

The Hackle Bender

Boise Valley Fly Fishers

May, 2022



Welcome to May!

May means spring is in full swing and summer is practically here. Streams that closed in November will open on Memorial Day weekend. Meanwhile, stillwaters are in prime shape. It's GO TIME!

Treasurer's Report:

Membership:

At the end of March, our club had 214 members, up from 199 at the end of February. In April, the following fly-fishers joined our club:

Kent Black and Family, Leslie Green, Linda Harmon-Butts and Family, Scott Lenz, Allyn Luenow, Dennis Miracle, Bill Nelson Dylan Wade, Steven Kay and family and Ezekiel Tree Willard.

Board of Directors:

The term of service on the Board of Directors for Nute Davis, Matt Perkins, and Tom McKnight expired in March. Tom has agreed to serve another three-year term. The officers and Board of Directors offer a big thank you to Nute and Matt for the many years of service on the Board. Your input and hard work will be missed.

Kent Black and Brian Martin have agreed to join the Board to fill the two vacancies. Welcome aboard Kent and Brian! We look forward to working with you.

Financial:

Our club funds totaled \$38,481 at the end of March, up from \$38,147 at the end of February.

Kent Christensen

Email: kentchristensen73@gmail.com

Calendar:

May 12. Monthly meeting. In-person and via Zoom. 6:30pm.

May 14-15 club outing. Bruneau Sand Dunes. Sign up online.

June 4. Idaho 2-Fly Derby. Club members can enter drawing for a free ticket.

June 9. Monthly meeting 6:30pm. Hybrid format.

June 17-19. Club outing, Silver Creek. Register online.

July 14. Annual club picnic. Kristin Armstrong Park, Boise.



FFI Affiliate Club

FOR MORE CALENDAR ITEMS
CHECK BVFF.COM

GEAR UP!

Check Current Fishing Reports to get the latest:

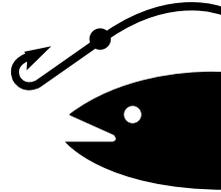
[Idaho Angler Reports](#)

[3 Rivers Ranch Reports— Owyhee River / Boise River](#)

[Boise Anglers Reports](#)

[Silver Creek Outfitters](#)

[Henry's Fork/Henry's Lake/Henry's Fork Foundation Reports](#)



Check current streamflows before you go:

<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/id/nwis/current/?type=flow>



Check current reservoir levels:

<https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/select.html>



Did you remember that January was the deadline for membership dues? Our member dues help us to do conservation and habitat projects and so much more. Go here to renew your membership: <http://www.boisevalleyflyfishers.wildapricot.org/Join-BVFF>



Spring Stillwaters

by Dave Shuldes shuldesd@gmail.com

It's 3:00am and with no alarm set, my eyes have just popped wide open. Turning to look at the clock, my body instinctively knew "It's time to roll". My destination is almost 3 hours away and I want to be on the water at daybreak. It's Idaho spring stillwater time!

April and May are tough months here for our rivers. Just as temps are warming many waters are closing for spawning. Run-off often makes wading inaccessible. Opening day is still 2 months away... what's a fly angler to do? My thoughts always turn to our lakes and reservoirs in April. The Snake River system from American Falls to Hell's Canyon, Bruneau Dunes, Crane Falls, Hagerman area ponds, and the enticing waters of Duck Valley on the Nevada border all await.

How to access the water? My preference is an inflatable kayak. Pontoon boats and floats tubes are also very effective. 5/6 weight rods and reels will be loaded with sinking tips off of floating line, as well as full-sinking line options. 3X leaders are tapered to 4X tippets, down to 5X if midges or small dries are used. My targets are trout, largemouth/smallmouth bass and bluegill. Here in Idaho, the natural prey in most of our reservoirs are going to be fish fry, leeches, shrimp, snails and insects in various stages of hatching, especially suspended chironomids.

Patterns in my stillwater box include streamers, leeches, shrimp, midges and foam spiders. My streamer favorites are the Gartside Sparrow and it's ilk, including variations on Woolly Buggers, Stayner Ducktails, etc. Hook sizes 8 to 10 with non-lead wire wrap and Tungsten bead heads are in order. Use of marabou in the tail can help the fly double as a leech. Canadian brown leeches and balanced leech patterns can be extremely effective. Chironomids size 18 to 22 are another essential direction. Fish can be targeting midges in their swarming, swimming stages and a black or red zebra-type midge with white and/or pearl flash for gills can be a quick ticket.

Particularly for Duck Valley the other pattern to play is shrimp/snail imitations. The Taylor's shrimp is my most effective fly down there in the spring. It's a simple pattern - use a size 8 or 10 scud hook and add a Tungsten bead in olive or copper. Wrap the hook with wire for weight and tie in an olive or yellow grizzly hackle rated size 12-14. Use variegated olive/black chenille with embedded flash material for a tapered body. Palmer the grizzly hackle forward and whip finish. Then trim the back hackle off close to the chenille for the correct shape (see photo).



I often rig a midge as a point fly with a streamer/leech tied in 8-12 inches above as a dropper. My technique is a long cast followed by a pause to let the line and fly sink. Then retrieve with short 4 to 6-inch strips just above the weed line back towards the boat. The goal is to imitate a swimming movement. Hatching midges can also be fished on a suspended slow-sinking line with a slow drift just a few feet under the surface. Set the hook with any feedback and hang on - these large trout can be very lively on these longer spring days! Tight lines everyone!

BVFF Angling Code

By Troy Pearse

With the rapid increase in population in the Treasure Valley, and the influx of people fishing due to the pandemic, showing consideration for fellow anglers and river stewardship is more important than ever.

Last year BVFF submitted a request to Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) to add anti-litter and fishing etiquette information to the general fishing regulations. We included some simple graphics as examples to emphasize key points, and asked them to adopt some of the fishing etiquette information in one of their Steelhead Fishing pamphlets. IDF&G added an excellent graphic titled “Keep Idaho Waters Clean”, which we are very happy to see, but they declined to add anything on etiquette at this time, citing limited space and publication costs.

BVFF is continuing to look for ways to get fishing etiquette information out into the fishing community. We leveraged some excellent guidelines from Fly Fishers International into some materials for the Fly Fishing Expo last January and asked all presenters to incorporate the concepts into their presentations. We have created a new “BVFF Code Of Angling” web-page that contains all of this information (<https://www.bvff.com/Fishing-Etiquette-Ethics/>). Leading by example is important and we ask all BVFF members to review our Code Of Angling web page and share it with others.

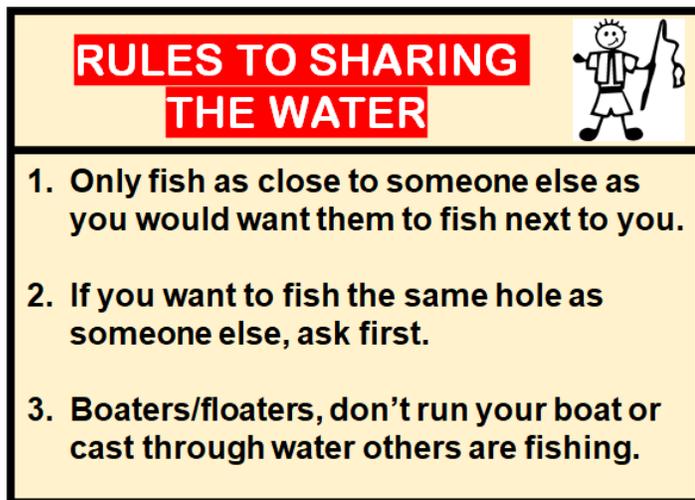
The FFI Angling Code document is excellent but is long and very detailed. I have reduced the FFI Angling Code to three items I feel embody the essence in concept without the details. They are:



Angling Code

- 1. Take care of the fish**
- 2. Respect other anglers**
- 3. Leave it better than you found it**

1. Take care of the fish. This includes proper fish handling, leaving spawning fish alone, and avoiding fishing when waters are too warm.
2. Respect other anglers. This is the set of good behaviors for sharing the water.
3. Leave it better. This is practicing river stewardship so the resource is available for the next generation.



RULES TO SHARING THE WATER

- 1. Only fish as close to someone else as you would want them to fish next to you.**
- 2. If you want to fish the same hole as someone else, ask first.**
- 3. Boaters/floaters, don't run your boat or cast through water others are fishing.**

The days of having miles of every river to ourselves are behind us. Moving forward we need to learn how to respectfully share the water as well as look for new waters that hold new challenges. We are looking for help to get this fishing etiquette information out to a wider audience. If you are interested in helping us promote the BVFF Angling Code, please contact me at conservation@bvff.com.

Memorable Trips

Submitted by Mike Okamura

Fishing Journal entry—

The fly fishing god has blessed us with no wind and plenty of sunshine today. We immediately started catching bonefish. No waves meant conditions were ideal for my boat mate Skip to tag a few bones, and he was able to enjoy a relaxing morning of bonefishing.

I was on the front casting for bones at around noon. Calm water and good sunshine allowed me to see the fish, and I spotted 3 good sized permit coming to us dead ahead at 90 feet in 2 ft. of water. I peeled off more lines and got ready for the intercept with my 8 wt. TFO BVK rod with 12 ft. long 12 pound leader. They were now moving from 12 o'clock to 1 o'clock at 50 feet and I dropped my size 16 pearl colored Crazy Charlie 6 ft. in front of the lead fish. All three immediately spooked with me sending a "Hail Mary" at the departing fish.

I kept on landing and releasing bones, but my mind was always on what I did wrong with the last pod of permit. We ate a quick lunch and I was at it again when our guide Nacho exclaimed "Permit 1:00", and sure enough I spotted a pair of big bruisers cruising at 60 feet angling away from 1:00 to 3:00. Remembering my last failed shot, this time I placed the fly well ahead (20 feet) and twitched my fly few times. I was amazed to see the lead permit cover 15 or so feet in a flash and pound my bonefish fly. All I needed was a short strip-set and the big permit was headed away from me with my reel screaming in protest as I watched him cover 100 yards in the short time Nacho was scrambling to start the motor for the chase. All I could do was let him go and pray for my 12 pound bonefish tippet to hold.

I eventually recovered my backing and worked hard to recover my fly line while still mumbling few prayers. The big permit's mate kept following my fish as it fought the pressure of my rod. I tried my very best to keep him fighting my reel drag without stressing the 12 pound tippet to a breaking point, but the darn fish was like a locomotive and kept on bulldozing ahead when the boat got too close to him. After fighting my reel for two hours he finally showed me his side and Nacho jumped into the water for the tail grab. It took 4 separate attempts by Nacho to tail the beast. The big fish would make a powerful thrust whenever Nacho put his hand around his tail. It took 2-1/2 hours to land this 35 pound permit.

"One of my greatest days..."



BVFF Leave It Better Program

EARTH DAY RIVER CLEANUPS

by Brian Martin, Leave It Better Coordinator

Earth Day is a popular time to clean up our rivers. Spring days are longer, and warmer, and the river levels are still down making it easier to remove trash. It's also a good time to target removing fishing line left along banks before birds get to it and use it for nesting material. Many river cleanups do not have volunteers who are capable of going into the water to retrieve trash. This is where BVFF volunteers add a lot of value.

This Spring BVFF volunteered to join three different Earth Day cleanup events. At each event we joined other organizations that led the cleanup activities. Our hats off to these organizations for their efforts to ***Leave It Better Than They Found It***.

- March 26th found 13 BVFF volunteers joining the Indian Head Fly Fishers at the Owyhee River. Thank you to Robert Braun, Randy James, Jeff Jones, Klaus Kissman, Mike Okamura, Bruce Oshita, Troy Pearse, Victor Raphael, Peter Roan, Joan Skoro, Mike Taylor, and Cody Thomassen. Even the dogs got involved. After the cleanup, some were able to hit the river after and fish. Here's a photo from a beautiful day on the Owyhee River.



- On April 22nd, 12 BVFF volunteers and 2 guests joined the Golden Eagle Audubon Society at the Diane Moore Nature Center. Thank you to Glenn Anders and his guest, Tim DeMarco, Jose DeSousa, Scott Lenz, Brian Martin, Tim Opp, Troy Pearse, Victor Raphael, and his guest, Kyle Smith, Jesse Snow, Jack Truschel, and Dylan Wade. Due to safety concerns, we focused on the Greenbelt area and did not get down to the river.

- April 23rd found 6 BVFF volunteers joining Idaho Rivers United on the Boise River. We cleaned up around the Garden City side channel, where we did a gravel augmentation. Thank you to Scott Blackhurst, Tim DeMarco, Kristen Gray, Ken Gray, Randy James, and Troy Pearse. Here's a photo from a beautiful day on the Boise River:



Our thanks to all volunteers for joining these river cleanups. We ask everyone to pitch in, and at the end of your fishing day, take a moment to #FillTheNet with a few pieces of trash. When we all pick up a little, it adds up to a lot. Post a photo of your "Trash Fish Catch" on our Facebook page, and we'll send you a thank-you surprise. Look to our Events page on our website at <https://www.bvff.com/BVFF-Events> for future opportunities to volunteer. We will continue to focus our efforts in and around the water to provide a healthy environment for the fish we love to catch and the birds and other wildlife that benefit from our stewardship. Until next time, Tight Lines. Brian



Hello Friends of BVFF,

I am pleased to report that Rainbow Trout are spawning in the side channel where BVFF did their gravel augmentation! The river flows are lower than normal, but I've been watching a spot grow for several days. So far I've only seen spawning activity in the upper gravel location, but I will continue to monitor for more activity.

The large woody debris in the side channel continues to improve. The lower spot had some wood fall into the side channel over the winter, but the flood district reviewed them and said since they are still "attached" they would leave them this year and monitor the situation.

We continue to have issues with the public putting rocks and logs across the top entry to the channel so they can cross to access the area below the diversion dam. Mike's team arranged some large stepping rocks that worked at low flows, but once flows came up the logs appeared again--blocking some inflows and making fish passage more difficult.

Thanks again for everyone's help on this project!
Troy Pearse, Conservation Director



Idaho Fish and Game expresses support for BVFF



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

600 S Walnut / P.O. Box 25
Boise, Idaho 83707

Brad Little / Governor
Ed Schriever / Director

April 18, 2022

Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation
P.O. Box 2254
Boise, Idaho 83701

Dear Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation,

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game would like to express support for Boise Valley Fly Fishers' (BVFF) Grant Application to improve a Boise River access at the Diane Moore Nature Center. This location has developed into a high use launch area for people to float the Barber Pool downstream to Barber Dam and a well-used access for fishermen. The project will improve a public river access/boat launch and will create an interpretive trail that avoids and protects riparian vegetation and prevents bank erosion. In addition it will allow for educational signage which will educate users about the Boise River, and in particular, Barber Pool.

This project when completed will:

1. Improve a current undeveloped trail that will protect riparian habitat by defining public access and use while discouraging continued development of dispersed social trails.
2. Provide site-specific conservation education about the Boise River with an anti-litter message and information regarding trout habitat in the area.

Improving river access is collaborative effort with input from BVFF, Intermountain Bird Observatory, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and other stakeholders. This letter represents broad IDFG support at the regional and headquarters level. BVFF has shown the ability to develop and complete similar local projects, and IDFG expects to remain involved in implementation of this project. We believe this will be a high profile project that will improve both access for anglers and other recreationists and be an important conservation measure for this area of the lower Boise River. It will be a highly collaborative project that is an ideal fit for the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Rachael".

Jon Rachael
Wildlife Bureau Chief, Idaho Department of Fish and Game



It is time to get on the water with BVFF. We have just completed our Outing to Duck Valley. We found that the wind still blows and this year the lake water was at 41- 44 degrees. Fish were caught and we had a return to a classic BVFF Potluck with around twenty members, friends, and family. A special thanks to our Outing Coordinators for this year, Tom McKnight and Nute Davis.

Bruneau Outing, May 13th to 15th. This is a fantastic way to meet new members, fish the ponds and water near the State Park and enjoy the BVFF/WFFI Potluck. The potluck is at 4:00 and so you can help in the preparation or clean-up then return to the water or just enjoy the park. This is just sixty miles from Boise and so it can be a wonderful day outing if you decide not to camp. Please REGISTER if you are going to attend so we can purchase the supplies needed. Also, as you will learn at the May meeting, this is an excellent location to start your quest for the BVFF Popper Slam. [Popper Slam Details Here](#)

Request: We ask that you register for the outings you would like to attend. Why? So we can keep you informed of any updates or changes to the outing. We also ask, if you cannot attend, please cancel your registration online or contact the Outings Coordinator, listed in the outings posting online.

So, what is up with Outings?

We are forming an outings team, and still looking for more BVFF members to help us plan more time on the water. In the Outings graph, we talk about general directions of the team. Our focus will be on more “meet-ups” in the local area. These can be anything from a one-time class to meeting at a local water. More details to come. We are also looking at expanding from our standard outings. These could be out-of-area or extended trips. Many of these take a great planning and communications. Where would you like to see a BVFF outing? Are you willing to help? We will be publishing outings for next year in June as part of the planning process.

Type	Features	Example
Meet-ups	-Meet at a location. -Fish -Gather to celebrate.	Boise River Emmett Ponds “Casting in the Park” “Poppers on the Pond”
Outing • Out of area • Overnight	-Usually overnight – car camping. - BVFF gathering	Bruneau Duck Valley Sage Hen Copper Basin
Extended	-Usually, a two + day event. - Planning needed to inform on locations - -Travel from car parking - Limited #, skill requirements.	SFS Marsh Creek Grande Rhode (OR) Cutthroat Slam St. Joe River
Out-of-Area	-A focused trip to a location. - Increased travel cost	Pyramid Lake (NV) Russia – BVFF 1982
TBD	4/25/2022	

Bottom line, let’s go fishing and be “On the Water with BVFF”
Tom Old, Outings team lead.

BVFF YouTube Channel!



Channel Content List



BVFF YouTube Channel

The Fishing Widow's Lament: Skwala Time Again

(with apologies to Ray Charles and Buck Owens)
Sung to the tune of "It's Cryin' Time Again"

"Oh, it's skwala time again, you're gonna leave me.
I can see that far away look in your eyes



I can tell by the way you hold me darlin', ooh
That it won't be long before it's skwala time."



-Submitted by Ted Eisele

Flood District Appreciation

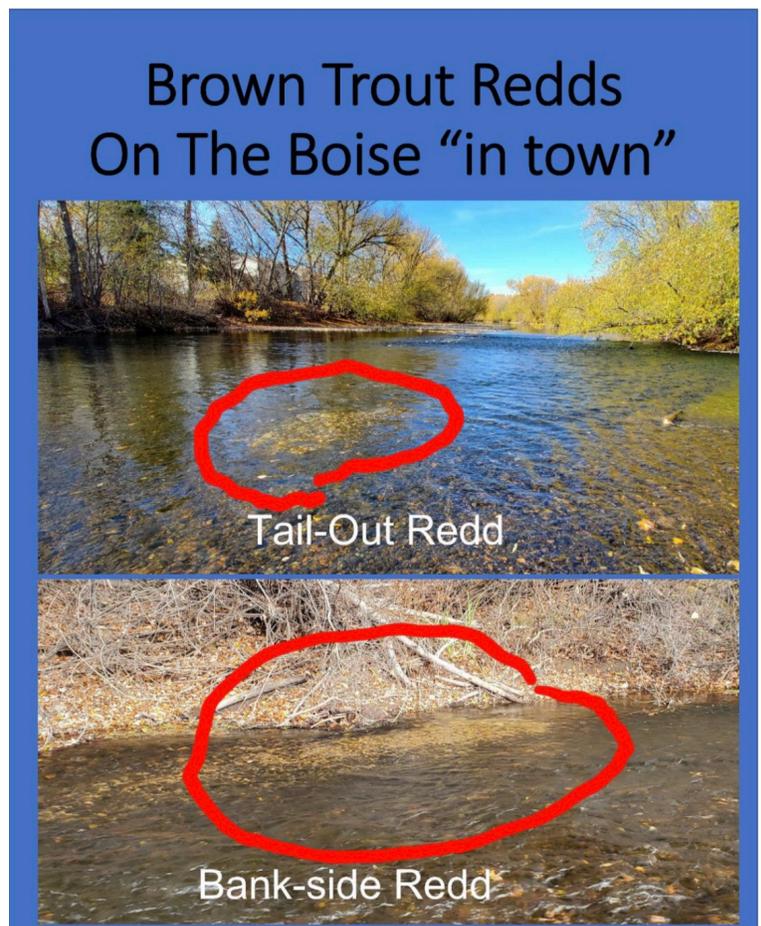
Recently BVFF presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Boise Flood District 10 (Flood District) for their efforts to improve and protect trout spawning habitat on the Boise River. Last winter the Flood District helped us move gravel for our gravel augmentation and this year we worked on improving woody-debris in the side-channel and avoiding brown trout redds.



The redd protection project is the first of its kind and something that might benefit other rivers that flow through cities. A group of BVFF Volunteers (Klaus Kissman, George Butts, George Chen, and Troy Pearse) floated 16 miles of the Boise river and marked redd locations on a map and hung bright flagging tape. The team counted approximately 200 redds at 60 sites, with the highest number of redds being in the north Eagle Island channel. George Butts posted a video on our YouTube channel that shows what the process was like. Take a look at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smJePwzLKbQ&t=14s>

The Flood District reported that the map and flagging tape were very effective at helping them identify the Redd Sites and that out of the 60 sites they were able to avoid all but one. Not only that, but once the CAT operators knew what to look for, they even identified redds that we missed (or were built after we floated the river).

This partnership with the Flood District, Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) and BVFF has been a very effective combination. IDFG has the fisheries knowledge, the Flood District has a permit to work in the river, and BVFF has the ability to plan the projects and the volunteers to do the work.



The Flood District was so pleased with their Appreciation Certificate that they issued a press release and we met with reporters below the Eagle Bridge to talk about the project and show them some of the redd sites. The press release resulted in three news articles: One on the front page of the Idaho Press; a second on KTVB; and a third in the Capital Press. Links to those articles can be found on the main BVFF website at www.bvff.com.

The Flood District usually gets “bad press” from being in the river and is happy with the good press and are proud to be able to say they are operating responsibly and avoiding brown trout redds. They want to continue to help us with more gravel augmentations and there is even the possibility of reopening some Boise River side channels that got clogged with cobble from Snowmageddon and don’t flow during the winter anymore, which reduces brown trout spawning habitat and critical fry over-wintering habitat. The Flood District said if we got the permits, they would help with the heavy lifting! IDFG is very excited about this possibility and will help us review the site and make recommendations, and BVFF is looking into what permitting would be needed. Again, a GREAT PARTNERSHIP!

So the next time you hear someone griping about the Flood District in the river, be sure to tell them that they are operating responsibly to avoid Brown Trout redds and working to retain woody debris where possible.

Troy Pearse, Conservation Director



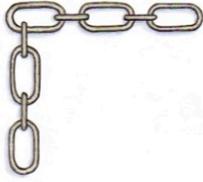
Fill the Net!



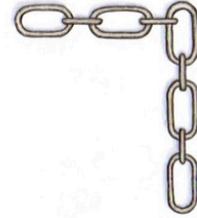
Help keep our rivers and lakes clean. Post a picture of your net filled with streamside trash on our Facebook page with the hashtag #fillthenet and we will send you a nifty fly fishing gift!

Recent #fillthenet posts have been made by Troy Pearse, Jeff Jones, Mike Dittman Sr. and Victor Raphael.

George Butts, Fill the Net Coordinator



Interesting Fly fishing links:



Articles:

-Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board will be holding a meeting to get public input on regulations governing outfitting and guiding in Idaho. **It appears their agenda includes a proposal for guiding on the lower south fork of the Boise. Four meetings are scheduled including one in Boise TOMORROW, 5/2/22.** You can “attend” via WebEx or by phone. You can also submit comments via email to support.ol@dopl.idaho.gov. Details [here](#). Rule proposals [here](#).

-Read Idaho Fish and Game’s Bonneville cutthroat management plan [HERE](#). You can submit feedback until May 13.

-[“It’s Now or Never for the Columbia and Snake rivers Basin’s Wild Steelhead.”](#) Interesting stuff here about how massive pink salmon hatchery stocks may be impacting steelhead.

-[Flies for high water, South Fork Snake river.](#)

-[Evidence that there were fly fishers 12,000 years ago.](#)

-[A way to donate gear and help others](#) (although personally I’d prefer to give unused gear to the kids in the local Woolly Buggers club).

Videos:

-Anglers and IDFG work together using steelhead traps on the south fork of the Clearwater: https://youtu.be/mwnWjO4fR_Y

-Video of Snake river steelhead smolt trap: <https://youtu.be/5D26zFLC9DI>

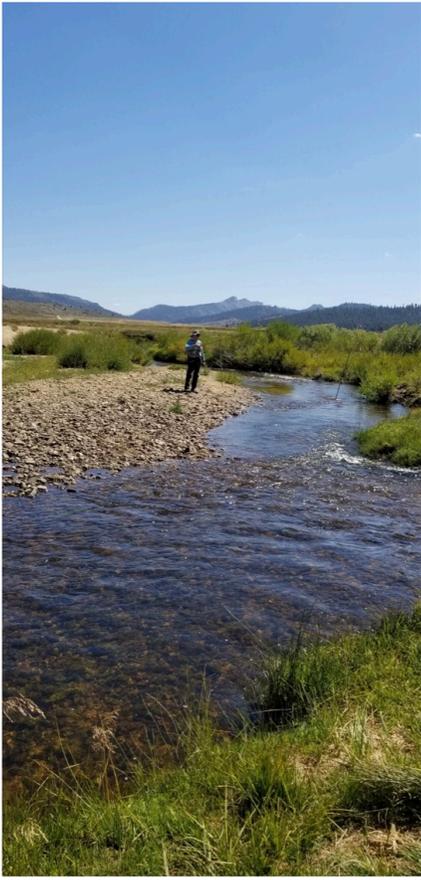
-Boise river whitefish survey: <https://youtu.be/PHzk2pH5pAc>

-How to find trout in a river: <https://youtu.be/TxD4deOR1LQ>

-Is the South fork of the Snake the best dry fly river in America?

https://www.hatchmag.com/articles/best-dry-fly-river-america/7715450?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly

Members' Photos:



Glenn Anders fishing for native California Golden trout on the Kern river.



A Duck valley rainbow from BVFF outing. Ted Eisele.



Another Duck valley fish. Bert Williams.

Take the BVFF Bug ID Challenge!



Hint: This trout bug is a large mayfly. On the photo on the right, one is perched on my arm.
-Photo copyright Ted Eisele.

Go to the BVFF Facebook page with your answer.



**CLUB HONORS PAST PRESIDENT
TOM OLD FOR HIS SERVICE.**



**As a famous cartoon pig once said,
THAT'S ALL FOLKS!**

Thank you to our business members!



Submit items for the next newsletter to: BVFFeditor@yahoo.com

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