

# *The Hackle Bender*

## *Boise Valley Fly Fishers*

January, 2021



## 50th Anniversary of BVFF 1971-2021

The new year marks the 50th anniversary of the club. It's time to celebrate the accomplishments and activities of the club. It's a chance to explore its history and the people who have played a role in our story. And to set a course for the future.

A Brief History of the founding of the Boise Valley Fly Fishers and its past presidents is on page 4.

Throughout 2021 the Hackle Bender will explore the first fifty years of BVFF. To do that, we ask you to share some of your favorite memories of the club. Things like memorable outings, colorful club characters, club traditions such as Herbie the Trout, and more. Please share your photos and memories by sending them to the editor at [teisele44@gmail.com](mailto:teisele44@gmail.com) Also consider sharing your memories on the club's Facebook page.

Our club historian, Duane Marler (a member of the club from its earliest days), is compiling a book on the history of the club, and we will share your memories with him, and let you know when the book becomes available.

The Board of Directors is exploring what we might do to celebrate this milestone year. Please feel free to give us your ideas and input! Unfortunately, no one has a crystal ball to know exactly what activities, outings and events we will be able to safely hold given the current health crisis. Please check [bvff.com](http://bvff.com) or the club's Facebook page for current news and updates.

### Calendar:

January EXPO 2021  
canceled due to Covid

Feb. 20. Whitefish  
derby, South fork  
Boise. TENTATIVE.

April 17. Duck Valley  
outing (contingent on  
the reopening of the  
fishery)

Monthly meetings. We  
hope to offer meetings  
via Zoom until it is safe  
to meet in person  
again.

FOR CALENDAR  
UPDATES, SEE OUR  
FACEBOOK PAGE OR  
[BVFF.COM](http://BVFF.COM)



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## Gear Up!

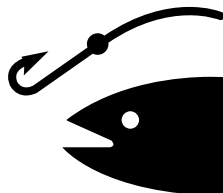
### Check Current Fishing Reports to get the latest:

[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>

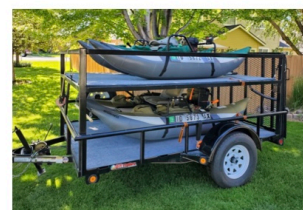


## Make a trailer for your cataraft(s):

John Moen submitted these photos of his homemade cataraft trailer which was built by a friend who lives in Star. John provides this description of the trailer:

“Started with a factory built 8x10 and added the upper framework. Upper deck is carpet covered plywood hinged at the front. Winch and cables lower rear of upper deck after lower boat has been unloaded.

When loading boats second winch, yellow webbing, winches both boats on. Upper deck can also be fully lowered to provide larger hauling area for bigger boat. Rear deck is partially suspended allowing trailer to be backed into water and boats can almost be floated on and off trailer.





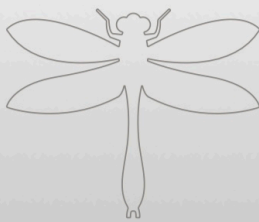
## Conservation Corner

BVFF has obtained the necessary permits to add gravel to a side channel of the Boise river with the goal of improving trout spawning habitat. The side channel is located between Glenwood Bridge and the

head of Eagle Island, on the south side of the river below the New Dry Creek irrigation diversion.

We are adding 10 yards of smaller sized gravels to make 3 spawning beds for trout. Gravels have been generously donated by the Sunroc Corporation. We are working with Boise Flood District 10 on a plan for large woody debris for the side channel. They have been extremely helpful and have volunteered to use their heavy equipment to move the gravel into the side channel during their annual winter maintenance, which is expected in January of 2021.

We are working on a sign for the project which we want to add in April. The sign will contain information about trout spawning and acknowledge contributors. More details on the project and permits can be found on the BVFF website under the Conservation section, along with a volunteer sign up sheet. —Troy Pearse  
(Editor's note: the club was just notified of being awarded a grant for this project from FFI!)



—Troy Pearse

## Bug Corner

Winter means cold fishing, but you can still fish if you are dressed for it. Hatches are simple: If you see a rise it was probably to a midge! Tailwater rivers like the SF Boise stay warmer in winter and have good midge hatches. Freestone rivers like the Big Wood cool off faster and slow down in November but start to turn back on once the sun angle increases in late February. You need water to warm up a bit for the midges so sunny days are often the best.

Nymphing with midge patterns can often be very good even if there is no hatch. With colder water trout have fallen back out of the faster riffles so focus on water where riffles dump into slower, deeper pools or runs. Zebra Midge nymph variations work well and Egan's Rainbow Warrior can be magic! Midges are often very small (#20-#24) but there are plenty in the #16-#18 size too. It always pays to seine the river to see what is there. I remember fishing a sweet riffle/pool transition on the Big Wood one March with tiny midge nymphs and not hooking up. A quick check with a seine and revealed the midges were a size #16. A few casts with a larger zebra midge and I started hooking up!

When midges hatch, trout seem to prefer the easy meal of an emerger over adults.

So beat the winter blues and hit the river. Pick a sunny day when temps are going to break 40.



## More Club History:

This historical document was recently unearthed by piscatorial archaeologists not far from the Boise river.

# THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

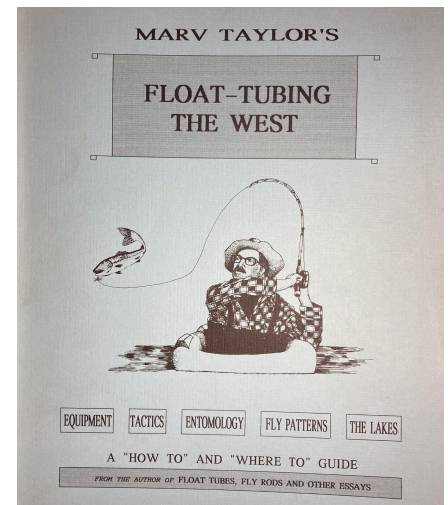
by  
Ken Magee

**B**OISE VALLEY FLY FISHERMEN had its start at Tom Sweeney's Dutch Oven Cafe in November, 1970. It was there that Marv Taylor, Will Godfrey and Ken Magee first met to discuss the possibilities of forming a club devoted to promoting the art of fly fishing. With word-of-mouth advertising, a small notice in *The Idaho Statesman*, the first planning meeting was held in January 1971, at the Idaho Agriculture Laboratory conference room. A surprising number, 87, turned out for that first meeting. Will Godfrey explained the purposes and goals of forming a fly fishing club. The movie, "Way of a Trout" was shown. A steering committee was selected to pursue the ideas and goals; the members were: Dave Robinson, Len Glaser, Art Aamoth, Mike Rossman, Rich Allsop, Will Godfrey and Ken Magee.

For those too young to remember, Ken Magee was the owner of Streamside Anglers fly shop in the Overland shopping center. He was quick with a smile and had an infectious sense of humor. Marv Taylor wrote a weekly fly fishing column in the Idaho Statesman. He also wrote the book, *Float Tubing the West* and often wrote about Boise's "Float Tube Navy." Will Godfrey was a guide and fly shop owner on the Henry's fork for some years.

## BOISE VALLEY FLY FISHERS PRESIDENTS, Part 1:

1971 Ken Magee	1981 Erik Korte	1990 Steve Pierce
1972-3 Will Godfrey	1982 Chris Korte	1991 Ron Price
1974 Jim Bonnett	1983 Mark Brown	1992 Brad Bowcutt
1975 Bob Maples	1984 Bill Hagdorn	1993 Brian Miller
1976 Ken Magee	1985 Barry Ross	1994 Bob Floyd
1977 Clayne Baker	1986 Bill DeLenge	1995 Brian Miller
1978 Joe Wyllie	1987 Neil Brooks	1996 Joy Knickrehm
1979 Marty Downey	1988 Ron Stockdale	
1980 Bob Juola	1989 Ken Folwell	



# Fly Tying Tips:

## Single Feather Soft Hackle

by Al & Gretchen Beatty

When Al got his first fly-tying kit from Herter's 50-plus years ago it included a single page of instructions with a series of step-by-step line drawings on tying one fly, a bucktail streamer. Also included was a line drawing of a soft-hackle fly but with no instructions. Al was determined to learn to tie that fly but living on a 1950's Iowa dairy farm didn't offer any fly-tying classes or fly shops close to his home. He eventually learned how to tie a fly that looked like the one in the line drawing using feathers from the hen house and yarn from his mother's sewing basket; it was many years though before he discovered he had tied it wrong. By then it didn't make any difference because he was tying a lot of other flies wrong that looked right. You'll see there really is no right or wrong way to tie this pattern as it unfolds in the next several steps.

**1** Strip the webby material from the base of a soft-hackle feather and tied it to the front of the hook. Attach a strand of yarn for the body while wrapping toward the back of the hook stopping just before reaching the end of the shank then wrap back forward to the back side of the hackle feather. In the illustration additional materials are also shown for the next pattern.



**2** Take two turns of hackle with each wrap behind the previous turn then bind the rest of the feather to the top of the shank while traveling to the end of the thread base above the hook point. Break the feather off by pulling sharply forward on it.



**3** Wrap the rest of the way back to reach the end of the shank and also to finish gathering the waste fibers forming the tail. Wrap the thread forward to meet the hackle application then follow with the yarn strand to form the body. Tie off the yarn and trim the excess to finish the body.



**4** Advance the thread in front of the hackle and wrap a thread head that pushes the hackle application back into a wet-style collar. It was years before Al learned about folding hackle to produce the same appearance. We'll learn more about that in another tip.



To submit a tying tip for the next issue, email: [BVFFeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:BVFFeditor@yahoo.com)

## In Memoriam:

The club lost 3 stalwart members last fall.



Clayne Baker [Clayne's obituary](#)



Warner Lewis Terrell III [Warner's obituary](#)



Herb Meyer [Herb's obituary](#)



And at press time, another loss, Don Ordes.

We don't have an obit for Don Ordes, but his friend Gary Greene says: "Sadly I must report that we lost a friend, Don Ordes. As you know Don had a major stroke two years ago after the expo in Utah. He unfortunately had a very rare condition that resulted in severe pain associated with his nerve ending associated with his stroke. His wife, Cheryl, gave Don the best possible care and was by his side when he died on December 22, 2020 at the age of 69.

Don Ordes was well known as a commercial fly tier, developer of new tying techniques including dubbing, and extraordinary display flies. He created a display called the "Baits Hotel" which he brought to our annual banquet. Don's fly pattern of a rainbow trout minnow was our featured fly pattern for our 2018 WIFFE.

Don was born and raised in Louisiana and was passionate about his cajun cooking. Don retired to the Boise area from Casper, Wyoming, after a successful engineering career designing oil and gas refineries. Don Ordes was very generous with his knowledge and always willing to teach others. He is survived by his wife and children."



## MEMBER PHOTOS:

Mark Aldridge with  
a pretty cutthroat



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

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FLY SHOPS!

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That You Can Apply Later  
On.



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

Okay guys, who makes your favorite fly rods? Click all your favorite brands. Feel free to add brands that aren't on the list.

☐ Sage  
Added by you

   29 votes


☐ Winston  
Added by you

   18 votes




☐ Orvis  
Added by you

   13 votes


☐ Scott  
Added by you

   7 votes

☐ Temple Fork  
Added by you

   5 votes




☐ Redington  
Added by you

   5 votes

☐ G. Loomis  
Added by you

   5 votes

☒ St. Croix  
Added by you

   4 votes

☐ Hardy  
Added by James Sprecher

   2 votes



Write a comment...







## I Remember ...

Back in the 70's and 80's, a group of BVFF members would travel to Montana for opening day of trout season. Often we would leave Boise after work on Friday and drive in Livingston, arriving late at night (except Joe Callanan and Jay Webb), but that is another story! Paradise Valley has a number of spring creeks that flowed into the Yellowstone River, such as; Nelsons and Armstrong spring creeks plus the ponds and creek on Depuy's property. After breakfast, the group would split up, some going to Nelsons, some to Armstrong and the rest fishing the ponds on Depuy's property. On this particular occasion, Clayne Baker, Phil Anderson and several others parked by the house, and took a trail that led down to one of spring fed ponds. From a distance they could see about six or eight big white "things" (swans) resting on the water where the group intended to fish. Not to be deterred, the group proceeded down the trail, as they got closer, the swans became somewhat agitated, squawking and flapping their wings in general making a loud fuss. As the fishermen reached the pond, apparently the swans had a enough! Being a very large birds, it took them a while to accelerate and become airborne. Once in the air, the flock formed an impressive formation and headed back towards the pond. You can guess what happened next! The swans made a low dive bombing run over the defenseless fishermen. All at once, in perfect unison the big birds, let go a smothering drop of big swan crap all over Clayne and his buddies. From what I understand it was not a pretty sight.

-Duane Marler, Club Historian

(Editor's note: Clayne Baker was a beloved member of the club and passed away in 2020 (see page 6). He had served as club president and been highly active for many years. He was the driving force behind the Woolly Buggers club for youth, at one time the largest youth fly fishing group in the country. He also invented "Herbie" a big styrofoam trout that was loaded up with hand-tied flies by club members and then raffled off during the club's annual banquet.

# Interesting Fly Fishing Links:

## Jimmy Kimmel Purchases Lodge on South Fork of the Snake

It's debatable whether this is a good thing or a bad thing. Hopefully at the very least the guides will know some better jokes next year!

## South fork Snake fish numbers

## Should you sharpen your hooks ?

## Crowding on Montana rivers during 2020

## Henry's Lake fly fishing

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