

# Hackle Bender

Bending hackles since 1971

## Update from the Board of Directors

### Press Release

#### WIFFE (EXPO) 2021 Postponement.

Boise, Idaho, July 28, 2020: The Boise Valley Fly Fishers Board of Directors has completed an extensive review of the conditions needed to have the 17th Annual Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo (WIFFE) that had been planned for January 8th and 9th of 2021. This review was with key partners, exhibitors and the BVFF volunteer team. The conditions from COVID-19 present a real danger for the safety of our team, our partners and potentially for those would attend EXPO 2021. We have reached the go/no-go point and the answer was crystal clear to the team; there are too many issues and concerns for BVFF to start the investment process based on the forecast to return to an operating condition that has been EXPO! We plan to return the second week of January 2022, with WIFFE 2022 again based on the conditions that have addressed issues like COVID-19.

For 16 years, BVFF has presented to the community this world class event in Boise. This two day show had attendance of over 2,500 with over 80 exhibitors and numerous educational programs. The event was planned for Expo Idaho ([www.expoidaho.com/](http://www.expoidaho.com/)) in Garden City, Idaho, with two indoor casting ponds, single handed casting and of two handed Spey casting the entire program was managed by a team of volunteers from BVFF. It was clear to the BOD that we could not guarantee the quality of EXPO we have produced in the past and this was a major financial risk for BVFF. The revenue from EXPO has funded numerous fishing access investments, training, education, youth, and community grants in the history of EXPO. Again, our current plans have us returning for EXPO 2022 and celebrate the 50th year of Boise Valley Fly Fishers (BVFF)

The Boise Valley Fly Fishers is the oldest fly fishing organization in Idaho, founded in 1971. The Boise metropolitan area has grown significantly in the past few years, and so has the local interest in fly fishing. Our mission to promote the sport of fly-fishing through education and conservation activities is dependent upon a successful Expo. Instruction in fly tying, casting, and fly fishing ethics has been the foundation of this event. We plan to expand our educational workshops while continuing a wide range of dynamic lectures.



#### CALENDAR:

**Sept. 10—Chapter Mtg. CANCELLED**

**Sept. 18—Fall in McCall Outing. See web page or Facebook for details.**

**Sept. 22—Graylings Coffee. Moxie Java.**

**Oct. 20—Graylings Coffee. Moxie Java.**

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

# Club trip to the South Fork Snake River:

OUTING IN A SOCIAL DISTANCING WORLD --- LESSONS LEARNED. BY TOM OLD.

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One of the hallmarks of BVFF has been our outings and meetings. As we all know what we have grown to expect, and value has changed. We have had two club outings with the new guidelines and rules. We have learned a great deal from the first to Silver Creek and learned more from the recent outing to the South Fork of the Snake (SFS). This is a partial list of the key points:

- We have cancelled the traditional BVFF potlucks – this has given us more time to fish; however, the potlucks were a great event for BVFF members.
- At Silver Creek we did not have a common camp area, we did have defined camping at the SFS.
- For the SFS we did more online communications prior to the outing and were able to build the outing community.
- At the SFS, Bob Harder arranged to have Zach Peyton, Head Guide/Manager at the South Fork Lodge come to our outside meeting and give us an update on the river (see his tips below).
- We used separate vehicles and practiced social distancing guidelines.
- We appreciated the Fly Shops as they were great sources of local knowledge and all practiced CDC guidelines.

What does this mean for future meetings and outings? We have a September outing planned for McCall, “McCall in the Fall,” and will work to build on the lessons from Silver Creek and the SFS. We are all learning and doing our best in these times of COVID-19, we are all learning what a new normal will look like and how we continue the benefits of BVFF as we move into our 50th year.

Below are the notes from Zake Peyton, chief guide at the South Fork Lodge on the South Fork of the Snake (SFS). On August 6th, Bob Harder, our outing host arrange to have Zake come talk to our group. **These are the key points:**

- The SFS is a ‘big beautiful lady’ --- study the river and understand the various sections.
- On the SFS & on many rivers look for the brown/green water – fish the transitions from the current to flats.
- Fish what the river gives you – use the technique that works best.
- Fish the banks of the river – fish like to hold in these areas.
- When you cast, fish the float – keep your fly on the water.
- Mend early and often – watch your line.
- When you cast, give slack – do not pull the fly out of the zone.
- Tungsten is king – use tungsten as it sinks fast.
- Use Perdigon flies as a dropper fly.
- Enjoy the day!

# 10 Tips For Choosing A Fly

By: Troy Pearse

When you get to the river, how do you decide what fly to use? Often anglers use a “lucky fly” or the fly that worked the last time they were out. And while that works sometimes, here are some tips that will up your odds of picking a fly that will catch more trout.

1. Consult a hatch-chart before you head to the river and make sure your fly box is stocked to match what bugs will be hatching.
2. Look for hatching bugs on the water or caught in back-eddies. Hatched bugs often will collect on the downstream side of boulders, be in riverside bushes or caught in spider webs.
3. Fish can get picky during a hatch and gathering a bug-sample will pay BIG dividends. Use a small aquarium net, wade in below the rising fish and scoop up a sample. Choose a fly that matches the natural.
4. Size is a critical aspect to match—**Don’t Guess!!** Measure the size of your bug-sample with a **\*Bugometer**.
5. Bugs are often 2-toned top/bottom so when matching fly color make sure to match the *bottom* side of the bug.
6. Pay particular attention to the “phase” of the hatching bug as fish often key in on the hatch-phase. Figure 1 shows key things to look for: Does it have an emergent shuck like this midge? Does it have clear outspread wings like this Callibaetis mayfly spinner? Does it have an egg-sac like this Skwala?
7. In summer terrestrials are especially important. Watch for grasshoppers bounding away as you walk along the banks. Pay attention to bank-side logs and look for ants and beetles. Cicadas are prevalent in many of our local rivers in June but you won’t usually see them. They like pine trees next to the river. Listen for the “cicada buzz” as your clue.
8. If you see no adult or hatching bugs it’s time to look under the surface for clues. Slip a mesh bag over your landing net and kick up the stream bottom in riffles to capture nymphs. Choose a fly that matches whatever nymph is most prevalent, making sure to measure bug size on your **\*Bugometer**.
9. Nymphs often give you a clue about what is about to hatch. Watch for Skwala nymphs next to the bank in Spring; Mayflies with dark wing-pads are ready to hatch; and Cased caddis stuck to rocks indicate a hatch is coming.



Figure 1: Match The Size and Phase Of The Hatching Bug

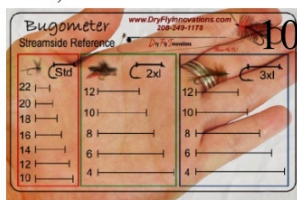


Figure 2: Goldenstone Shuck



10. When stoneflies hatch they leave their nymphal shuck behind on shoreline rocks. Look for them on rocks close to the current water-line to clue you in that a hatch has been going on. Choose a fly that matches the size of the shuck. Figure 2 shows a goldenstone shuck from the MF Boise river that translated into fish-in-the-net in early June.

\*The **Bugometer** is an inexpensive plastic “bug ruler” that makes it easy to determine the size of a bug or your fly. **Bugometers** are only available through Dry Fly Innovations. Get yourself one and catch more trout!

<https://www.dryflyinnovations.com/products/the-bugometer>



## MEMBER PHOTOS:



Eric Moncada says his son Mason was thrilled to see Dad catch such a nice Yellowstone cutthroat. But the photo op didn't quite go as planned! I think in football that would be a fumble.



Fly-caught Kokanee being released. Ted Eisele.



Troy Pearse with a nice rainbow. His fishing buddy Maggie looks on.



Linda Butts with a pretty cutthroat on the club trip to the South fork of the Snake river.



Tim Old with a nice rainbow on the South Fork Snake river.



The Board of Directors social distancing on the Middle fork of the Boise river. Tough duty!

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



## BOOK REVIEWS:

Since 2021 will be the 50th anniversary of BVFF, let's go with a "50" theme this time.

### 50 Best Tailwaters to Fly Fish

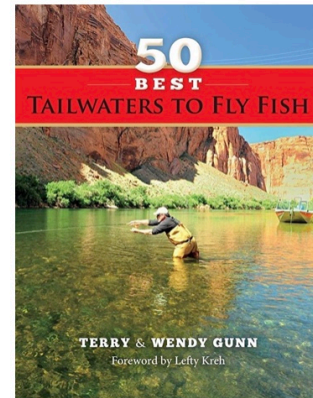
Terry and Wendy Gunn, 2013

Terry and Wendy Gunn are renown guides and fly shop owners at Lee's Ferry on the Colorado river. Tailwaters are rivers with controlled flows beneath dams, and are coveted by anglers for the relatively constant water temperatures and healthy hatches. Of course, if you fish for anadromous fish, you see a very different side of dams.

Chapters are short, typically around 3 pages plus a 1-page map. Photos are excellent, and there are lots of details from local guides/experts on the most productive techniques and flies to use. There are about 146 pages on the west and 100 pages on the south and east.

Waters featured include the Henry's fork, the South fork of the Snake, someplace called the "Uwehee" or something like that in Oregon (never heard of it, personally), the Deschutes, the Provo, and many waters in Colorado.

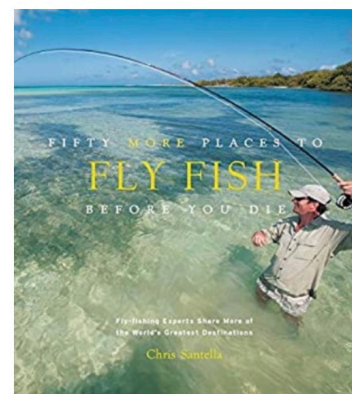
Content here really focuses on the how-to, when-to, where-to questions. That's good if you are about to fish the water in question, but maybe not as inspiring as Santella's two books, which follow.



### 50 PLACES TO FLY FISH BEFORE YOU DIE (AND 50 MORE)

Chris Santella, 2004/2011.

These two books are kind of like the toy catalogues we used to look through as kids to make our Christmas lists. Each book highlights 50 places where a guy can have a chance to catch trophy or exotic fish. The chapters are not long (3-4 pages), but do a good job of capturing why that water excites fly fishermen. It also includes basic information on things like accommodations, recommended equipment, etc. I find these books thoroughly enjoyable and an excellent thing to read at bedtime if you want to have fishy dreams.



Featured locations span the world, although many are in the U.S. Spots include the Henry's Fork, Cutthroats on the Middle fork of the Salmon, the Deschutes, the Firehole and Madison in Montana, steelhead on the Skeena, and bonefish off North Andros in the Bahamas. The 2nd volume includes Silver creek, the South fork of the Snake, the Big Hole and shark fishing off San Diego.

Santella also has written books on the 50 best places to play golf, to bike, to surf and more. Includes gorgeous photos by the talented R. Valentine Atkinson.

—Ted Eisele

# Gear Up!

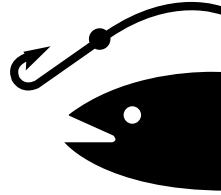
## Check Current Fishing Reports to get the latest:

[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>



### Fall is coming ...



... and that means Blue Wing Olive mayflies (BWOs) will soon be here! BWOs/Baetis are in the swimmer class of mayflies. Look for them where riffles turn into runs. Overcast afternoons produce the best hatches. There are lots of bugs lumped into the category of "BWO" so it pays to catch a sample of what is hatching and pick a fly that matches. Take note if it is an emerger, dun or spinner. Fall BWOs are typically a size #18 or #20 but there are some smaller #22 Baetis in the mix too and a few #16s. The WD40 and Iron Lotus are great BWO nymphs. Try giving them some motion to mimic the swimming nymph. Emergers can be the ticket to success. Two favorites are the RS2 and Dry Fly Innovation's Colored Emerger. Both are easy to tie and deadly effective!

—Troy Pearse

**Bug Corner**





## From our friends at the Ted Trueblood Chapter of Trout Unlimited:

### What:

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is considering **raising the Anderson Ranch Dam** on the South Fork of the Boise River. They have formally opened the process to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for that project. The following notice was published in the Federal Register <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/studies/boisefeasibility/noisigned.pdf> You now have an opportunity to **provide your personal comments** to the BOR on the potential impacts of the project. Trout Unlimited's formal written comments are currently being drafted and will be submitted in September.

### Written comments:

Must be submitted **by 5 p.m. on September 9, 2019**, by email to [BOR-SRA-BoiFeasibility@usbr.gov](mailto:BOR-SRA-BoiFeasibility@usbr.gov)

### Why should you comment?

A law passed at the end of 2016 gives BOR the authority, and likely the funding, to proceed directly to construction upon completion of the studies. This is the time for you to learn more about BOR's plans and for you to express to BOR the importance of the South Fork of the Boise River fishery. You can request that they **explore the following issues**, among others, in the environmental impact statement:

- How would this dam raise impact winter flows for fish both in the South Fork and the Boise River through town?
- Will spring flushing flows be affected?
- How much will it cost to raise the dam and will other, possibly less expensive, alternatives be considered such as water conservation or efficiency projects?
- Will opportunities to provide additional water storage for winter fisheries flows be considered?

### Questions?

Please email Peter Anderson at:

[Peter.Anderson@TU.org](mailto:Peter.Anderson@TU.org)

or call Kira Finkler, Michael Gibson, or Peter Anderson at the **TU Boise office**, at [208-345-9800](tel:208-345-9800).




# Fly Tying Tips:

None submitted this month. To submit one for the next issue, email:  
[BVFFeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:BVFFeditor@yahoo.com)



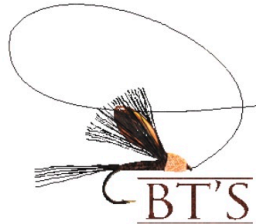
## In Case you missed it on the club's Facebook page:

 Ted Eisele created a poll. Jul 13 · 🌐

Who makes your favorite fly reels? Pick as many as you like.

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Waterworks Lamson	Added by you	×
	Ross	Added by you	×
	Galvan	Added by you	×
	Orvis	Added by you	×
	Sage	Added by you	×
	Hardy	Added by you	×
	Loop	Added by you	×
	Nautilus	Added by you	×
	Abel		×

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