

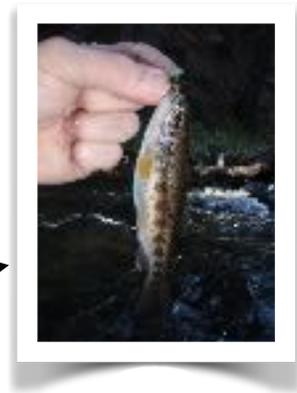


MARCH 2022



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“Spring is here!” I heard some one exclaim, and rejoiced. Then I took a grandson out chasing turkeys on the hills between Keithley and Hopper creeks, and discovered the celebration was premature: the wind was brutal. We drove up higher to check on Keithley: it’s running a bit high, but clear; the road is still muddy at the upper end, so I thought after few drying-out days I would plan a trip up with the short 4 weight and the Tenkara Today…….snow! and a discouraging forecast.



This is what I am “hankerin for”:



Late in March our membership collaborated with Boise Valley Flyfishers and BLM for a trash clean up along the Owyhee. We “gotterdone” and had a good time, but one of my grandsons grouched that they didn’t serve food like the Idaho Traditional Bowhunters events.

Be sure to look at the schedule of future events for this and future months. I am looking forward to some group fishing adventures.

The plan for the annual Weiser Community Pond Moss and Trash Removal Project is for the eleventh of June. I expect my grandson will be happier with the provided food.

The Idaho Conservation Officers Association is again hosting their youth summer camp in the first week of August. I am including a link to their website announcement, which includes the application. Our club is again providing a scholarship for one person, and the Sillonis family is funding another in memoriam of Al. This is a great opportunity for boys and girls 10 - 12 years of age, with education on wildlife and conservation subjects, with hands on experiences and certifications for fishing, archery, firearms safety and other subjects.

<https://www.idahoconservationofficersassociation.com/youth-camp>

We are expecting to restart the casting instruction/tune up this month. If you are interested, show up at the Weiser Community pond around 6:00 pm and look for some folks waving sticks, and we’ll try to help you get started or to progress in your skills.

It's for everybody-not just members!

Remember the great resource we have in the library contained in two white rolling cabinets. Bob Maki is your librarian, so grab him at Tuesday’s meeting. You could even win some gear or \$\$\$\$ with the raffles. Bring your fishing reports, meet some new members to plan to take them fishing, and I am hoping to show you some damsel fly nymph patterns and techniques.

See then, I hope. *Bruce*



MARCH 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Board meeting Idaho Pizza 7:00 p.m.	6	7 Breakfast 8:00 am Metropole	8	9
10	11	12 Meeting 7:00 p.m. Idaho Pizza	13	14 Breakfast 8:00 am Metropole	15	16
17	18	19 Fly tying, Weiser Library 7:00	20	21 Breakfast 8:00 am Metropole	22	23
24	25	26 Fly Casting Weiser Pond 6:00 p.m.	27	28 Breakfast 8:00 am Metropole	29	30
1 MAY	2	3 Board meeting Idaho Pizza 7:00 p.m.	4	5 Breakfast 8:00 am Metropole	6	7

Remember: There will be fly tying at the Weiser Library this month. Bruce Parsons will lead the group

Board meeting every first Tuesday of the month. Everybody is welcome at the Board meetings.

Fly Casting lessons and/or practice will resume at the Weiser Community Pond this month starting at **6:00** p.m.

Please note that the place for the Breakfast has returned to the Metropole

Dues due this Month:

-  Bonnie Akbar
-  Grant Baugh
-  Tom & Cindy Dyer
-  Dave Henderson



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AL'S BODY RECOVERED

For those who have not heard, Al Sillonis' body has been recovered and returned home. The following article appeared in the last issue of the Weiser Signal American with all the details as they are known at this time.

The body of a Weiser man missing since January was recently recovered in Wallowa County in Oregon.

Alberto (Al) Sillonis, 85, was presumed dead following a search on the Snake River near fishing docks at Hells Canyon Visitor Center in Baker County. Sillonis left his home on Monday, Jan. 17 and had planned to return later in the day. He was last seen around 2 p.m. Family contacted authorities around 6 p.m. that evening when he did not return. Sillonis' Nissan Frontier was found in the parking lot of the visitor's center just after 9 p.m. and his fishing gear, including one pole with line still in the water, was discovered near the water's edge.

"I got called by the Baker County Sheriff's Office that they had sent two deputies at the request of the Washington County Sheriff's Office," Wallowa County Sheriff Joel Fish said of the initial missing person report. "They located his fishing poles, his pickup unlocked, and then the next day we found his hat floating."

An extensive search was conducted near the docks and the shoreline, and Idaho Power employees used a SeaBotix, a remotely operated vehicle equipped with underwater camera and sonar, to aid the search.

"We did a search of the river and didn't locate anything," Fish said. The search was suspended on Thursday, March 20 when no further sign of Sillonis was found.

A public information officer for Baker County Sheriff's Office verified that authorities suspected he went into the water at some point and was not able to get back to the dock or the shore. "[It] is our belief he had been on that dock and didn't make it out of the water," Ashley McClay told the Argus Observer on March 20.



Though Sillonis had not yet been found, he was presumed dead, his family publishing an obituary in the Feb. 23 edition of the Weiser Signal American.

Three weeks later, he was found in Wallowa County.

In mid-March, a man was presumably recreating when he discovered the body and contacted authorities.

"On March 16, we were notified that a man was on the river and located a deceased person," Fish said. "Our deputy, along with a special agent with the U.S. Forest Service and officers with Idaho Fish and Game, went up with our medical examiner and retrieved Mr. Sillonis on March 17." Sillonis' wallet was still in his pocket, allowing authorities to make initial positive identification.

The obituary published on Feb. 23 was both heartfelt and humorous, capturing his personality and apparent love for life. The family expressed love and affection for Sillonis who was a Korean War veteran and later worked for the U.S. Forest Service, retiring in 1994. Between his stint in the U.S. Army and employment with the USFS, Sillonis spent 38 years in government service.

"While some family and friends were quick to speculate that he was in the witness protection program, had been abducted by aliens, or kidnapped by a femme fatale, the prime suspect was identified as the river. Somehow, he fell in and did not survive. While Al practiced catch and release most of the time, the river has not been so cooperative," the obituary states.

Sillonis enjoyed photography, hunting, skiing, camping, traveling, picking huckleberries, and bowling, among other things. He was a member of the Indian Head Fly Fishing Club and was good at making friends.

"Al was a friend to many and a stranger to none because he talked to everyone who crossed his path, regardless of whether they wanted to or not," the obituary states. "Al will be dearly missed by his wife of 50 years, Jeanette, daughters Diana and Tresa, sister Cecilia Lodzinski, brother Mateo (Mike) Sillonis, extended family members, and friends."



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WADING SAFETY

Equipment

Polarized Glasses

- ❖ **Wading Staff**- The staff acts as a “third leg” enabling the angler to retain stability while wading through currents and around rocks.
- ❖ **Wading Shoes** – The soles should be felt with or without spikes. Spikes are great in the water but can cause spills on dry rocks. Most falls happen on dry rocks next to the water. I don’t care for the newer rubber soles..
- ❖ **Wading Belt** = A firm tightly cinched belt can save your life, it *will not* keep all the water out of your waders, but will keep intrusion to a minimum.
- ❖ **Waders** – Make sure they don’t leak and keep your feet and legs warm. Cold feet/legs are clumsy and can cause falls.

Wading Practices

- ❖ **Staff** – Find water depth, for me that’s knee deep
- ❖ Brace yourself against the current with the staff upstream (rule of thumb) If the current moves the staff downstream, don’t wade. Be smart and safe.
- ❖ Keep your staff in front and upstream of you, walk towards it before moving it. Always keep two points of contact with the stream bottom.
- ❖ Don’t try to fish as you wade, you’re looking for nothing but trouble.
- ❖ Take shuffling steps and move at a 45 degree angle downstream.
- ❖ Don’t step on top of big rocks (slippery)
- ❖ Be wary of sweeping tree limbs
- ❖ Don’t die for your tackle

You should NEVER do

- ❖ Take a step not knowing the water depth
- ❖ Cast and move at the same time
- ❖ Exceed your energy limit.
- ❖ *One last suggestion always err on the side of caution*

Acronym

WADER

- W**ear your wading belt
- A**ssess the difficulty and anticipate any problems
- D**evelop a plan
- E**xecute that plan
- R**etreat if necessary



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FOR THE END-OF-YEAR AUCTION



Tenkara rod and accessories
donated by Mike Stanton



Limited edition framed watercolor
donated by Idaho Pizza and
framed by Dick Garrett



Inflatable
Back Pack
donated by
Bruce
Parsons

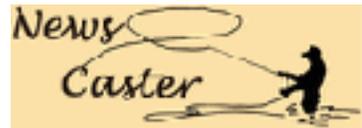
Rod holder
made and
donated by
Lloyd
Thurman



- 👤 You do know that the membership meeting next month (May 10) is the last meeting of the season.
- 👤 However, it is also the night of the **Year-End** drawing. In addition to the prizes shown above, we have several other smaller prizes to give away.
- 👤 The first ticket drawn will have the choice of prizes from which to take home. The second ticket may pick from the retainer, etc.
- 👤 So get to the meeting and buy your ticket. Only \$1.00 each.
- 👤 Be there, but you do not have to be present to win.



MARCH 2022



Sent from Grant Baugh

Grass carpin', Urban fly fishing at its best, in downtown Tempe, Az. canals.

It's what local fly fishermen do for sport and to keep their skills sharp because precision fly placement is required. The fish are plentiful but really challenging to catch. They are easily spooked, frustratingly particular and big and hard on tackle.

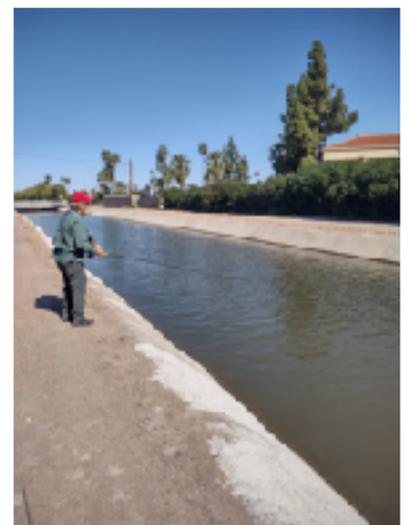
Phoenix has 300 miles of canals, some publicly owned with roads and trails along both sides open to the public for all types of recreation, including fly fishing.

The gear is simple, five weight rod, floating line, 4# test 4-5' fluorocarbon leader and #14-16 chartreuse colored foam fly that resembles floating algae. Polarized sun glasses are necessary because you have to be able to see the fish. You also need a long handled net to land one.



We walked slowly along the cement lined canal along Tempe's Kiwanis Park looking for carp grazing at water level on algae. When we spotted one we gently cast the chartreuse fly 3-4' upstream of the carp. Then it is up to the fish, and in most cases they just ignored my perfect presentation. Damn! they are selective.

Once you hook one, the rodeo begins. Remember you are fishing in a canal with moving constantly moving water for big strong





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On the Lighter Side



To be frank, I'd have to change my name.

Turning Vegan Would be a Big Missed Steak

*Ban Pre-shredded cheese.
Make America grate again.*



**DOGS CAN'T OPERATE
MRI SCANNERS,
BUT CATSCAN**



WHAT I IF TOLD YOU
YOU READ THE TOP LINE
WRONG?

Wishing you a Happy
Whatever-Doesn't-Offend-You!



This was the moment Walter wished he wasn't holding a bottle of steel softener.

