis and I bought \$52.90 of tackle that left \$17.87 to help with the purchase of a fishing license since the boy will turn 14 in April. I received a thank you call from the boy stating that the new tackle box contained a lot more stuff than he had in the one that was stolen. He was really thankful for the gift! Thanks Nando and Frank for heading up this project.

I'll bet you can't guess who won the 50/50 raffle at our March meeting ??? Enough said.

We had our monthly "Pond Meeting" with Mayor Walker and his staff on March 21. We offered to spend some of our Mellon Grant to purchase another compressor as a backup and more hose to add two more diffusers to the system. We also offered to add a bench or two to be located on the east side of the pond. The city is going to fix up the trail around the pond beyond where the asphalt ends. We have placed a rock close to the entrance that will have our IHFF plaque attached shortly. Look for it the next time you are there. The pond will be stocked again on March 29 since IDFG missed their stocking date the week of March 14 because of the Weiser River flood?

Remember our April meeting will feature professional casting lessons and be held at Weiser Community Pond. That's Tuesday, April 12, at 6:00 pm. If someone wants to arrange for snacks and beverages for this meeting -go for it. Yes, Ray we will have the 50/50 raffle that night. Our monthly board meeting will be at the Beehive on Tuesday, April 5, at 7:00 pm.

I have no fishing report for this month but I hope to have a lot of big fish stories to tell and pictures to show at our April meeting.

Remember the Owyhee River Cleanup on April 30. Meet at Wildlife Viewing Area at 9 am.

Thanks for your support!!

Ole Mike Thomas!

Officers

President-

Mike Thomas 549-2473

1st Vice Pres

Bob Maki 642-6971

2nd Vice Pres

Tiffany McPheeters 702-233-1904

Past President

Bill Betts 549-0796

Secretary

Lynette Jones 549-0430

Treasurer

Mary Thompson 608-0067

Board Members

Nando Mauldin 549-2883

Dick Garrett 549-1311

Frank Thomas 549-0237

Mike Bishop 549-1549

Ken Gissel 642-3944

Mark Sands 549-2545

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Idaho Pizza, 17 W. Commercial St., Weiser. Fly tying demo at 6 pm; program at 7 pm.

Committees

Budget:

Mary Thompson, Lynette Jones

Conservation and Youth:

Mark Sands, Nando Mauldin, Rick Walters, Tim Torrel

Education:

Perry Kelley, Garry Swindell

Fund Raising:

Lynette Jones, Sarah Gulu

Historian:

Suzanne Orwig

Library:

Rod Jones, Ken Gissel, Dick Garrett

Membership:

Mike Bishop, Bill Betts

Newsletter:

Perry & Sally Kelley, Mary Thompson, Dick Garrett, Ray Perkins

Outings:

Mike Bishop, Al Sillonis

Programs:

Bob Maki

Publicity:

Tiffany McPheeters

Tips For Oldies (65+)

by Perry

Several years back the Kelley family spent several days camping on the Buffalo River (tributary to the Henry's Fork of the Snake in the Last Chance area). Idaho has many beautiful campgrounds and the Buffalo River Campground is right at the top. The river is moderate in size, slow moving, easy access and at that time, teeming with brookies. It was the ideal habitat for kids and seniors. Wading was easy, the fish were hungry, success was almost guaranteed.

Every morning just at our breakfast time, an elderly man who appeared to be in his mid- to late- eighties, made his way down to the river. This gentleman was the epitome of class. He had a much-used but classy felt hat with a fleece hat band filled with fly patterns such as Fan Wing Royal Coachmen, Lt. Cahills and Ginger Quills. His rod and reel were antiquated (cane and Hardy) but obviously top quality. He was somewhat bent over; walking at this stage of life was not easy. He needed a walking-wading staff even on dry ground. He very cautiously waded into the river; each step was carefully planned out. When he was far enough to cast, things began to change. His back cast was straight and true, and the forward cast was a thing of beauty. The fly consistently settled gently into the feeding lane and with careful mends, drifted unencumbered by drag. It was never determined if he did catch fish. To him, that was no longer too important. He never spent more than a half hour fishing before making his way back to his camp with tears in his eyes and a smile on his face. It was obvious that this wonderful gentleman had spent much of his life fly fishing and had been very good at it. He

was not going to let advanced age stop him. He knew his limits and just being in a river at his age was a thrill.

I often think of the elderly gentleman on the Buffalo and realize that I am beginning to approach that stage in my life. The other day I read an article in the Winter 2011 issue of *Flyfishing* by Robert L. Sadrakula titled "Fly-Fishing Tips for the Over-65 Crowd." He gave ten tips for those of us who fit this age bracket. I would like to paraphrase these for your consideration.

First, consider the obvious that we physically and mentally are not the same as in our youth. Our balance, strength, and endurance have been compromised with age. We sometimes forget important items for our trips. Our eyesight and hearing are not what they used to be. These tips address these changes and give us alternatives to continue our sport as we grow older.

Ten Tips:

1. Fish Small Streams. Small streams are much easier to wade and cross than rivers. They usually are less crowded.

2. Use Lighter Tackle.

Consider all of our gear as tackle. Don't be a pack horse and carry everything you own. Fish with a light rod (you do not have to make nearly as long casts) and carry one fly box. A 7½ foot 4 weight rod is perfect.

3. Be prepared for when nature calls. Felt sole hip boots may be more convenient for this purpose than waders and in many small streams, wet wading is quite pleasant in the summertime. Also take a

bottle of water and necessary medications with you.

4. Studded Boots and Wading Staffs. Rubber sole boots and tennis shoes are a recipe for disaster. You never want to fall. A good wading staff is the best life insurance policy you can get.

5. SPF30+. Never go without the necessary protection from the sun's harmful rays. Wear hats that shade your face, ears and neck. I recently had lip surgery to remove a cancerous growth from years of sun abuse. Always use good sunscreen and lip protection. Some hats and fishing shirts have been treated to protect you from the sun.

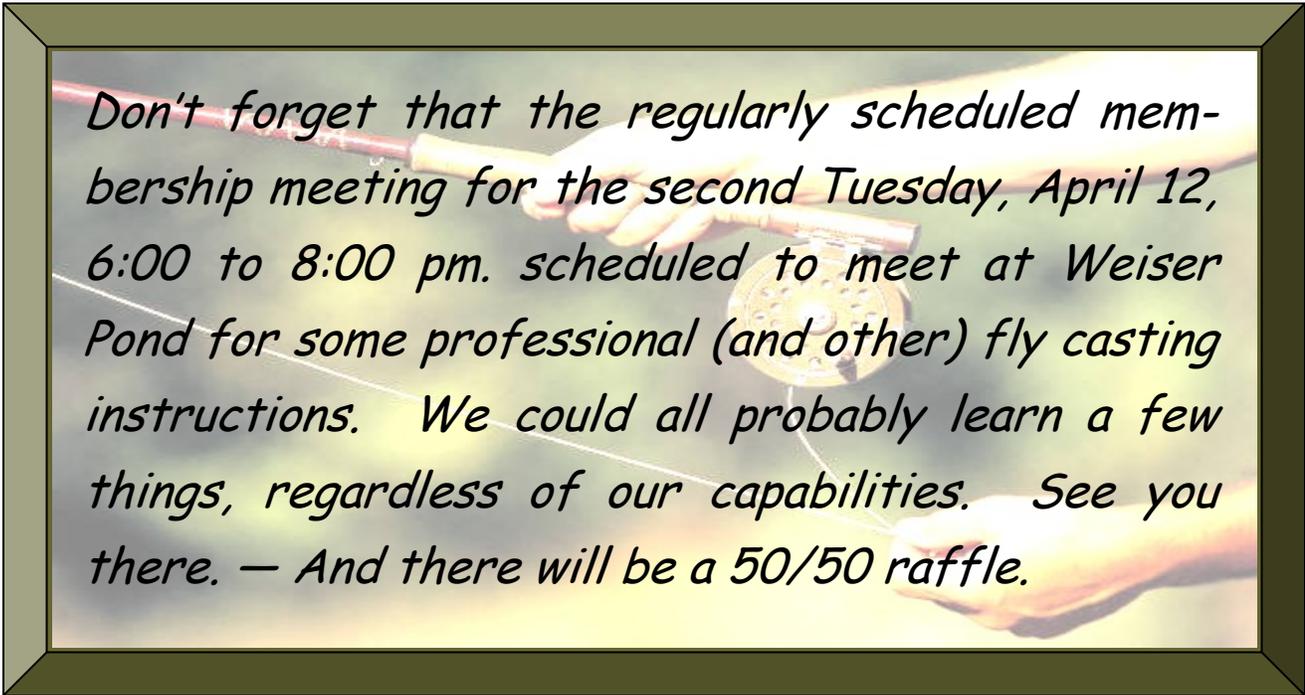
6. Protect your Eyes. Use sunglasses that protect your eyes from UV-rays. They also protect you from a sloppy cast.

7. Take Shorter Trips. Pace yourself. Admit that you cannot fish non-stop daylight to dusk. It is important for you to rest.

8. Fewer Flies. Many of us have dozens of fly boxes and feel insecure if we don't have all of them with us. If you have a favorite small stream, know what flies work. The more stuff you have with you, the harder you have to work to fish and the harder it is to maintain your balance. Take only what you absolutely need.

9. Don't Fish Alone. Besides companionship think of the consequences of fishing alone. If you have a problem, it is absolutely essential to have help; or if your buddy has a problem you will be there for him/her

10. Keep in Shape. Enough said. You should exercise to be fit for fishing. This also applies to mental exercise. Plan to maintain your health to extend both your life and your fly fishing experiences well beyond the 65-



Don't forget that the regularly scheduled membership meeting for the second Tuesday, April 12, 6:00 to 8:00 pm. scheduled to meet at Weiser Pond for some professional (and other) fly casting instructions. We could all probably learn a few things, regardless of our capabilities. See you there. — And there will be a 50/50 raffle.

South Cottonwood Reservoir

By Ray Perkins



South Cottonwood Reservoir looking west or upstream

In southeastern Oregon, water storage in large irrigation reservoir is inconsistent at best. During the last decade, many of our large reservoirs filled and spilled only once and had carryover water once or twice. In most cases, our most consistent trout fisheries are located in small multipurpose reservoirs constructed in the last 50 years. These reservoirs are scattered throughout the county from north of Bully Creek Reservoir south to just north of McDermitt. All were constructed to benefit many different resources including livestock, wildlife and fisheries. In Malheur County, the

The trout fishery in this reservoir usually begins in the early spring as soon as the roads are free of snow

department stocked trout into 30 plus small reservoirs. In the Harper-Westfall area there are five such reservoirs. South Cottonwood Reservoir is the largest of the five and has the most consistent water supply.

Access into South Cottonwood is restricted in the late fall through early spring by snowdrifts and soft, rain-soaked roads. Usually by mid April, the snow has melted and the roads are beginning to dry out. Ice out usually occurs about this time. There are several road access routes into the reservoir.

The shortest route is from Harper Junction on Hwy 20 via Amick Road across the canal to South Mountain on to South Cottonwood Reservoir, the distance is 18.7 miles. Dirt roads dominate this route and when the weather is wet, it can be very slippery. The most popular route is from Harper Junction to Westfall (12.6 miles), west to the Lawrence Ranch (8.2 miles), west to Pence Springs Reservoir (2.3 miles), west to Peavine Reservoir (3.9 miles), then 3.4 miles to South Cottonwood Reservoir, a total distance of 30.4 miles. The roads along this route are gravel-dominated, which are better during wet weather. Other routes include one from Beulah Reservoir via Becker's Horse Camp. This route can be shortened some by turning off at Pole Creek and intersecting the Becker's Horse Camp Road at Kelsey Butte. These routes are more popular with deer and elk hunters in the fall. No matter which route you choose it is best to have a high clearance vehicle, four-wheel drive in the spring and fall.

Stocking this as well as other small ponds in the county is always a balancing act be-

tween when the fish are at size, roads are firm, and water temperatures are not too high. Mid to late May has proven to be the best time to stock these ponds over the last few years.

Mark your calendars

Owyhee Rive Clean-up

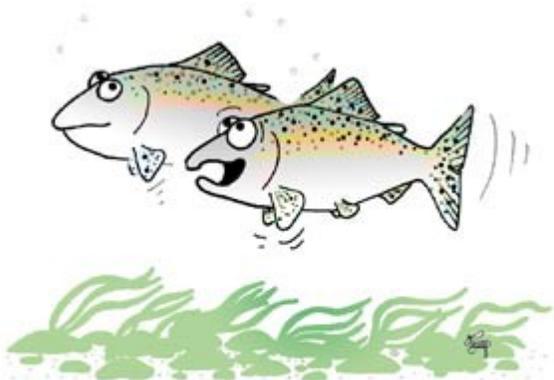
Saturday, April 30, 2011

9 am at the Wildlife Viewing Area

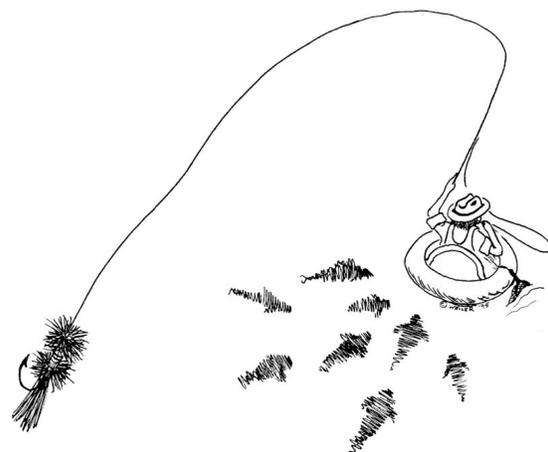
Followed by lunch and an afternoon of Fishing!!!

The trout fishery in this reservoir usually begins in the early spring as soon as the roads are free of snow and firm enough for vehicle travel. With the use of ATV's or snow-machines, you

can access these ponds a little earlier. As with most lakes and ponds midges begin hatching almost at ice off. Leeches are also available during early spring. In May, good numbers of callibaetis mayflies hatch. Sizes range from 12 to 16. By June, damselflies and dragonflies are hatching. During the heart of the summer catch rate slow as water warms. During this time fishing is best in the early morning before the sunlight hit the water in the evening after the sunlight leaves the water. In the fall, most hatches are over, but leeches, scuds and water boatman make up the trout fair. For those of you not opposed to other methods, spinners are always a good choice, especially 'Thomas Lures' red and gold spoons.



"Let's jump a few times
just to drive the fly fishers crazy!"





P.O. Box 734
Weiser, Idaho 83672



Photos are of the Thompsons at Alamo Lake in Arizona. "After three years of trying, we finally hit the crappie catch." Kind of makes you want to winter in Arizona doesn't it?

I've spent most of my life fishing, the rest I just wasted.

Coming Events

- April 1-3 — Pyramid Lake Outing
- April 5 — IFF Board at the Beehive
- April 12 — IFF Membership Weiser Pond — Fly Casting 6-8 pm
- April 15-16 — Eastern Idaho Expo—Idaho Falls
- April 19 — Fly tying, Library
- April 30 — Owyhee River Cleanup

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pyramid Lake	2 Pyramid Lake
3 Pyramid Lake	4	5 IFF Board	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 IFF Meeting at Pond	13	14	15 East ID Expo	16 astern Idaho
17	18	19 Fly Typing	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Owyhee Cleanup

