

Hackle Bender

Bending hackles since 1971

Get Ready! The 2020 Western Idaho Fly Fishing EXPO is here!

THIS WEEK – January 10 and 11 at Expo Idaho.

Admission \$10. Kids 13 and under free. Friday Noon-9pm. Saturday 9-6pm.

LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS



Experts like Kelly Galloup, John Juracek, Jeff Currier, Brian O’Keefe, Amy Hazel, Roy Morris, David Paul Williams and others.

WATCH EXPERT FLY TYERS



CALENDAR:

Upcoming events

An Evening with Winston Moore

09 Jan 2020 7:00 PM • McCleary Auditorium, St Alphonsus Main Hospital

BVFF Annual Auction & Social

04 Apr 2020 6:00 PM • Visual Arts Collective

BVFF May Outing - Bruneau Sand Dunes

15 May 2020 • Bruneau Sand Dunes State Park

TIE YOUR OWN FLY



Volunteers will be there to help guide you, whether you're a youngster or a not-so-youngster.

2 CASTING PONDS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS



FEATURING:

- Over 50 regional fly tyers demonstrating their techniques and flies.
- Over 60 fly fishing vendors.
- Expert speakers on fly fishing regional waters as well as exotic waters.
- Casting pond demonstrations for both single-handed and two-handed fly rods.
- Learn how to build a fly rod, a net or fix leaky waders.

See the entire EXPO schedule: <http://www.boisevalleyflyfishers.wildapricot.org/Programs-Schedule>

NEXT MEETING, FEBRUARY 13:

6:30 pm to 7:15 pm - Social and Fly Tying

7:15 pm to 7:30 pm - Club Business/Updates

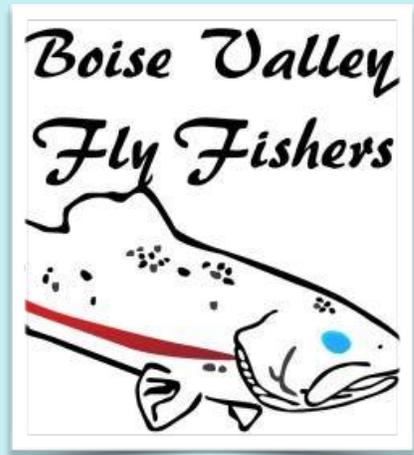
7:30 - Program

CLUB OUTINGS:

February 22, Whitefish derby

March 28, Wood river

April 18, Duck Valley



An Evening with Winston Moore



Free to the Public

7-9 PM
January 9, 2020

McCleary Auditorium
Doors Open at 6:30
Saint Alphonsus Main
Hospital, Main Entrance
1055 N. Curtis Road, Boise, ID



Stories of an Outdoor Legend on a Life of Bird Hunting and Fly Fishing in the Good Old Days

Winston Moore is a captivating outdoor story teller drawing upon the most amazing bird hunting and fly fishing experiences in the days of abundance.

Winston is a pioneer and legend in catch and release salt water fly fishing for species from sailfish to tarpon.

Mr. Moore, at age 95, is a most successful business man and a major philanthropist. He was 2014 Distinguished Citizen at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center.

With Gratitude to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center for Providing the McCleary Auditorium; and to the Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo 2020.

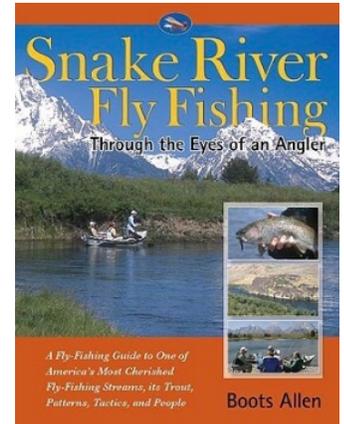
BOOK REVIEWS:

Snake River Fly Fishing, by Boots Allen
2010, Frank Amato Publications

Follow the Snake river from its headwaters in Yellowstone park, through Jackson Hole and the Tetons, then on to Idaho where it becomes the South Fork of the Snake. The author is not only a fishing guide, but his father and grandfather were legends on the Snake. This book discusses each segment of the river and how it fishes.

Along the way one can catch Cutthroats, Rainbows, Brown trout and Lake Trout. Interestingly, the cutthroats of Jackson Hole, known as Snake River Fine-Spotted Cutthroats, do not technically exist in Idaho, where the IDFG does not recognize that as a species and says the fish are Yellowstone cutthroats. The fine-spotted fish in Jackson Hole sure look different to me than Yellowstone Cutts, but I am no biologist. Nor do I play one on TV.

I decided I needed to read this book in part because I've heard so much about the South fork, but have never fished it. I have fished the Snake in Wyoming, but not much. Both are covered very well here.

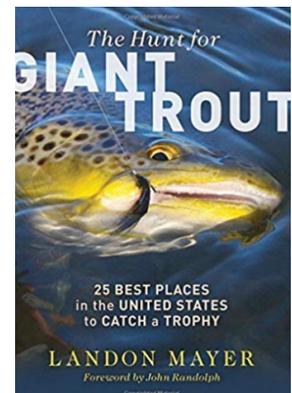


The Hunt for Giant Trout, by Landon Mayer
2018, Stackpole Books

Anyone who subscribes to fly fishing magazines has probably read articles by Landon Mayer. He's a fishing guide in Colorado, and has caught some pretty huge fish.

There are two parts to this book. The first part talks about strategies and techniques for taking trophy fish. He gives a lot of tips and suggestions that are interesting, including recommending translucent "Thingamabobbers" for nymphing, as he feels pressured fish can be alarmed by opaque indicators.

The second part of the book profiles 25 waters known for giant trout. All are in the U.S., and the great majority are in the west. Waters in our region include the Clearwater, Pyramid lake and the Missouri River segment in Montana known as the "Land of the Giants."

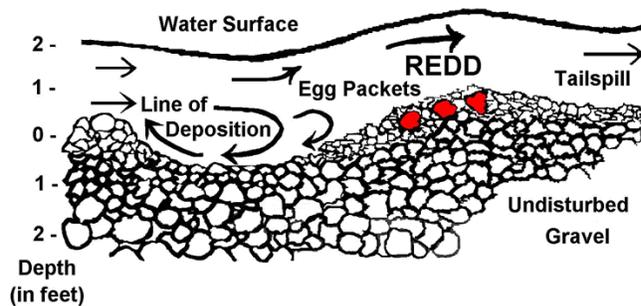


Mayer has personal experience on most of these waters, but he also incorporates input from experts who live on the waters, who also share favorite fly patterns for each water. Most of these river and lake profiles are only 4-6 pages, but I have to say the chapter on Pyramid lake is the absolute best treatment I've ever seen on that water.

Brown Trout life cycle and spawning redds

By Dave Banks

The word 'redd' comes from Middle English reden meaning to clear or clean up. A redd is formed when the female brown trout turns on her side and uses her tail to clear away gravel the size of peanuts to walnuts from an area. It is usually oval-shaped and once it is large enough to fit both fish, spawning occurs. A redd has two parts - the pit and the tail. The pit or depression allows the spawning pair to position themselves lower than the current along the bed of the river preventing eggs and milt from drifting downstream while the tail is a hump of loose gravel covering recently deposited eggs preventing drift or predation. The pit creates a hydraulic or circular current bringing oxygen to the eggs and removing metabolic waste created by the developing eggs and reducing the risk of disease.



Many of us have been to the Owyhee River during the fall and early winter and observed the brown trout congregating in the riffles this time of year. If you watch long enough you may get a glimpse into the aquatic bedroom of the brown trout – the redd. You can see males chasing each other - aggressively guarding their territories, flashes of shiny brown as females turn on their sides to dig a redd and areas of the stream bed that stand out from the surrounding substrate because the biofilm has been disturbed by spawning activity. So that was a few months ago; what's happening with the eggs now? Eggs have five fates once they leave the female: 1) fertilized and hatch; 2) not fertilized; 3) Inviability (e.g. genetics); 4) predation and 5) other causes (e.g. diseased or damaged). The eggs are still in redds created in October through December and can be placed in two stages of development: green or eyed-up. Green eggs (and no they don't go with ham) is the term for freshly fertilized eggs and is a relatively short stage in the development process lasting from fertilization to the beginning of the eyed-up stage. The egg absorbs water for 48 hours following fertilization in a process called water hardening. The outside of the egg is becoming rigid to protect the developing embryo

and is analogous to the shell of a chicken egg. The egg will become slick and smooth following this process. Eye pigment can begin to appear 16-30 days following fertilization. From this point forward, something more fishlike begins to form. The eye, head, and spine continue to take shape. A rudimentary gut, blood vessels, fin folds and tail appear as well as a prominent yolk sac; all within an egg the size of #1-2 lead shot (3-5 mm or 7/64" – 3/16").



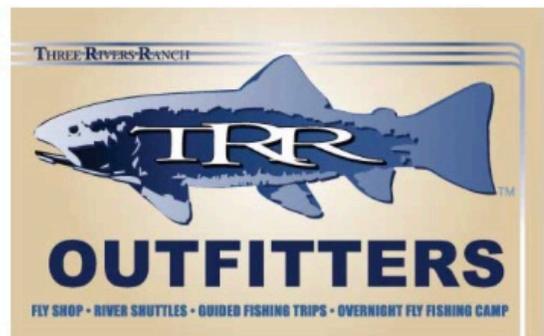
Water temperatures regulate all of this development. Ideal conditions for development occur at temperatures from 39 to 43 °F although eggs can survive and hatch at temperatures as low as 35 °F to as high as 54 °F; however, mortality increases at these extremes. Colder water will slow development and while mortality is increased the alevin hatch at a larger size and may be better fit to survive. Embryos exposed to water temperatures greater than 50 °F have higher metabolic demands and mortality rates 50% or higher due to smaller size and reduced fitness.

The time from fertilization to hatch is determined by water temperature as well. The scientific literature for brown trout varies reporting as few as 28 days to as many as 163 days. Based on average winter temperatures from the Owyhee 2017-18 and 2018-19 it appears that brown trout can hatch anywhere from February to early April and is a function of water temperature (i.e. embryo development) and spawn timing (i.e. month fertilized)...but they're not out of the gravel yet. If you need to get out on the Owyhee this winter you can fish the riffles just don't wade them. Don't tredd on the redd!



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