

The Hackle Bender

Boise Valley Fly Fishers

March, 2022



President's Update:

We as a club have just completed our most challenging year of the club's history. COVID restricted our events, and many members were stricken with this disease. However, as we look to 2022 and our 51st year we are starting to see clearer skies, but we are not there yet. We are moving forward and improving.

In January we held the 17th Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo (EXPO 2022). The **EXPO TEAM** did an amazing job in managing and real-time adjusting to produce this world class fly fishing educational event. Their work will set the stage for a stronger EXPO 2023 and the continued growth of BVFF. I would like to thank the core team, those that worked to plan and manage EXPO, in some areas over nine months of effort, and for those that came to support the daily events. ***As a team, well done.***

As we look ahead to 2022, I see a critical and urgent need for others to “put their hat in the ring.” Over ten years ago, I decided, to get involved with BVFF. Not just come to some meetings, outings and help when asked. My reason was simple, I want to learn more about fly fishing, and I want to go fishing more. Along the way I meet some lifelong friends, hopefully contributed to the growth of BVFF and add some value to BVFF and the community. In November of 2021, I notified the BOD that I would not accept the position of BVFF President or act in the Role of EXPO Chair in the future. It is time for others to “put their hat in the ring”, bring innovative ideas and guide BVFF forward in 2022 and beyond. As a BVFF TEAM we will get there!

I did ask the BOD if I could rebuild the outings program, one of the reasons myself and many others join BVFF is to learn more and fish more. Please see the new Hackle Bender Column. “On the Water, with BVFF” (Page 3). Thank you for your support of BVFF and see you on the water!

Tom Old

Calendar:

March 10. Monthly meeting with Zoom. Annual election of club officers. 6:30pm.

March 17. Boise river outing. Sign up online. See page 6.

April 14. Monthly meeting. 6:30pm.

April 22-24. Club outing to Duck Valley.

**FOR MORE CALENDAR ITEMS
CHECK BVFF.COM**



FFI Affiliate Club



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: <http://www.boisevalleyflyfishers.wildapricot.org/Join-BVFF>

GEAR UP!

Check Current Fishing Reports to get the latest:

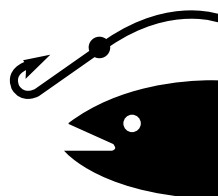
[Idaho Angler Reports](#)

[3 Rivers Ranch Reports— Owyhee River / Boise River](#)

[Boise Anglers Reports](#)

[Silver Creek Outfitters](#)

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





How many of you joined BVFF to learn more about fly fishing and to GO fishing? I did. How many of you have gone on a BVFF outing? What kind of outings would you like to see? What would make your BVFF membership more valuable to you and your family?

I see a need for BVFF to build a **strong outings committee (a team of members)** to help plan and support our club. What is an outing? We have started a framework to update our planning and focus. Some of the early concepts:

- A standard format for all outings. Hopefully, this will give you a clear understanding and scope of the outing.
- Updated definitions of outings from,
 - Meet-ups – day activities in the valley to get us out fishing. An example, our March outing is a “meet-up” on the Boise River. (<https://www.bvff.com/event-4593088>)
 - Overnight trips – these require travel and a recommended. overnight stay. An example is our April outing to Duck Valley. (<https://www.bvff.com/event-4670607>)
 - Extended or out of area. An example to be is the September Outing to the South Fork of the Snake. (<https://www.bvff.com/event-4593063>)
- A stronger link to our Angler-Challengers Program. (<https://www.bvff.com/Angler-Challenges>)

Who would like to join this working committee? As a team we can grow and make outings a cornerstone of BVFF. You can a contribution to BVFF, and of greater importance get you and more members on the water. Please email at my new BVFF address and let us start working!

Outings@BVFF.com

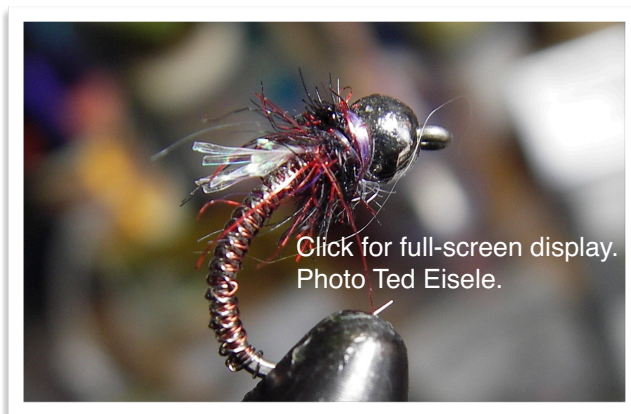
Tom Old

208-440-1196



by Dave Shuldes shuldesd@gmail.com

Boise River Houdini Weave Midge Pattern



I've continued to see success with this pattern this winter. Since this fly will remain very useful in March I thought I would share details about the why and how of tying the Houdini Weave Midge.

I highly recommend putting "Justin Bruce's Houdini Weave" in your browser and watching the YouTube videos for visual tips. (Editor's note: I like [this](#) one.)

WHY – the pattern creates a very dense and heavy fly for its size. It quickly gets your nymph where you want it... rolling in the stones of the river. The combined use of a tungsten bead head and dual wire abdomen increases and balances the weight of the fly without use of a wire wrap under the thorax. It streamlines the dimensions of the fly to a midge imitation yet gives it the necessary density.

HOW – Place the bead on the hook and the hook in the vice. Take care that the vice grabs the bend of the hook at the point where you want your wire abdomen to start, which is approximately the middle of the hook bend.

Don't wrap the hook with any thread until after the next step. Rotate the



base so the back of the vice (bend of the hook) is facing your body. Cut 3-inch pieces of copper and black UTC wire. Line them up together and tie a single overhand knot at each end to mate the wires in parallel. Shape the knotted wires into a circle. Pull the center of the copper wire against the inside bend of the hook and keep mild pressure toward the rear. Place the center of the black wire against the outside bend of the hook. Then start weaving – black around and under right, black around and under left. Pull gently but firmly back towards you. Then copper around and over right, copper around and over left. Pull back towards you. Proceed with 8-10 more alternating wraps until about 60% of the hook is covered with woven wire. Bend the extra wire back out of the way without cutting yet.

Now rotate the base of the vice back in the normal direction. Start red UTC 70 thread just behind the bead and wrap to the wire. Pull one wire forward, tie in place, and break off by helicopter technique. Pull the second wire straight up and wrap the thread once around the wire (not the hook). Then wrap the thread around the hook twice the reverse direction, once again around the wire only, then back around the hook in the normal direction. This will prevent the wire from unraveling. Helicopter off the second wire. Tie in a sparse bunch of white Antron. These next 2 materials serve as gills, so I lay them in a 180 degree spray out from the hook. Prop the Antron against the wire at an angle. Leave it long in the back for now. Clip it tight to the front. Then tie in a sparse bunch of Olive Pearl Midge Flash as an overwing. Dub in a small thorax of Black Peacock Ice Dub just slightly larger in diameter than the wire abdomen. Make a distinctly visible red thread collar between the bead and thorax and whip finish. Trim the Antron and Midge Flash to halfway up the abdomen and you're ready to go.



[Click for full-screen photo.](#)
Dave Shuldes photo.

I fish this pattern as the point fly on 5X tippet in the tight-line style of nymphing. This midge imitation bouncing down the current in the rocks can be too much for even the wisest trout to resist! Tight lines everyone!



February Whitefish Derby & VWFD

An "On the Water" Update

February was a great month for BVFF with the Virtual (34 members), and In-Person (38 members) Whitefish Derbies. It was a team effort lead by our Outing Coordinators, Tom McKnight and Matt Perkins. A shout out to George Butts for building, managing the inventory and training members on our fish-measuring troughs.



Virtual Mountain Whitefish Derby II 2022

Status 2-18-2022 2030 MST

Entries must be posted by 0600 2/19/2022

Date	Member:	Fish length
State Record		21"
2/11/2022	Richard Jones	19
2/15/2022	Brian Martin	18.75
2/11/2022	Tom Governale	18.25
2/14/2022	Brian Martin	17.87
2/10/2022 2/11/2022 2/12/2022	Brian Martin Ken Held Matt Perkins	17.5

See "On the Water with BVFF" for our March meet-up on the Boise river. [Sign up for March Outing Here](#)



Seeing how a whitefish measures up.



Tom Old making hot cocoa and "Whitefish Ed" making an appearance.



NEW BOISE RIVER SPAWNING HABITAT



by Troy Pearce

The new Diane Moore Nature Center is the latest of Boise's fantastic riverside parks. It is located above Barber Park where the highway 21 bridge crosses the river. It is being developed by the Intermountain Bird Observatory as a native outdoor education center focused at preserving and improving natural habitats for both people and wildlife to enjoy. Boardwalk trails will wind through native plants and pollinator gardens and provide access to the river. The Nature Center is open during development and I encourage members to go up and check it out.

This winter the Intermountain Bird Observatory restored a historic dry side-channel at the Diane Moore Nature Center that provides over a quarter of a mile of new fish and wildlife habitat. They added gravel for trout spawning and incorporated a significant amount of large woody debris to give trout fry cover. The stream is designed to flow when the river rises above 600cfs, which typically is April through September, and will be perfect for Rainbow Trout spawning. To learn more about the side channel project, see their website at: <https://www.boisestate.edu/ibo/side-channel/>.

BVFF is working with the Diane Moore Nature Center on trout habitat signage and we are looking for other ways to help with fishing access projects.

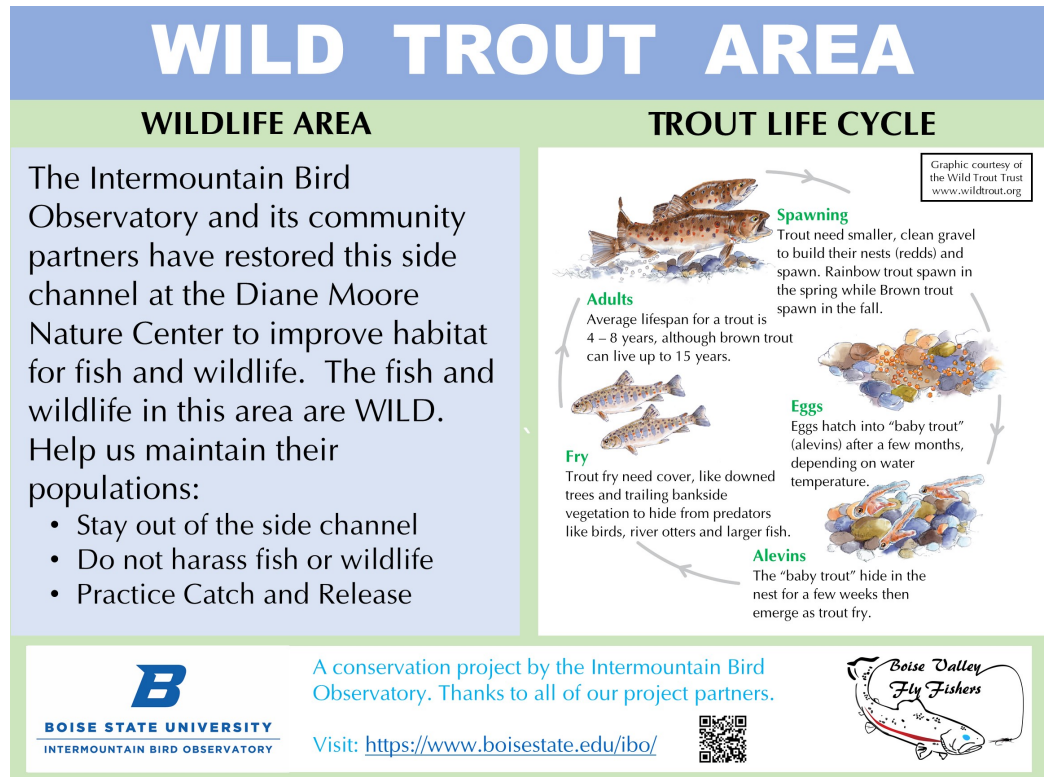


Side Channel. [Click here for full-screen image.](https://www.boisestate.edu/ibo/side-channel/)

The signs are still being designed but here is a current draft of one of the signs.

We would like to get some volunteers to help do spawning redd counts this May to estimate how much rainbow trout spawning is happening in the area and see if rainbows use the side channel this first season, and to help install trout habitat signs. We don't have dates set yet, but if you are interested please contact Troy Pearse at conservation@bvff.com and watch for future volunteer announcements.

Fishing can be good in the area even though IDF&G does not stock the Boise river between Barber Dam and the NY Canal Diversion Dam. Trout in this section are primarily wild rainbow trout and whitefish so please practice catch and release. With this new spawning side channel we expect the population of wild rainbow trout will increase, and looking to the future we think this section would be a good candidate for catch and release only regulations.



Draft of signage. [Click here for full-screen image.](#)

FFI Fly Tying Award

BVFF's own Bob Harder received his Silver Fly Tying Award from Fly Fishers International on December 30, 2021. There are seven flies that are mandatory and three tiers' choice. The seven required flies are the Ginger Quill, Blue Charm, Lefty's Deceiver, Parachute Adams, Bead Head, Prince Nymph and Elk Hair Caddis. The optional flies Bob choose to tie were the Pale Morning Dun, Renegade and Royal Coachman.



Most of the flies were tied on Tiemco 100 size 14 fly hooks. Three perfect or near perfect flies need to be submitted for each pattern. Bob said, "I generally figured that I would tie up about 100 to get three near perfect flies. The exception was the Parachute Adams.

The Parachute Adams requires a calf hair post that is the diameter of the hook eye and length of the hook shaft. Calf hair is hard to work with. One must cut off a chunk and thumb it to remove unwanted or too short hairs. The remaining clump is placed in a hair stacker and banged down. Hopefully, the hair ends all line up evenly and you get a useable post. The post is then tied on the hook about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up the hook leaving the post the hook length. Sounds easy. I used more than 10 calf tails and tied over 1,300 posts before I got three that would pass."

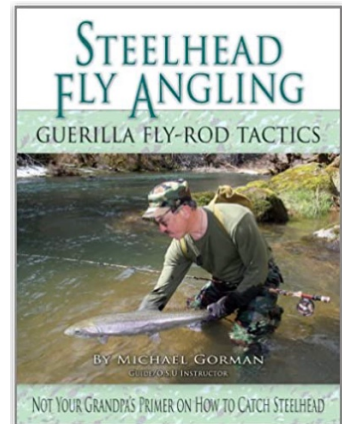
"I tied the flies up over the last three years. If you tie flies I strongly encourage you to join FFI and sign up for the challenge. They have a library that shows how to tie each fly. You will become a much better tyer."

"I would like to thank Gretchen and Al Beatty for their encouragement, support and honest criticism in helping me obtain the Award. I doubt if I would have accepted the challenge without them and their support."

Congratulations Bob!

Book Review

Steelhead Fly Angling: Guerilla Fly-Rod Tactics
By Michael Gorman
Amato Books.



Gorman is a steelhead guide in Oregon. He has decades of experience and shares the lessons he has learned.

The book covers three of the most effective techniques for steelhead fishing: swinging the wet fly, nymphing, and skating a dry fly. If you've done much steelheading, you know that the fish can seem to disappear when the sun is high. Gorman's preference is to go to nymphing at that point, getting the fly down deeper on the brightest of days.

While Gorman does much of his own fishing while wading, his clients are normally in his drift boat, and there is a good bit of information on dealing with competing boat traffic on the river. This includes maneuvering his boat so that other boaters may not see that his clients are hooked up. Those rivers sound like highways. All I can say is, I sure hope Idaho rivers don't become as congested as the waters he describes in his book! Then again, if the past 2 years are any indication, perhaps we're getting to that point, as well.



Fill the Net!

Help keep our rivers and lakes 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:

Troy Pearce
Nathan Hines
Ted Eisele
Mike Dittman
Klaus Kissman

George Butts
Brian Martin
Dennis Moore
Don Caagbay



BVFF YouTube Channel

New Content: Whitefish Ed on catching Whitefish

**Coming Soon: Tying
Leaders for
Nymphing**

**Channel full content
list**



BVFF Whitefish Derby & VWFD

154 views



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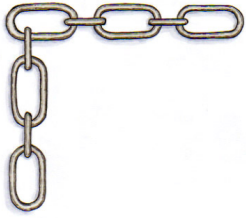
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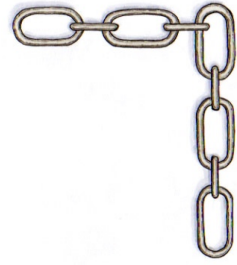
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[Selecting new fly rod](#)

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[Spot burning](#)

[The Great Question: Cut off tangled leader or retie?](#)

[Idaho's Super Male brook trout](#)

[Public access trouble in Montana](#)

[Being a Lifelong Fisherman](#)

On the club's Facebook page:

This is another trout bug on a window near the Boise river. The picture was taken in summer. Go to the club's Facebook page and identify it.



[Click for full-screen image.](#)

The Palomino Trout Rides Again by Ted Eisele

Some may consider the fish exotic. Others may call it grotesque.

And it goes by many names. From Banana trout, to Yellow trout, Golden trout and more. Biologists call it the Palomino trout.

Years ago I had the book Trout Biology by W.B. Willers. According to him, Palominos are a cross between a normal Rainbow and an albino rainbow. They have been known to occur naturally, but the occurrences are rare. However, fish hatcheries have been able to propagate the fish and disperse them widely.



Photo by Ken Held

Palominos have been stocked for years in selected areas, especially in the Magic Valley region. Clear lake often plants them, although they are uncertain of being able to obtain them this year. Likewise, many of the waters around Hagerman have also been home to them. But they won't plant any in 2022.

Why? A year ago, IDFG made a decision to stop propagating the palominos. When anglers heard the news, they were vocal in expressing their disappointment to IDFG. They pointed out that the palomino is so colorful that even kids and novice anglers can spot them at a distance and cast to them.

IDFG noted the enthusiasm for the fish and decided they will make them available to Idaho anglers once more.

When IDFG does plant the fish, they are typically 9-12", though they can get very large. Some years when they have old broodstock fish in the hatchery, they opt to take them out of production and put them in fishing waters. That's when it's possible to find a fish pushing 4 or 5 pounds.

Palominos should not be confused with California Golden trout, which are a separate species. Those Golden trout are native to California's Sierras and in their native waters are typically quite small. Golden's are also planted in some high mountain lakes of Idaho. They take some effort to find, but they are worth it.

Palominos, on the other hand, do not require a backpack or a horse to reach. They are a fun fish for kids and rookies. When they cruise around they stand out like a goldfish in a fish bowl. Many of us love it when we can cast directly to a sighted target. It adds to the excitement to know exactly where the fish is lying and to be able to track its movements relative to our fly. A few years ago I found some enjoying a callibaetis hatch. Watching them come up and inspect the fly was a blast. (I have a feeling that raptors enjoy how visible they are as well.)

There are sure to be some palominos still out there, even though there will be no fish planted this year by the state.

However, the wheels are turning to return Palominos to our waters. As we're finishing up this issue of the Hackle Bender, I've just learned that IDFG has 25,000 of them swimming in a hatchery for release in the spring of 2023.

Until then, if you want to chase palominos, I suggest you look at fish stocking records. Go to <https://idfg.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/stocking/> then scroll down on the left side to the list of stocked species and click on "Rainbow - Yellow". It will show which waters have them.

If you're looking for a new challenge, you may want to "cowboy up" and see if you can tame a palomino. Good luck, partner.



THANK YOU, TOM OLD FOR SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF BVFF FROM 2017 UNTIL TODAY!

We look forward to watching you lead the Outings Program.

**As a famous cartoon pig once said,
THAT'S ALL FOLKS!**

Thank you to our business members!



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