



P.O. Box 734

#### Officers

President-Jim Gulu  
549-0796  
1st Vice Pres-Bill Betts  
549-0686  
2nd Vice Pres-Dave Steppe  
549-1468  
Past President-Perry Kelley  
549-0538  
Secretary-Lynette Jones  
549-0430  
Treasurer-Mary Thompson  
608-0067

#### Board Members

Roy Davis 642-2366  
John Hickey 452-6357  
Marv Orwig 642-4667  
Mark Sands 549-2545  
Nando Mauldin 549-2883  
Dick Garrett 549-1311

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:** Jim Gulu, George Kautz,  
Rod Jones, Al Sillionis

**Library:** George Kautz, Rod Jones,  
Dick Garrett

**Fund Raising:** Lynette Jones, Mary  
Thompson

**Membership:** Bill Betts,  
Dave Steppe

**Conservation:** Mark Sands,  
Nando Mauldin

**Budget:** Mary Thompson, Lynette  
Jones

**Publicity:** Dave Steppe

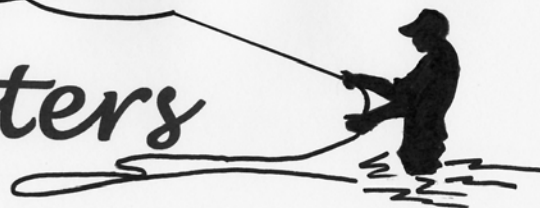
**Newsletter:** Perry & Sally Kelley,  
Mary Thompson

**Education:** Marv Orwig

**Youth Activities:** Mike Thomas, Mark  
Sands, Ken Gissell

**Greeters:** Dave & Anne Steppe

# News Casters



November 2008

## President's Message by Jim Gulu

Can you believe it, it's Halloween time? The days are shorter, the trees are changing colors and best of all the fish are feeding big time, as I like to call it beefing up for the cold winter months. So we all need to be out fishing and enjoying this special time of the year. We had an excellent turn out for the October meeting and gained a new member—Rod Presley from Ontario. Welcome, Rod; I hope you felt welcome at the meeting. We are looking forward to your participation in the club and its activities. Rod attended our fly tying class and did an outstanding job for someone who has never tied before. Sounds like a story to me.

The fly tying class was held at the Weiser library and attended by six members. Marv Orwig conducted the class on tying two great steelhead flies. The Green Butt Skunk and the Purple Peril. Look out Steelhead, we are armed and ready. The instructor for November will be Perry Kelley and the fly will be the Chernoble Ant. The session will be held at the Weiser Library, Nov. 18, 7pm. Thanks again to Marv for tying at the general membership meeting as well as the tying class.

Jeff Dillion, Regional Fisheries Manager Idaho Fish & Game, was our guest speaker and updated the club on some of the ongoing projects IDGF is working on. These included the Weiser Community Pond, Mann Creek Redband Trout study and Steelhead in the Boise River. Speaking of Mann Creek, the club's October outing was attended by 10 club members. The weather was outstanding, fishing a bit slow but the lunch made the day. **Big Thanks** to Rod Jones for the pulling the BBQ together and thanks to all, for the variety of desserts we

had to choose from. I think—I know—some of us couldn't decide, so we had a little of each. Perhaps, we are like the fish; we have the need to beef up for the winter. Some of the early results from the Redband study, conducted by IDGF, show upwards of 10,000 fish in Mann Creek with 4,000 of them Redband. So, there is a healthy population of trout in the Mann Creek Reservoir. I believe they had lock jaw the day we were there. At last month's meeting we presented to the membership an opportunity to purchase Tee shirts with the club's logo embroidered on them. The order is still open. Lynette will have the information available in our November's meeting should you like to place an order. Think Christmas for yourself or family and friends.

The guest speaker for the **November meeting is John Wolters** of Anglers Fly Shop in Boise. John's presentation will be on reading streams and rivers. John is an accomplished fisherman and conducts a number of Fly Fishing classes at a couple of the Boise colleges. His presentation will (should) help us improve our basic strategy when fishing the Owyhee River or any other moving water locations. Hope to see you all there

Also in December, Ray Perkins will be looking for our help on the Owyhee River Redd counts. Those who missed out on this activity last year now have the opportunity to participate this year.

*"The gods do not deduct from  
man's allotted span the hours spent in  
fishing."* **Babylonian Proverb**

Jim

**November Program - Guest Speaker  
John Walters. on reading streams and rivers**

# A Fish Story

By Annie Steppe

You've all heard about the one that got away, but have you ever heard about the one that fell apart? Do I have a story for you!

It happened about 36 years ago, my husband and I were just newlyweds, living close to Boise, Idaho. One bright sunny day he suggested we go fishing...I tagged along for the fresh air.

We found a spot east of Boise, a quiet stream called Black's Creek. It was the only green spot for acres. In fact, we assumed the creek was there; all we saw was a meandering growth of green.

We pulled off the road, jumped out of our little blue Mazda pickup and slid down the brambly, steep, and dusty bank swatting waves of deer flies, mosquitoes, and other pesky bugs as we descended. Finally, we reached the coolness of the creek. The stillness enveloped us, the frantic insect hum replaced by the babble and bubble of the meandering water. I still, however, felt the twitchiness all those bugs had created.

Dave quickly strung his line and hooked on a worm. (Sorry, pre-fly fishing days) stepped out onto a rock and tested the waters. Within minutes, he had a beauty of a rainbow on the line. That trout was caught, strung on a stringer and left to stay fresh in the cold water before it knew what the worm tasted like!

Dave zigzagged on up the stream for greater game and I stayed sentry on a rock in the middle of the creek keeping watch over the trophy trout. I still felt uneasy, as though creepy crawly things were about to appear and pounce on me. All my previous fishing experiences had been on a lake—in a boat.

My glance darted from the fish tethered securely at the edge of the creek to the opposite side, down the winding waterway through the trees and up the direction my husband had traveled. When I glanced back to the trout, all those un-

easy feelings took shape. There, barely 5 feet from my feet was a snake, a RATTLESNAKE! Its fangs gleamed unhinged over our trophy rainbow! I'm not a screamer, but you can bet I hollered until Dave came flying over the rocks like a papa cougar. Speechless now, I pointed at the intruder. Whether it was fear or anger I'll never know but Dave attacked that snake with a vengeance. He grabbed a huge rock, held it high above his head and hurled it at the trout thief. His aim was perfect, the rattler was crushed. Angrily, Dave snatched the line with fish still attached away from the snake's jaws. We peered at the trout....it looked unscathed.



"Let's get out of here," my husband muttered. The pounding in my head and twist in my stomach kicked into high gear. The only way out was up. All I could think was, "If there was one snake, there could be two or three more." As that happy thought rolled over me, I gulped for air and started up the bank. Each grab we made to a brushy handhold, I cringed, fearing a fang would sink into our unprotected hands. With heart pounding, I scrambled, for once keeping up with Dave. Rustles magnified, leaves sounded like rattles.

I promised myself I'd never again (if I survived) follow my husband into such a creek bed as this or join him on fish trips at all!

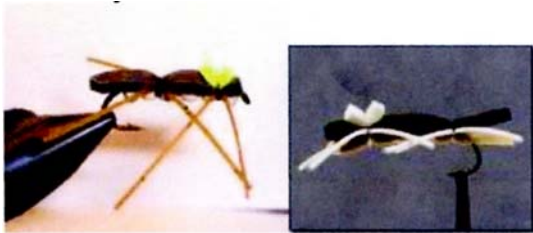
Miraculously we made it to the top, shaking. Dave threw his gear and the fish in the back of the pickup and away we roared. About 5 miles down the road, I guess he'd recovered his composure...I still had not, but we stopped, crawled out and stood staring into the back of the truck. The beautiful rainbow trout we had snatched from the jaws of serpent hood had become a partially digested victim of snake venom. That truly was not the fish that got away, but the fish that fell apart. Oh, and I still join Dave on fishing trips, but I take a good book now and forego the creek sentry duty!

## Catch & Release Do's and Don'ts

1. For the highest release survival, use small, barbless hooks and use a hemostat or quick release tool to extract them.
2. A catch-and-release net can significantly shorten the time it takes to land a fish, and it does the least harm to a fish as you hold it for hook removal and recovery. The best C & R nets have a wide opening and a shallow bag that cradles the fish instead of allowing the head or tail to drop to the bottom of the bag. It should be made of smooth, knotless material that doesn't injure the delicate eyes and skin. Be sure to wet the bag before capturing your fish.
3. Keep your fish's head in the water as you remove the hook to ensure it can breathe if the extraction takes more than a second or two.
4. Don't throw or dump your fish back into the water. Wait until it voluntarily swims out of the net or your hands. Watch a released fish for at least a minute to make sure it does not roll onto its side or back. If that happens, recover it and continue to revive it until it displays enough strength to swim upright out of your hand.

(These are just a few; more will follow in future newsletters)

### Chernobyl Ant



Hook; Std Dry Hook or 1x1 Fine Hook

Thread; 6/0 (Flat thread is best for foam)

Body; Closed Cell Foam (craft foam is fine)

Under Body; Optional (hackle, dubbing, thread wrapped shank, estaz etc.)

Legs; Rubber leg material or Sili legs

Wing case; Colored Yarn or Foam for high visibility

As the name suggests this fly looks like a mutant life form from a nuclear disaster.

A Variation of this fly took the 1995 Jackson Hole "One Fly Contest". It is a very popular pattern nationwide, taking all kinds of trout from all kinds of water. It floats like a cork and is perfect for using as a "Hopper & Dropper" top fly.

It is tied in many variations; every tier has their own twist. Come to the Weiser Library for this month's tying session and Perry will show us how to tie his version.

# Member Spotlight

A new family joined our club this past spring: **Karen and Bob Maki**. Karen is from Alberta and Bob hails from the deep woods of Minnesota. They made their way to Idaho by way of Texas and California and have lived between Payette and Weiser since 1999.

Bob, a Vietnam vet, works for the Weiser Water Plant. He enjoys hunting, fishing, boating, camping, good food, good wine and good companions. Karen doesn't hunt, but certainly likes the other listed items! She does her best fishing when reading a book, according to Bob, and he doesn't know how she can do this while fly fishing!

Bob has fished all his life, but only started fly fishing this summer. He joined the club to get help with learning this sport. His first fish caught on a fly was a whitefish in Lake Kooconusa, near Libby, Montana. Fun experience and one that whetted his appetite for more fly expertise!

When asked what his most amusing personal fish story was, he replied with a chuckle: I'd say it was remembering my son, who was about 14 at the time. We had risen early to go sturgeon fishing and, typical of teenagers, he fell asleep in the boat, with his terminal gear in the water. When the fish struck, we had to wake him up to reel in his fish. Wouldn't you know it... he was the only one of us to catch a legal sturgeon that day!

Fisheries staff recently completed a year-long creel survey on the lower Boise River from Barber Dam to Americana Boulevard (about seven miles). Estimated total fishing effort was just over 10,000 hours, with 7,600 rainbow trout caught. Estimated rainbow trout harvest was 1,420 fish including 227 wild fish. Over 80% of the trout caught were released despite general harvest rules on most of this reach. Although wild trout harvest appears quite low, there is still interest from a small group of anglers to impose more restrictive rules on the lower Boise urban fishery. Recent surveys on the lower Boise River found 1,200 to 2,200 wild trout per mile, something quite remarkable for an urban river. We'll be reviewing population data and growth rate and mortality data for wild trout to see if more restrictive rules could improve this fishery.

We continued collaborating with a University of Idaho graduate project at Mann Creek Reservoir. As most of you know, we've been studying the wild trout in this system to learn more about their biology and the fishery. Early in October, we used purse seining, electrofishing, and trap netting to conduct a mark-recapture population estimate for wild redband trout in the reservoir. Preliminary estimates suggest that about 4,000 wild trout over 7 inches are present, representing about 30-40% of the overall trout population. Wild fish were considerably larger than hatchery fish, with many in the 16-18 inch range. We also floy-tagged wild fish to estimate angler harvest over the next year. The graduate study will continue through fall 2009, and is intended to help the region develop management alternatives for this wild trout population.

Work continues with the City of Weiser to develop a new community fishing pond. The city recently took title to about six acres of donated property, and has secured a right of way and parking area. Ground water monitoring has continued since early summer, and preliminary design has been completed for excavation of a 1.5-acre pond. With the city land and other contributions as match, the Department is working to secure DJ funding for the excavation phase of the project. These types of projects tend to move at a glacial pace, but we are hopeful that by next spring we'll have the pond construction completed and be ready to start stocking fish.

As always, any club members with questions about the fish management program or other Fish and Game issues can give me a call anytime.

*Jeff Dillon, Regional Fishery Manager  
IDFG Southwest Region  
3101 S. Powerline Rd  
Nampa, ID 83686*

# Gone fishing

## Fly fishers club marks eight years in valley

(This is an article by Casey Clarkney that appeared in the Argus Observer)

Eight years ago Mark Imus, an avid fly fisher-man and Weiser resident, decided the area needed a fly fishers club. Imus contacted Perry Kelley, also a Weiser resident and fly fisherman. "He asked if I thought it was a good idea," Kelley said. "Weiser is not really close to any fantastic fly fishing venues, but I did know quite a few people in town who are into fly fishing."



From that conversation, the Indianhead Fly Fishers Club was born. And while Imus has since moved to Grangeville, the club remains in Weiser with more than 60 members. "We got together and started working on ideas," Kelley said. "We sent letters to everyone we thought might be interested in joining."

Once a foundation of members was formed, Kelley said the group developed a constitution and by-laws. "We wanted some certain ideals and goals in mind," Kelley said. Mary Thompson and Lynette Jones were both instrumental in the forming of the organization's structure.

Once the group was established, it began to focus on ways to become involved in the community. Most notably, the club started a cleanup project on the Owyhee River that continues today "We all were appalled at how dirty it had become," Kelley said, noting the club found a couch and bowling ball among the trash that first year.

Today, the fishers club is working with the City of Weiser and Idaho Fish and Game to establish a community fishing pond. Kelley said the project is nearing construction and applauded the efforts of fellow member Mike Thomas who has worked diligently on the project.

The Indianheads are also active with the community's youth. Recently, club members hosted fly tying and casting demonstrations for the Weiser Public Library and a local 4-H club.

Kelley said spreading the passion of fly fishing is critical to the continued success of the club.

In an effort to become more community oriented, the club also sponsored a Christmas tree for Weiser's 2007 Festival of Trees. According to Kelley, the tree was decorated with flies tied by members and was sold at auction for the highest bid in the history of the festival.

The Indianhead Fly Fishers Club meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday nine months out of the year. The club also hosts fly tying sessions once a month.

**“3/4 of the earth’s surface is water...and only 1/4 is land. The Good Lord’s intentions are very clear. Man’s, time should be divided accordingly... 3/4 for fishing and 1/4 for working!”**





P.O. Box 734  
Weiser, Idaho 83672

*Every day you fish adds a day to your life.*

## November 2008

**Nov 4** - IFF Board Meeting  
7 pm Idaho Pizza

**Nov 11** - IFF Membership,  
7 pm Idaho Pizza

**Nov 15** - Possible Club outing  
TBA

**Nov 18** - Fly Tying to be held at  
the Weiser Library 7 pm.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 IFF Board	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 IFF Member	12	13	14	15 TBA Outing
16	17	18 Fly Tying	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						