

Hackle Bender

Bending hackles since 1971

Update from the Board of Directors

First, we hope that you and your families are doing well in these challenging times. We have all addressed the COVID-19 as best we can and hopefully, we have better days coming. What are those better days? What is normal? What does this mean for BVFF?

BVFF is approaching its 50th year of building and supporting a fly fishing community. We have invested and provided outstanding educational programs, EXPO's, access and conservation projects plus numerous outings. BVFF has also been a strong community partner with donations and support of the local shops and providers. Now with COVID-19, what does the future look like?

As we move forward, we as a team need to develop and define the next phase of BVFF. We need to expand and develop our teams that will define BVFF. What are some of those opportunities and what can you do to help?

- The structure of BVFF is defined in our current bylaws. The core team is the B.O.D. to set the policy and provide guidance for the organization. Would you be willing to serve on the B.O.D.? This is a 3 year term and meets once a month as a team to guide BVFF.
- BVFF has grown in the past with strong committees and teams. Key teams include, but are not limited to:
 - **Outings.** How many of you have enjoyed and learned from a BVFF outing? What does an outing look like as we move forward and how do we add value? Would you be willing to lead or join this team?
 - **Access/Conservation.** We have a proud list of past contributions to the community; what do we focus on as we return? Would you be willing to lead or join this team?
 - **EXPO.** what do these look like as we move forward? We need you to be part of the team to help define, plan, manage and support this community event. Would you be willing to lead or join this team?

This is not a complete list but hopefully it will help you understand why we need you to join one of the BVFF teams to help us continue to provide value for the community. Hope to see you some day in the future on the water and thank you for all you do and can do for BVFF.



CALENDAR:

May 14—Chapter Mtg.
CANCELLED.

May 15—Bruneau Sand
Dunes Outing.
CANCELLED.

May 19—Graylings
Coffee. CANCELLED.

**FOR CALENDAR
UPDATES, SEE OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE OR
BVFF.COM**

Support Your Local Fly Shop

These shops are the backbone of our fishing community and have been sponsors and friends of BVFF. What can you do to help?

Currently, Three Rivers Ranch, Idaho Anglers and Boise Anglers have all reopened for business. They will limit how many customers can be in the shop at a time, and will encourage people to wear masks or buffs and to use the provided hand sanitizer. They will also continue to offer curbside pickup for those that don't want to enter the store, as well. You can also support them by purchasing a gift certificate or booking a guided trip over the phone for shops that offer that service.

Current Status of regional waters:

OPEN:

Owyhee river (Re-opened 5/5)

C.J. Strike, Crane Falls

Lake Lowell

CLOSED:

Duck Valley (To be determined)

South Fork Boise (Opens May 23)

Silver Creek (Opens May 23)

Things you can do if you're stuck at home:

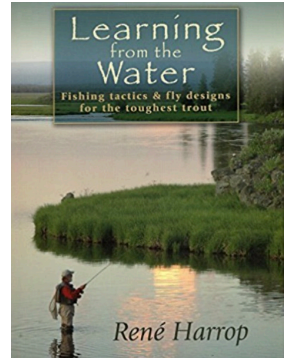
1. Google this article — Orvis How to Practice at Home. Timely advice!
2. Go to Amazon and order one of the books that was reviewed in this newsletter.
3. Tie some flies. Sort your fly boxes so that finding the right fly on the stream is easy.
4. Build a fly rod. Sites like mudhole.com offer all the components and tools you'll need.
5. Clean your floating line(s) so they will float high and dry when you're ready to fish.
6. Go to IFFClearning.com and sign up for a 21-day live and interactive "Stillwater Academy" to fine-tune your lake fishing skills.
7. Watch fishing videos. Many episodes of The New Fly Fisher are on YouTube.
8. Interact with fellow club members on our Facebook page.

BOOK REVIEWS:

Learning from the Water by Rene Harrop

Stackpole Books, 2010

Harrop is well known for his great fly patterns. He lives near the Henry's fork, where his Trouthunter fly shop can be found. I knew he was an accomplished angler wildlife artist and tyer, but never realized what a good writer he is until reading this book. His writing is thoughtful, precise and evocative.



The subtitle is “Fishing tactics & fly designs for the toughest trout,” and I think anyone who has spent on the Fork can agree that those are some of the toughest fish that can be found. Anglers on the Fork don't just flail the water all day. They play the game of hunting for fish with big heads and then waiting for a rising fish. At that point the game begins, but lo! Beware to the angler who isn't sure which insect or stage of an insect is being taken. He will be changing flies.

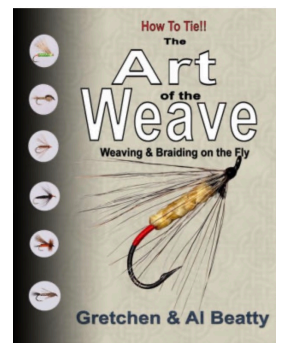
Chapters cover such topics as assembling a working fly box, beetles, PMD's, Flavs, midging, lessons in humility and much more. Not only is the text good, but the photos are superb and there are tons of pictures of good spring creek patterns along with their tying recipes.

While Harrop shows he can be lyrical, for the most part his writing sticks to the details that will help people succeed on the water. Most of the anecdotes he cites are taken from fishing on the Henry's Fork or nearby waters like the Madison. If you're thinking of fishing those waters, this book is packed full of tips on what flies and techniques to use. And if you like this book, I recommend his earlier book, Trout Hunter, as well.

How to Tie!! The Art of the Weave by Gretchen & Al Beatty

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Our own Gretchen and Al Beatty have written a number of fly tying books, and this newest volume covers woven flies. It includes chapters on Pott-style flies and Grant-style flies, which some members may have heard of, since they originated in Montana, where they have a long history of producing good fish.



The unique thing about woven flies is the ability to create a complex pattern of colors on your fly, like a dark back with a much lighter underside, which we see so often with real insects. A number of patterns are covered here, including the Montana Stone and Bitch creek. It's a totally different way to make a fly, and is a nice skill to add to your repertoire.

Both eBook versions and printed versions of the Beatty's books can be found on Amazon. Or they have signed print copies available via their website (www.btsflyfishing.com).

Fly Tying Tips:

Submitted this month by Al and Gretchen Beatty



Heavy Hackle

We really had to chuckle over this tip – heavy hackle using one feather. It wasn't that many years ago it was standard practice to use four India cape feathers to hackle one dry fly. Times have changed.

Today many of our customers request heavily hackled flies for use on our rough and tumble western rivers. We can accomplish this task with a single saddle hackle.

Start by tying the feather on the hook at the back of the hackle area. Wrap the thread forward to the hook eye then follow with the feather leaving small spaces between each turn. Tie it off at the eye with one thread turn. Wind the thread to the back of the hackle area taking care to not mash the fibers. Follow with the feather filling in the spaces. Tie it off with one turn then wrap the thread forward to the hook eye as shown in the second illustration. Once again wrap the feather forward, tie it off, and form a thread head. Clip off the waste part of the feather. The number of times we've crisscrossed thread/materials makes this hackle bullet proof and also attractive.

Tip #2

Down The Hill

If you've resigned yourself to the fact there is usually a gap between the hackle turns on your Trude-style flies right where you trimmed off the waste fibers from the wing then take note. We have a couple of methods that work well for us and you may find of value as well.

First trim the waste fibers from the wing by placing the scissors parallel (and tight against) the hook shank. The resulting cut produces a "bunny slope" tapering toward the hook eye rather than a "cliff for the expert only."

One method we use to avoid “hackle slip” is to leave the bobbin hanging at the start of the hill. The weight of the bobbin/thread keeps the hackle from slipping forward when starting down the hill toward the hook eye.

The other technique is to tie the feather on at the front of the hook. Then we wrap back toward the wing base (up the hill) leaving small gaps between each turn of hackle making sure one of those gaps is at the start of the hill. The return trip to the hook eye completes a hackle collar void of any gaps.



Congratulations to Brian Miller.

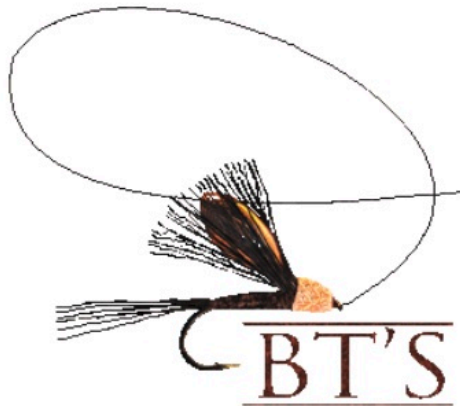
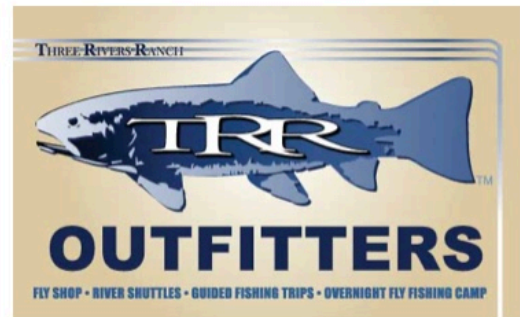
Winner of the drawing for a Bucks Bag

Pontoon boat.





Thank you to our sponsors!



Submit items for the September newsletter to the editor: teisele44@gmail.com

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