

Ted Trueblood Chapter of Trout Unlimited

November 2009

### **November 12th Meeting to Highlight South Fork Boise Genetics Study**

Make plans to attend an open joint meeting of TU and Boise Valley Fly Fishermen on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at the Boise Public Library to see a presentation on the genetic profile of the South Fork Boise River (SFB) fishery as well as hear a panel discussion of agency and angling community perspectives on Southwest Idaho's greatest fishing water. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. (See more information on back).

Helen Neville with the TU national science team based in Boise will present her findings based on the laboratory analysis of the genetic information sampled from more than 300 rainbow trout, and compare that information with dozens of wild trout populations in the North and Middle Fork Boise Rivers.

Idaho Fish & Game, the Boise National Forest, Bureau of Reclamation, TU and BVFF worked together in 2008 to sample the SFB fishery and adjacent tributaries to gather genetic information on redband or rainbow trout. The information presented November 12 will provide a foundation by which a conservation strategy for the SFB fishery could be developed.



### **TU's Annual National Meeting Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

*By Chris Jones*

It was an exciting and informative opportunity to attend TU's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Meeting in Traverse City, Michigan. Charles Gauvin gave a historical narrative of TU's past 50 years of restoring, protecting, reconnecting, and sustaining our cold water fisheries. It was an impressive list of accomplishments that would make any TU member proud. TU has successfully finished the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of its 5-year strategic plan and will continue on its course.

Idaho was well represented at the awards luncheon. The Idaho State Council won the Bollinger award for the best newsletter, *Idaho Trout*. James Capurso, fisheries biologist for the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, won the Conservation Professional award. J. Robb Brady of the Idaho Falls *Post Register* was recognized with the TU Conservation Communications Award. Loren Albright, a national TU trustee from Sandpoint, and Matt Woodard from the National Staff in Idaho Falls, came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Orvis nine hole fly casting contest.

While I was wading through all the hoopla of TU's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, attendees kept telling me the National meeting in Boise in 2007 is still the best one they've attended.

## ***Heron Creek Project Completed in southeast Boise***

*By Andy Brunelle*

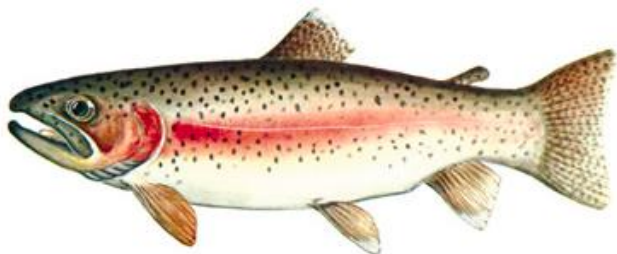
On September 19, 2009 the Ted Trueblood Chapter of Trout Unlimited organized a group of 40 volunteers who worked for two hours and placed nine cubic yards of spawning gravel in Heron Creek, a small tributary to the Boise River in the River Run subdivision in southeast Boise.

The gravel placement event was the third step in the restoration of a section of Heron Creek just as it enters the Boise River. In July, a 25-foot section of eroding stream bank was stabilized with the willow planting. The sloughing section of bank was a source of sediment to Heron Creek and the Boise River.

After fixing the stream bank and planting vegetation the second step involved dredging about ten yards of sediment from the bottom of the stream bed. TU had the assistance of the Idaho Youth Conservation Corps members to operate the SandWand dredge equipment. This was a great partnership for both organizations.

A short video on the gravel placement project day is posted at YouTube for people's viewing pleasure, and is embedded on our web site. If you are in the vicinity in early November you might want to take a peek at the spawning bed to see if any brown trout use it this fall.

Thanks again to the River Run Homeowners Association, Boise Parks and Recreation, Idaho Fish and Game, Rotary Club of Boise, Covenant Presbyterian Church and the Southwest Idaho Soccer League for their assistance in this project.



## ***Kokanee Day Celebrated***

*By Pam Elkovich*

The day began with the nostalgic family road trip for many. Boise to Idaho City couldn't have been more of an adventure with 5 free stops to:

- Spot birds through spotting scopes (yes, we did plant a deer carcass nearby)
- Kokanee viewing and talking about bugs and fish (the fish cooperated)
- Spring water plant tours at The Rocks Water (free rock candy for kids)
- Gold Panning Lessons with good dirt (I saw a nugget a young girl panned)
- Plant a Tree at Grimes Creek (magical to watch a youngster plant her first tree)

Trout Unlimited Volunteers taught many a young and old angler how to hold a fly rod and cast it, some for the very first time. A big THANK YOU is in order for Chris Jones, Dr. Richard Oehlschlager, Darryl Kurt and Mike Stone for attending to a line of folks the entire day. Richard and Chris worked both shifts, staying after the first shift because of the demand. Fellow supporters for the event, the Sierra Club and Idaho Rivers United, complemented our TU booth. The Forest Service and the Department of Environmental Quality provided interesting hands-on experience for kids as well.

The Boise WaterShed sponsored the free kids water games, which were a real hit. We added a Gypsy Fortune Teller, live Birds of Prey, and an Eagle Scout Teepee for salmon story telling. There was too much good stuff to list here. Wild Salmon Feed and affordable food, over 750 people attended, we never knew it would be such a great success.

Thank you to all volunteers this day, you made a difference in the lives of all people that came to celebrate Idaho's unrivaled outdoors and of course our Trout Unlimited spirit was unrivaled as well!



## **Trout Camp 2009 a Wild Success**

Countless studies had demonstrated children today spend less time playing in the outdoors than they did a generation ago. If you've noticed the problem, you can be pleased the Ted Trueblood Chapter did something about it with it's first ever youth conservation camp.

The Ted Trueblood Chapter pulled off its inaugural year of Trout Camp, a 5-day fishing and conservation experience for kids aged 10-13 that occurred from August 3 to 7, 2009. In this first year we planned for having twelve children in what promises to be a fun and exciting opportunity to learn the sport of fly fishing combined with a sportsman's ethic of conservation. We were one person short of the goal when one participant canceled late.

The first three days of camp was a day-camp held at the MK Nature Center on Walnut Street in Boise, where the campers received a complete fly fishing outfit (rod, reel, line, vest, etc.), learn to (or improve on their) cast, and took short trips to local waters to practice their new skills. On Thursday, August 6, the campers and TU volunteers packed up and headed to the Middle Fork of the Boise River where they stayed the night, returning on the afternoon of Friday, August 7. While on the Middle Fork campers put

their skills to the test and learned to read water, identify hatches (there were few if any), and properly land and release as many trout as they can manage. Many parents came along for the trip as there was ample tent room at the Dutch Creek Guard Station.

The only thing that did not work out well was the weather, as a major storm front moved into southwest Idaho on the Thursday morning, dumping more than an inch of rain in the valley and similar quantities of the wet stuff in the mountains.

Despite the poor weather in the mountains the kids seemed pleased with what they learned about ecology, conservation and the sport of fly fishing. If you want to help create the next generation of outdoors-oriented conservationists, in our 2010 camp contact James Piotrowski by email at [James@hpllp.net](mailto:James@hpllp.net).

## **Will You Help a Veteran?**

*By Richard Jones*

We have started a program with the VA Hospital to take veterans fly fishing. This is for the rehabilitation of veterans & their families thru our partnership with our local VA Hospital.

The goal is simple, take them fly fishing. Whether it's wading, bank or from a boat you'll be helping veterans with their rehabilitation process. In some cases family members will want to join the group. We're out to help them get out and enjoy a day on the water. Plus, you get to go fishing!!

Are you willing to take a veteran fly fishing? Or be an instructor at one of the classes?

We held two events in October taking vets fly fishing on the river in town. Future events are planned through this winter. If you will take a vet fishing please contact [richard6122@peoplepc.com](mailto:richard6122@peoplepc.com), phone 395-4020 or [lew.goldman@colliersidaho.net](mailto:lew.goldman@colliersidaho.net).

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## ***NOVEMBER 2009 TROUT UNLIMITED CALENDAR***

### **Thursday, November 12, Chapter Meeting Program on South Fork Boise River**

Open joint meeting of TU and Boise Valley Fly Fishermen at the Boise Public Library concerning the genetic profile of the South Fork Boise River (SFB) fishery as well as hear a panel discussion of agency and angling community perspectives on Southwest Idaho's greatest fishing waters. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. Enter in the doors on the 8<sup>th</sup> Street side at the southwest end of the building.

Back in November 2007 the Ted Trueblood Chapter and the Boise Valley Fly Fishermen met with government agencies to discuss potential habitat improvement projects in the South Fork Boise River. The organizations were motivated to do something to address concerns over what appear to be declines in the wild rainbow trout population in the river. Now, nearly two years to the day the first major step in the conservation and research of this valuable fishery will be unveiled to club members.

### **Thursday, December 3, Chapter Christmas Party**

Doors open at 5:00 p.m. at the Sockeye Brew Pub, 3019 N. Cole Road, near the intersection of Cole and Ustick. Come celebrate another successful year for our Chapter and be ready to share some fishing stories. Mark your calendar!