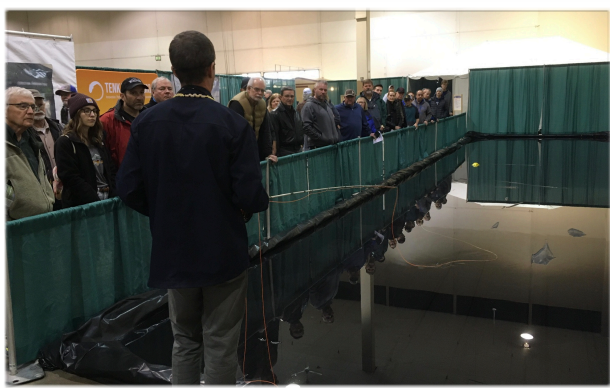


Hackle Bender

Bending hackles since 1971

2020 Western Id. Fly Fishing EXPO Highlights



Jeff Currier on the casting pond.



While Paul Shurtleff ties a blue-winged olive fly.



And Kelly Galloup gives a presentation on streamer fishing.



CALENDAR:

March 12–Club Meeting

March 21–Boise River Outing

April 4–Annual Auction & Social

April 9–Club Meeting

April 18–Duck Valley

May 14–Club Meeting

May 16–Bruneau Dunes



Campaign for Change



Lots of fly tyers



Ken Held's Brown Drakes



And vendors, too



Molly Semenik Casting

NEXT MEETING, MARCH 12 @ ELKS LODGE (FAIRVIEW):

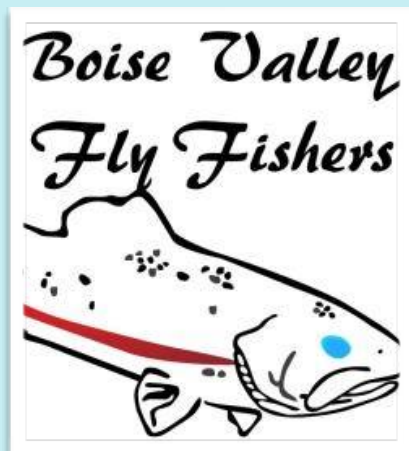
6:30 pm to 7:00 pm - Social and Fly Tying

7:00 pm to 7:20 pm - Club Business/Updates

7:20 - Presentation by Oregon Fish & Wildlife Staff on Owyhee fish & insect surveys, rainbow plantings, and Saprolegnia (cotton fish disease) on the river.

CLUB OUTINGS:

March 21, Boise river



Fund Raising Social



Raffle

Door
Prizes

Live
Auction

Bucks Boat
Raffle

No-Host
Bar

Hor
d'ouvres

Saturday April 4, 2020

Social: 6:00 PM Auction: 7:00 PM

ENTRY TICKETS: \$25 per person

NOTE: This event is 21 And Older ONLY Registration and payment on-line

ON-LINE REGISTRATION

DEADLINE: March 25, 2020

<http://www.boisevalleyflyfishers.wildapricot.org/event-3607075>

Visual Arts Collective

3638 Osage Street, Garden City, ID 83714

For more information:
email: Banquet@BVFF.com

Fly Tying Tip

Several of the fly tyers at the 2020 Expo raved about Semperfli's Nano Silk fly tying threads. If you've had problems with the small diameter threads breaking on you while tying, you may want to try it out. It's made in sizes as small as 12/0 and 18/0. I'm currently trying the 12/0 and am amazed at how strong the stuff is, yet it's so small that you really don't need to worry about ending up with a bulky or untidy head on your fly.

Submit your own fly tying tip to the editor before May 1 to make the next issue. Email to teisele44@gmail.com

BOOK REVIEWS:

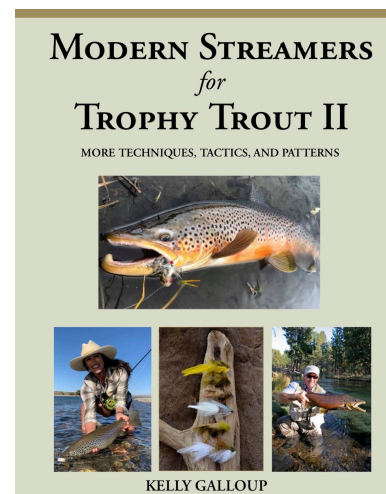
Modern Streamers for Trophy Trout II
Kelly Galloup
2019, Dean Publishing

Kelly's presentation at the 2020 Expo on streamer fishing drew a big crowd. Then he wowed us with photos of trophy trout that had been triggered into eating streamers. If the presentation didn't lead you to vow to fish streamers more often, you must not have been listening.

Well, there's good news if you weren't listening, because this book covers all the things he talked to us about. Retrieves such as the Jerk strip, the Vertical Jig and the Dead Drift are all covered thoroughly. He also covers the type of water that tends to hold trophy fish.

How to fish a streamer in order to trigger a take is also covered, as well as his experience in designing flies specifically for the action they will impart to trigger the fish. Finally, there are over 70 pages of Kelly's favorite streamer patterns with tying recipes. They include both traditional single shank flies and large articulated flies that can truly flutter and "swim" with an amazingly life-like motion that can trigger vicious takes.

As enthusiastic as the Expo crowd was when Kelly presented these techniques, I predict we will see a lot more streamer fishermen on the water this season.

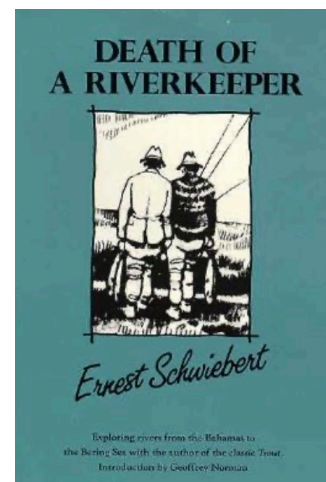


Death of A Riverkeeper
Ernest Schwiebert
1980

Why am I doing a review of a book that was written so long ago? Because it's one of my all-time favorites and I'd like to introduce a new generation of fishermen to it.

Schwiebert was a successful architect who travelled the world and did a lot of fly fishing along the way. His book *Matching the Hatch* introduced the now famous phrase to the world.

I find his writing lyrical, thoughtful and enjoyable. He also took the time to introduce you to the people and traditions of far-flung waters, which I find enjoyable in giving you a true appreciation of the uniqueness of new water.



One of the reasons I love this book so much is because of the content that includes waters many of us love and fish. One chapter is about fishing Silver creek with Jack Hemingway (Ernest Hemingway's son who was also a former IDF&G commissioner). Another finds him fishing the Henry's Fork with Andre Puyans and Rene Harrop. And yet another has him braving frosty autumn weather while fishing the Wyoming's Green river and then Yellowstone with a friend who is a guide, all the while weaving into the story the historical background of fur traders, mountain men and mischief. It's wonderful reading.

Other chapters have him fishing in Ireland, Alaska and Norway.

Many years ago I happened to spot Schwiebert on the banks of the Henry's fork, doing as we all do there, scanning the water for rising fish. As I passed him, I wanted to say hello and tell him how much I enjoyed his writing. But then I thought of how I dislike being disturbed when I'm locked in to the experience, so I said nothing, thinking that might be the greatest gift I could give him. I hope I was right.

Brown Trout life cycle & spawning redds, Part 2

By Dave Banks, ODFW

There have been some nice, warm days recently and spring is not far off and perhaps you've begun to think about getting out on the Owyhee again. Perhaps you're considering fishing the skwala hatch or just getting the dust off the fly rod and knocking the rust off your cast.

What should you be thinking about when you're out wading the Owyhee River in March and April?

One answer is: Will wading in this location increase mortality of brown trout fry?



Skwala Photo courtesy Ted Eisele.

To begin to answer this question, let's recall what is going on with brown trout egg development this time of year. The article in the January BVFF newsletter ended with eggs beginning to hatch and information that brown trout fry could be hatching anytime from late February through April in the Owyhee River. When they hatch they have a yolk-sac still attached and are known as alevin or yolk-sac fry. The yolk-sac contains lipids that nourish the alevin until it is absorbed and they have a negative behavioral response to light during this period. They avoid it by staying in the spaces between the gravels in or near the redd. This is a vulnerable time for the recently hatched fish because they have little ability to move around to avoid being crushed when you walk through the gravel riffle.

They also lack the muscle development to enable them to move and water is fairly viscous for fish that are 1-2 cm (0.4"-0.8") reducing the ability of alevin to move.

The light avoidance behavior changes once fry absorb the yolk-sac; they move upward through the gravel towards light. This change in behavior occurs because now they must feed on their own and to do that they need to get out of the gravel where food is available. Fry in this stage are known as swim-up fry because they swim up through the spaces among the gravel and are then carried downstream. Once they emerge from the gravel they are considered fry and begin feeding on phytoplankton and small aquatic insects, preferring the margins of the river in areas that provide vegetation or larger rock for cover. Survival at this stage is dependent upon drifting to a part of the river with high food densities and low predator densities.

Photo courtesy of Dave Banks



Many anglers are aware that survival in fishes differs from survival of humans. Low survival rates occur in fishes until they can make it through their first year of life with much of it occurring during the egg to fry stages. One study observed 20X's the survival from alevin to the fry stage with a slight increase of daily survival from 90.5 % to 95.1 %. Look for the signs BVFF paid for and helped place along the Owyhee River. They identify areas of high redd densities that translate into area with high alevin within the gravel. This means that you have the choice to help the Owyhee brown trout fishery by avoiding wading in the gravel riffles until May.

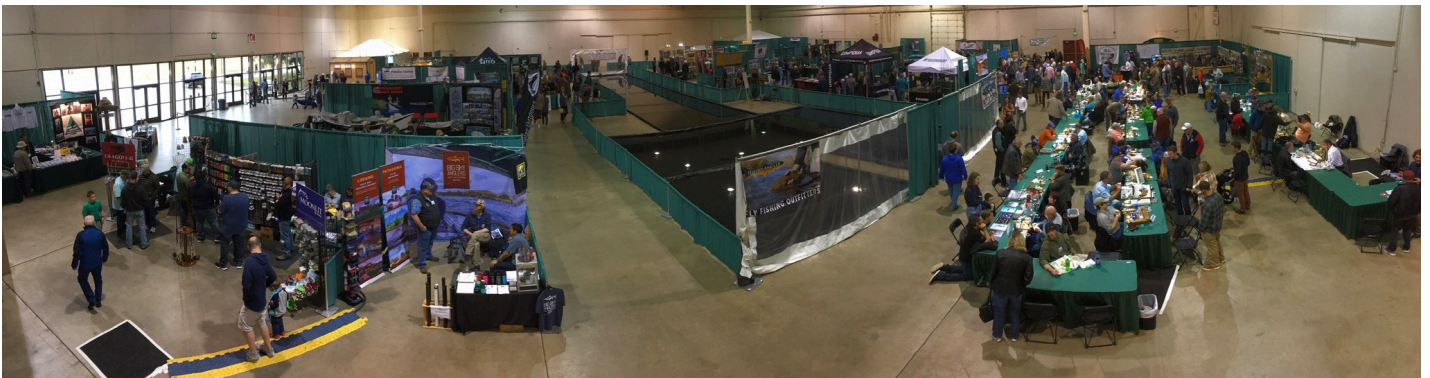


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