

# *The Hackle Bender*

## *Boise Valley Fly Fishers*

May, 2021



## 50th Anniversary of BVFF

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS Update:

**We had a great start to 2021 working within the guidelines to control Covid-19!**

- We had outstanding Zoom presentations from fishing on the Clearwater, Skwala Life cycle and Flies, Fishing Through the Apocalypse and on Still Water Fishing in April.
- We are doing outings again, but within the Covid-19 guidelines, from the Virtual White Fish Derby, Clear Lake and Duck Valley.
- Troy Pearse and has rebuilt the Conservation Team and has developed a road map for future projects and programs. The success of these program will require strong member support to manage parts of the program and to taking part in the various work projects. I encourage us all to help return BVFF to a leadership position in local conservation projects. Will you do your part?
- We have our BOD and officers in place for 2021/2022. Please review this [LINK](#) for the current structure.
- Our thanks to Ed Hewitt for his service on the BOD for the past three (3) years.

**Our plans for the coming months as we continue to grow BVFF and support the community.**

- George Butts has joined the conservation team to manage the "Fill the Net" program. Please do your part, take a photo and post on the BVFF Facebook page with the tag #FillTheNet, and receive your BVFF Swag.
  - Our zoom program plans are listed and updated on the [BVFF](#) website and in this edition of the Hackle Bender.
  - We continue our support of Idaho 2 Fly with a purchased spot, \$500, in the I2F Derby. There is a free drawing to members and the winner will be chosen at the May meeting, 5/13/2021.
  - We have the annual Bruneau Sand Dunes outing with the WFFI club. Please register [HERE](#) so we can plan for the potluck, with Covid-19 precautions.
  - In June we will learn more about Silver Creek with a June 10th Zoom meeting and an outing is current planned for June 26th (Note revised date). Please register and watch for updates the camping status at Hayspur Fish Hatchery.
  - Did you hear about the BVFF Yard Sale! See the article in this edition of the Hackle Bender (see page 3). This will be a great deal for members to update their needed new equipment.
  - We have started detailed work for the Western Idaho Fly Fishing EXPO 2022 (EXPO 2022). Our past success has been from the dedicated core team that starts work months before the doors open; we need new members to help support our program planning, education area, fly tiers, marketing, and communications. Please contact us if you can help make EXPO 2022 a major success.
  - We will still need a large group of members to work at EXPO 2022 the week of and during the event. Without you there is no EXPO. Save the dates for EXPO 2022: January 7th and 8th.
  - There are no SCHEDULED general meetings in July or August.
  - We have a special outing planned for July 17th and 18th. How would you like to camp and have Valley Creek, Marsh Creek, Beaver Creek, Bull Trout Lake and Cape Horn Lakes within 10 miles of your camp site? We will be camping at the south side of Camp Bradley near Stanley. This is on the Boy Scouts', Mountain West Council, property. We'll be asking for a \$10 per night donation, same as a Forest Service site, to cover insurance and other cost. This is less than two (2) miles from highway 21 and will give us a common area to camp. Updates and registration [HERE](#). Did you know that BVFF is an active supporter of the Fishing Program at the BSA Camps? We have provided grants for new supplies, provided onsite training and program reviews for Camp Bradley, Stanley, and Camp Morrison, McCall. If you would like to donate some of your flies to the program, please bring the BVFF yard sale, June 12th, or contact Tom Old at 208-440-1196
- Looking forward to seeing you at a BVFF event and on the water! Please take precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

### Calendar:

May 13, 6:30pm. Club Meeting online with Zoom. Euro nymphing.

May 15. Outing to Bruneau Dunes Park.

June 10, 6:30pm. Club Meeting. Mousing on Silver Creek.

June 26. Club Outing to Silver Creek.

July 17. Club Outing to Stanley area.

**FOR MORE CALENDAR  
ITEMS CHECK [BVFF.COM](#)**



FFI Affiliate Club

# GEAR UP!

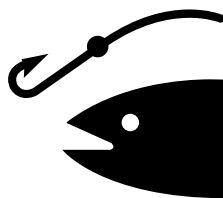
## Check Current Fishing Reports to get the latest:

[Idaho Angler Reports](#)

[Boise Anglers Reports](#)

[Silver Creek Outfitters](#)

[Henry's Fork/Henry's Lake/HFF 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>



## Fill the Net!

BVFF is encouraging everyone to help keep our rivers and lakes clean. Be a good steward of the beautiful waters we enjoy by keeping them 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 the following individuals:

Ted Eisele

Troy Pearse

Ken Held

Brian Martin

Michael Peterson (non member)

Ken Held

George Butts

Don Caagbay

Kevin Jessee (non member)

## Thank you!



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](#).



Are you looking to buy a new fly rod? Maybe you need a new float tube, or some artwork to hang over your tying bench. If so, you are in luck. BVFF will soon offer a variety of gear, clothing, guided trips, and more as part of our annual merchandise sales.

In past years, the merchandise we received from the vendors at the Fly-Fishing Expo was sold at the annual banquet. Well, 2020 was not a normal year, to say the least. We were able to hold the Expo in January of 2020 where we received a ton of merchandise, but then we couldn't have the banquet as pandemic restrictions were put in place. This year we are going to try a different way to sell this merchandise. We will have a combination of on-line sales and an in-person auction and sale instead of a banquet and auction.

In May, we will put several items in an on-line store on our club's website. At this store, you will see all of the items with a short description and pictures. The items will be purchased on the website using a debit or credit card. The items sold on-line will be available for pick-up at the next phase of our merchandise sales, which is an in-person event. This event will be on June 12 at Settlers Park in Meridian. On that day, we will have a silent auction of additional goods and services as well as a fixed price sale. Also, anything that didn't sell on-line will be put on sale at this event.

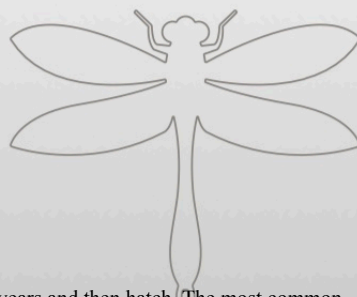
Mark your calendars for the in-person event on June 12, watch for our on-line store to go live in May and please attend our meetings on May 13 and June 10 for more information. One more thing – members of the BVFF will get an additional 10% off of the list price on all items for both on-line and in-person sales!

-Kent Christensen

# Cicada Buzz

By Troy Pearse

Cicadas are an important early-season terrestrial and can offer excellent fishing, yet they are often overlooked by anglers. In Idaho June is the best month to find them but the hatch can extend into July in some locations.



Cicadas have an odd lifecycle where they live underground for a number of years and then hatch. The most common cycle is 1 – 3 years, but some cicadas spend 9, 13 or even 17 years underground. This Spring there has been a lot of buzz about the Brood X Cicadas hatching, which is one of the cicadas that hatches in mass numbers every 17 years. Literally BILLIONS of them are expected to hatch in the Eastern US this May.

The Brood X Cicadas won't be hatching anywhere in the Western US, but there are plenty of other Cicadas that will be hatching in the Northwest and it pays to be prepared with some Cicada patterns. I have had excellent fishing with Cicadas on both the S.F. and M.F. Boise rivers as well as Northern Idaho rivers like the St Joe. Utah's Green River below Flaming Gorge has an excellent cicada hatch, including several different species and some large broods. They start hatching in early June and really get going later in the month. The Green river can get quite busy but is worth the trip.

Cicadas aren't always visible, so anglers often don't know they are around. The key is to listen for the buzzing noise they make. Cicadas love hot, dry afternoons. And like hoppers, they won't be active if it is cold and wet. Although Cicadas hatch out of the ground, they like to hang out in pine trees. They are clumsy fliers and often end up in the water. I like to drift my Cicada underneath pine trees that are leaning out over the water as trout are often underneath watching for the big bugs to fall from the sky.

Our local Cicadas are typically a size #8 2XL on the trusty Bugometer. They have a fat black body with orange accents. In June of 2014 I saw a larger Cicada on the S.F. Boise river but I don't know it's emergence lifecycle. If anyone has seen this larger Cicada I'd love to compare notes.

My go-to fly pattern is Emmett Heath's Mutant Ninja Cicada. The recipe for the fly is below and can be found in "Tying Flies With Jack Dennis and Friends". A Chubby Chernobyl also works well, as does a small foam salmonfly pattern.

—Troy Pearse

## Bug Corner



### MUTANT NINJA CICADA

\* Hook: 2XL TMC  
5212 or 5262

\* Thread: 6/0 Burnt  
Orange Uni Thread

\* Body: Black 2mm  
foam, cut Chernobyl  
Ant Style

\* Legs: Double set of  
medium round black  
rubber

\* Underwing: Gold  
Krystal Flash

\*Wing: Natural Deer  
Hair

\* Hackle: Two grizzly  
hackles, trimmed flat

\* Indicator: Yellow  
foam (optional)





# Nymphing Notes

By Dave Shuldes shuldesd@gmail.com

To learn something new, I often must first set aside everything I think I know. I used to obsess over the best nymphing indicator system – yarn vs bobber vs cork vs floating fly, etc. This past few years have been the most productive nymphing in my 30+ years of fishing southern Idaho. I have not once picked up what I used to consider a primary tool in my arsenal – the indicator.

The success reported with “Czech” or Euro nymphing changed everything for me. First, I happen to be Czech by lineage, so the name immediately caught my eye! Synonymous with “tight-line nymphing”, I had read and heard the technique is more productive. It peaked my interest because I had spent a lot of hours nymphing under an indicator with limited success. The origin of tight-line nymphing is credited to G.E.M. Skues in England in the late 19th century, but the concept picked up steam in 1984-86 in European competitions. Use of split shot and strike indicators was not allowed in competition which led to the evolution of better methods.

For this article I’m going to assume the reader knows as little as I did about this concept. My aim is to share my own experience with nymphing a tight line on the South Fork Boise and Boise River in town. On our local Idaho tailwaters – our natural caddis, mayflies, midges and stoneflies in their nymphal stages are crawling around and underneath the rocks and structure of the river bottom. With an artificial, drifting unobstructed in the current as close to the bottom as possible is crucial to fishing success, particularly for mature (wise) fish to whom a line may be no stranger.

Intuitively the use of a surface indicator lifts the fly up in the current and creates a ‘drag’ in the drift. Eliminating the indicator made sense to me in that context; but how to know when to set the hook? In my own experience using a tight line, it is partly by sight and mostly by feel. This requires a very engaged level of fishing. Paying close attention to every pause or twitch in the line drift matters! All kinds of new tools have been developed to assist with this technique from longer rods to bright-colored sighting leaders, but buying new tools is expensive! In my experience these are not required to effectively take advantage of the improved technique.

My own tools for tight line nymphing are heavy fly patterns, a standard 9 foot (4 to 5 weight) rod and a long (15 foot) leader. I want my kit to be ready for conversion back to dries if the right conditions appear and this allows me to do that quickly without changing out everything involved. Specific flies to match seasonal entomology are beyond the scope of this article, but I use every tool I have available at the bench to add weight to the flies while keeping their dimensions lean. UTC wire abdomens, particularly patterns using the “Houdini Weave” technique which doubles the amount of wire used and segments the body, are extremely helpful along with use of slightly larger tungsten beadheads. I most commonly use a heavy pattern as small as 16-18 on the ‘point’ (the end of the line). For the dropper I use another heavy pattern one size larger (14 if the point fly is 16 for example). This high gravity combination without an indicator gets the flies tumbling among the rocks where I want them. All my nymphs are tied on TMC2499SP-BL hooks. These ‘superpoint barbless’ hooks grab and hold well and are kind to the fish.

My casting method isn’t complicated. I quarter upstream or cast directly across the current. I use a standard floating line. The flies and fluorocarbon leader sink and any excess fly line is pulled back. I keep the stick high and the fly line relatively tight without literally pulling the leader or flies toward me. Tight but not too tight – this has required significant practice. My goal is that any pause or movement in the leader can be both seen and felt. My leader is typically 11-12 feet of 4X flouro, with a nested nail knot to 5X flouro allowing approximately 3 feet to the place where the dropper is tied. I then add another 12-18 inches of 5X flouro to the point fly. This year I have really come to trust Cortland Ultra Premium for the terminal tippet! Use of the “Davy Knot” to tie fly to line has replaced my long-time use of the improved clinch knot. The Davy is simpler and quicker when changing or replacing flies and I have yet to lose a fish in a solid few years based on the knot. Anything to reduce the stress on my eyes!

Where to fish? I look for well-oxygenated riffles slowing into a deeper run. The shelf just before the river gets too deep to determine depth can often be very productive. The existence of structure to break current and offer hiding spots can help. It’s possible to tight line nymph within a few feet of where I’m standing... but much more often I cast about 10-20 feet out from where I am standing to avoid spooking the fish.

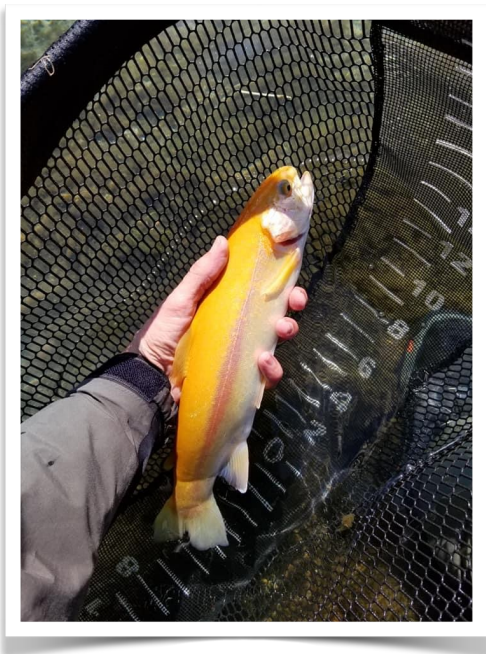
Once the flies are in the drift... close attention is everything. I typically let them drift all the way to full downstream position. With any pause noted in the line flow or any felt bump as I hold the line, I assume a take and rapidly attempt to set the hook. Although this may result in a few snags the barbless hooks rarely get lost. My own results with this

method have proven themselves. I have conservatively tripled my production of large mature trout and whitefish (per hour fished) by substituting this nymphing technique for use of the old indicator.

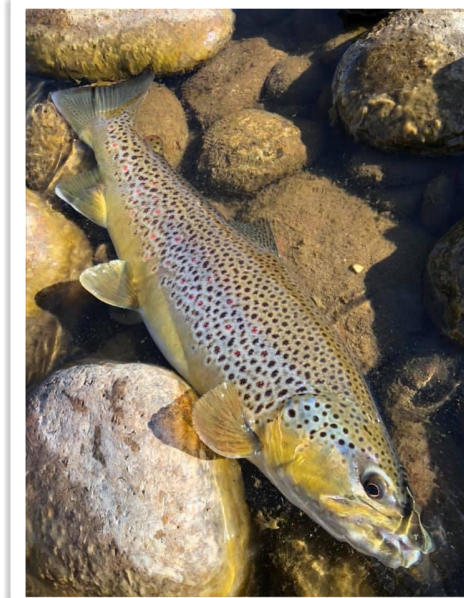
I would like to wrap up with a word on treatment of fish and photo opportunities. Mature native fish will be the spawners that produce the next generation as well as an exciting experience for the next angler. In addition to using SP-BL hooks, my goal has become to keep all fish in the water and breathing during handling. That means a photo “in or near the net” while the head of the fish remains in the water. I find my waterproof iPhone sitting in my sling, vest or wader pocket to be a perfect tool for a quick photo or video. It’s not necessary to lift the fish out of the water. I find a picture of the fish in the water is much more natural than a picture of me with the fish! I’m a visitor to it’s home environment. I prefer the fish have the least possible stress and best opportunity to recover quickly when released so it remains healthy in the river for all of us to enjoy on a future trip!



## MEMBER PHOTOS:



Ken Held with a colorful Palomino trout from Clear Lake.

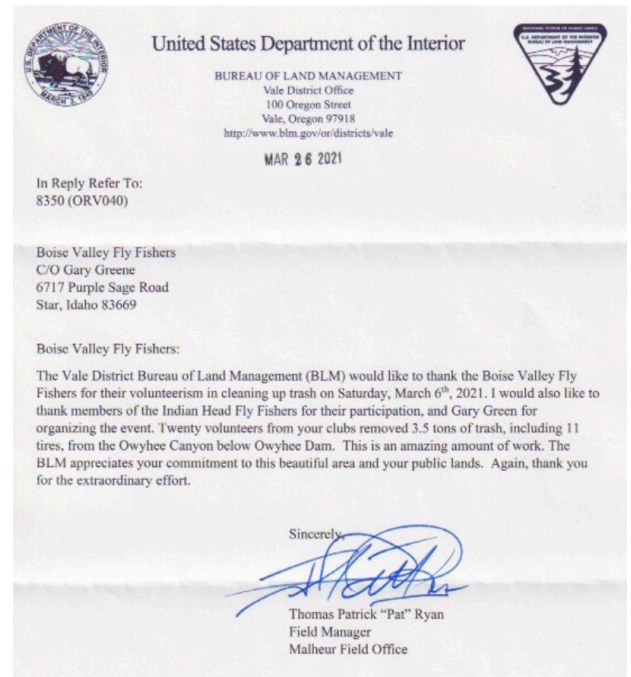


Anthony Weber's nice brown trout.

**Submit photos for the next newsletter to the editor:**  
**[teisele44@gmail.com](mailto:teisele44@gmail.com)**



**Club receives thank you from BLM for its part in cleaning up the Owyhee river. Thanks to all participants!**



## On the club's Facebook page:

### BVFF Bug Identification Challenge



Photo copyright Ted Eisele

Can you identify this bug? It was on a window near the Boise river a few years ago. Go to the club's Facebook page and give us your answer.



# I Remember ...



## The Harriman State Park A Legacy For The Future

by  
Bill Hagdon

As I stepped out of the guest cabin, I was greeted by the morning frost so characteristic of the September mornings in the Island Park country. The clear, crisp morning provided a clear view across the Whaler's Hole to the jagged peaks of the Grand Tetons. The honking of Canadian geese that had lighted down the evening before could be heard and flocks of mallard could be seen circling the pools and grassy flats of the Henry's Fork.

Such was my first visit to the Harriman Ranch in September, 1972. As a transplanted easterner, I was awed by the majestic beauty of the Island Park country, its wildlife, and vistas that were available from this future State Park. For years I have heard and read articles written by Ernest Schwiebert, Joe Brooks, and Ray Bergman about the magnificent scenery and the wildlife that were abundant along the Henry's Fork. Now, to experience it and feel what the authors felt while enjoying the fishing and hunting in Island Park was most inspiring.

At 7:10 a.m. sharp, the triangle sounded announcing breakfast would be served in five minutes. As we entered the dining room (Director Steve Bly and myself), we were met by Mr. and Mrs. E. Roland Harriman, the owners of the Harriman Ranch. To be in the presence of a family that had made its mark in American history as developers of the Union Pacific Railroad, advisors to presidents, and ambassadors to overseas countries, was both an honor and a challenge.



BVFF published an annual publication called Fisherman's Luck in its early years. All the stories and photos were submitted by club members.

## Fishermen's Luck

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BOISE VALLEY FLY FISHERMEN

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### THE FISHERMEN'S LUCK COMMITTEE

Clayne Baker, Chairman; Dr. Lowell Bakes, Gerald N. Cornwell  
V. S. Hidy, Ken Magee, Terry W. Ring  
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## Pain

by  
Will Godfrey



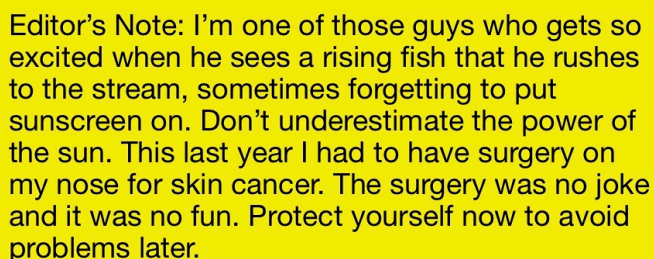
I guess every reader of this story has experienced pain during his or her lifetime. There are many types of pain, ranging from the stress created when a knee is skinned to the emotion felt with the passing of a loved one. Sometimes pain can be a great teacher, while on the other hand, it is mostly viewed as something that should be avoided. It has been said by some that there are individuals who perform best when there is pain. My football coach once told me that I would play better if I hurt just a little. It seems that there are those of us in the fly fishing sport that inflict a sort of pain on ourselves as a result of the method we have chosen to capture fish. I suggest the pain is self-inflicted, emotional in nature and unbelievably satisfying.

The first time I felt pain as a result of my efforts at fly fishing occurred in Montana when once and for all I made the "religious" commitment to never angle again with anything but the fly and fly rod. Why would I inflict such pain

## Fishermen's Luck







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