

Flies & Lies



Wintertime is for midging



Photo by Roy Bell

Laura Bayless with a rainbow trout caught on the Madison River last December.

By **MIKE SATREN**

Laura Bayless took up midging a year ago after she noticed big fish in a large pool on the St. Joe River gently rise for something in the surface film. She had to get her face real low to see the midges (chironomids) that were emerging.

Rigging a size-20 BWO (with Gink) on 6X fluorocarbon tippet with a size-22 Zelon Midge trailer and casting three feet upstream of a recent rise, Bayless gently raised her rod and hooked a nice cutthroat.

Dave Seitz of Hayden also likes midging but he targets the still waters of lakes after ice out.

Ninety-five percent of his action

is subsurface where he ties two and sometimes three size-18 to -12 tungsten bead-head chironomid patterns to test several depths in the water column. Seitz uses somewhat larger (2X to 4X) fluorocarbon tippets to hold the larger lake fish that he targets.

Midge strikes can be hard to detect, he said. Sometimes it is just a twitter on the indicator. By moving the line up a foot then down again, fish can be hooked at the same time as realistic up and down chironomid action is simulated.

Bayless views midging as a stealth form of fly fishing that takes real focus. She looks for rising fish in deeper pools or shallow pockets

We are the NIFC

For over 25 years, the North Idaho Fly Casters Club has been dedicated to all facets of the sport of fly fishing.

We provide a wide range of educational and conservation opportunities to the fly fishing enthusiast.

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and makes false casts alongside (not over) the fish to get her distance and then lays her fly about a foot ahead of her target.

Midging is a fun way to stretch the fishing season by hopping on the river in mid-afternoon, the warmest part of the day.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As many of you already know, Bill and Janet Sherman have resigned as the club's librarians and I thank them for their years of valuable service. Fortunately, Steve Hamman has agreed to be our new librarian. Thanks, Steve, for keeping that valuable resource available for our members.

The November dinner meeting will be the last opportunity to donate a toy to Toys for Tots. If you wish to donate, please bring a new (unwrapped) toy or toys to the meeting.

The November meeting will also be the first fly drawing. If you wish to participate, bring a new, unused fly. The fly can be one you tied or one you purchased. Deposit the fly in the tub at the end of the merchandise table. Write your name on a ticket and place it in the adjacent tub. After dinner a name will be drawn to determine the winner of all the flies.

Forty-eight fishout survey forms were returned and the results shared with the Board at its October

meeting. A copy of the survey results can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Please review the data and contact a Board member if you have any further thoughts on fishouts. The Board will continue evaluating your feedback. A decision on dates and locations of next year's fishouts will be made in early 2010.

At our December meeting we will present several awards to club members: Conservation, Youth, and Flyfisher of the Year. The Board of Trustees will select the award winners between the November and December meetings. To nominate a member for an award, please do so in writing indicating the award, the member's name and the reason you think he/she should receive the award. Give me the nomination at our November meeting or email the nomination to me at skipngayle@verizon.net.

Skip Wright

Club Officers

President

Skip Wright (208) 660-0016

Vice-President

Don Boehm (208) 704-2622

Secretary

Renee Blythe (208) 660-0384

Treasurer

Gayle Wright (208) 660-3994

Trustees

At-Large

Mike Steiner (208) 773-5366

Trustee

Skip Wright (208) 660-0016

David Heberer (208) 625-0384

Jim Rogers (208) 665-9909

Greg Blythe (509) 979-2099

Committee Chairs

Membership

Laura Bayless (208) 667-4720

Conservation

Bob Clark (208) 667-6733

Youth

Jim Rogers (208) 665-9909

Library

Steve Hamman (208) 687-3627

Raffles

Skip Quade (208) 667-9243

Programs

Bud Frasca (208) 699-0630

Newsletter

Mike Satren (208) 818-1287



CLUB NEWS

THE NEXT CLUB PROGRAM

Members can make chicken cacciatore (\$14) dinner reservations for the November 19 meeting at the Lake City Senior Center, 1916 Lakewood Dr. (just above the light on Northwest Blvd. in Coeur d'Alene) by contacting Laura Bayless by Friday, November 13 at 667-4720 or lbayless12@aol.com. Wet fly hour starts at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

OUR LAST MEETING

Club member Dave Londeree presented the October program on Atlantic salmon fly fishing on the Gaspé in Quebec.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Welcome back to the 2009-2010 year of the Club!
Dues can be paid at the November meeting or you can mail them to:
North Idaho Fly Casters
P.O. Box 1698
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-1698
There is no change in the dues structure.
\$30 Family
\$25 Single
\$20 Senior Family (65+)
\$15 Senior Single.

Newsletters will be distributed via email, but if you'd like to have a hard copy mailed to you, please include an additional \$10 for the Club year. If you've changed your email address, or any other information, please contact Laura Bayless.

NIFC MEMBERS ACHIEVE

In late July, Don Childress attended the Federation of FlyFishers Conclave in Loveland, Colorado. Besides taking in several interesting workshops, Don took the Casting Instructors Certification workshop and passed becoming an FFF Certified Casting Instructor. Only 30 percent of first-time test takers pass this course.

NEW NIFC MEMBERS

Vince DeSantis of Dalton Gardens
Bob Hornbuckle of Athol
Larry Wilson of Hayden

REMEMBERING HELEN

Our condolences to the family of NIFC member Helen Lewerence, especially to her brother Rodger Lewerence who is also a member. Services for Helen will be Saturday, Nov. 7 at 12 p.m. at St. Lukes Episcopal Church, 501 E. Wallace Ave., Coeur d'Alene.

Calendar

Nov 19

Club meeting/chicken cacciatore dinner Program by Don Childress on Peacock bass fishing in Brazil. Lake City Senior Center

Nov 24

Club officers' meeting Sargent's Restaurant

Dec 17

Club Christmas meeting/Prime rib or wild salmon dinner Program is Powerpoint annual recap of club outings. Lake City Senior Center



Photo by Jim Rogers

Elwin Schutt and friend enjoy the Clearwater Fishout on July 18.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 10/15/09

The North Idaho Fly Casters Board meeting was called to order by President Skip Wright at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Skip Wright, Gayle Wright, Bud Frasca, Mike Steiner, Kent Setty, David Heberer, Renee Blythe.

NEW BUSINESS

Library: Librarian Steve Hamman proposed that some flies, fly boxes and slow-to-circulate DVDs, videos and books be included in meeting raffles.

2009/2010 Budget passed: Motion to approve budget passed unanimously by membership at October general meeting.

Reviewed fishout survey: Reviewed summary of fishout survey results from the members at the October general meeting. The Board will continue discussing the survey results at the next meeting.

Coeur d'Alene River guide permits: The Inland Fly Fishers contacted Skip Wright asking for

information about requirements for and number of guide permits on the Coeur d'Alene River. Setty will follow up with Idaho Fish and Game.

Letter to the Board: Skip presented a letter to the Board and after discussion, the Board agreed to investigate further and follow up at the December board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Larger storage unit: After Setty reported costs, the board unanimously passed a motion by Steiner, seconded by Gayle Wright, to upgrade to a larger storage unit.

November board meeting date change: The next board meeting will be Nov. 22 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Renee Blythe, Secretary

Summary of October NIFC fishout survey

Which fishouts did you attend this past summer?

- North Fork Coeur d'Alene **23**
- North Fork Clearwater **13**
- Lochsa **14**
- Laura's at West Yellowstone **13**
- St. Joe **15**
- None attended **15**
- If none, please let us know why. (You may check more than one answer.)**
- (A) Work/family conflicts **13**
- (B) No RV or camping equipment **3**

- (C) I prefer fishing alone or in small groups **3**
- (D) Too far to travel **1**
- (E) Financial considerations **0**
- (F) Personal Reasons **2**
- (G) Other: **date conflicts, lazy, no time and new member**
- Are there currently:**
- Too many fishouts **1**
- Too few fishouts **9**
- The right number **34**
- Would you like to have fishouts in new locations?**
- Yes **23**
- No **13**

If yes, where would you like to see new fishouts held?

- Rivers**
- Rock Creek, MT **8**
- Big Hole, MT **2**
- Kootenai, MT **4**
- Missouri, MT **1**
- Lower Clearwater, ID **4**
- Yakima, WA **1**
- Bitterroot, MT **3**
- Lower St Joe, ID **1**
- Thompson, MT **3**
- Lower CdA, ID **1**
- Henry's Fork, ID **3**
- Fall, ID **1**
- Moyie, ID **2**
- Thomas, MT **1**

- Clark Fort, MT **1**
- Elk, BC **1**
- Madison, MT **1**
- Methow, WA **1**
- Olympic Pen **1**
- Montana wading rivers **2**

- Lakes**
- Georgetown, MT **2**
- Hayden, ID **2**
- Amber, WA **2**
- Round, ID **1**
- Kelso, ID **1**
- Medical Lake, WA **1**
- Lenore, WA **1**
- Chopaka, WA **1**
- just more lakes **2**

See survey on page 6



FOR THE GEAR BAG

North Idaho Fly Casters support the WaterLife Discovery Center located just south of Sandpoint on Lakeshore drive. The Sandpoint Fish Hatchery was built in 1909 on the Pend Oreille River by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game with partial funding from Bonner County Sportsmen.

The mission of the Center is to create a self-guided educational facility providing an enjoyable outdoor recreational experience for people of all ages to better understand and appreciate the importance of water in nature. The Center's unique exhibits will engage visitors as they learn about Idaho's fish, wildlife, wetlands and forests and the importance of conserving these natural resources. In the mid 1990s, Fish and Game met with concerned citizens and community groups to discuss options for the historic hatchery. This resulted in a partnership between Idaho Fish and Game, the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation, groups like the NIFC and other community partners.

This is a self-guided educational center that combines a fish hatchery, nature trails, overlook bridges, wildlife watching platforms, interpretive signs, and underwater viewing opportunities along a stream and a pond. Spring water from a neighboring property is piped underground to supply water for the hatchery and fish raceways. Because the water is too cold for efficient aquaculture, the hatchery has been used primarily as a summer redistribution facility for rainbow trout.

The property consists of 3.5 acres of developed interpretive exhibits and a 6.5-acre forested wetland with trails and interpretive signs. This area is home to white-tailed deer, moose, muskrat, mink, and river otters. Bald eagles, osprey, and waterfowl grace the river while woodpeckers and songbirds prefer the wetland forest.

When fully developed, the Center will include:

- A living stream with native trout species
- A riparian trail with interpretive information
- Exhibits about "bugs" as indicators of stream health
- Fish identification information
- Endangered species displays highlighting bull trout
- Identification of plant species
- Landscaping for wildlife

Although not complete yet, the Center does allow visitors to view the work in progress. Contact Fish and Game for details (208) 769-1414.

Renee Blythe

*A brookie closeup at
Georgetown Lake,
MT, on Sept. 23.
Photo by Jim Rogers*





Summary of October NIFC Fishout survey (from page 4)

Should some current locations be dropped?

Yes **9**

No **27**

If yes, which current location(s) should be dropped?

North Fork CdA **2**

North Fork Clearwater

0

West Yellowstone **2**

Lochsa **2**

St. Joe **2**

Please choose one of the following:

All fishouts should have a streamkeeper and a Saturday meal **25**

Some fishouts should have a streamkeeper and a Saturday meal **18**

No fishouts should have a streamkeeper and Saturday meal **0**

Would you serve as a streamkeeper for a fishout with a meal?

Yes **17**

No **22**

As a streamkeeper for a fishout without a meal?

Yes **9**

No **15**

Survey comments:

Hold fishouts in Oct. (possibly steelheading)

Move St. Joe to late Sept./early Oct.

Fishouts are a good way to meet members and test new water.

Try half days on Hayden for bass.

Get younger people involved (fishouts or flyfishing?)

If we add a new location, drop a current

location.

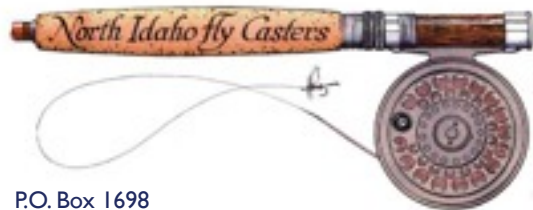
Used to be one fishout a year and it was a big event, return to one a year.

Club does a great job (as is).

More variety — nearby places.

Try one new location each year.

Club used to have evening fishouts on local lakes.



P.O. Box 1698

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-1698

Notice: The NIFC Board asks club members to bring unwrapped toys to the November club meeting as donations to Toys for Tots.