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**To:** jillhamilton424@gmail.com



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February  
Newsletter



## President's Message

Hello everyone! What a month January was for our club! Our 30th anniversary celebration was so much fun. Thanks to all who celebrated with us! It was so great to see so many of our members the following weekend at the Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo. Big huge THANK YOU all our members who volunteered in our booth and for the Expo. Boise Valley Fly Fishers really hit the ball out of the park yet again this year by offering so many wonderful speakers, fly tying demonstrations, casting coaches, and exhibitors. I always leave the Expo so energized with knowledge!





I want to extend a very warm welcome to ALL of our new members! We're so excited you joined us and can't wait to meet you all at our upcoming meetings and events. If you haven't already, please request to join our private members-only Facebook group [Women Fly Fishers Of Idaho](#). (include link)

Speaking of our Facebook group, I want to remind you that this is a great place to connect with other members! You can ask gear questions, share fishing tips, sell used fly fishing gear, and find fishing buddies in our members-only group. Anyone is welcome to post in this group! If you aren't on Facebook (or even if you are), remember that we have a "Groups" forum on our website. It's not being utilized much at the moment but I hope that will change since it's an awesome platform for discussion, questions, and trip planning.

As we get closer to spring, I'd really like to encourage our members to post their impromptu day trips to include other members, especially our new anglers who could benefit from fishing with our more experienced

ladies. Sometimes fishing alone is good for the soul, but if you're seeking some company, please consider extending an invite to a new member! You might make a new friend and you'll really give a hand up to a new angler. We were all new at some point...remember how good it felt when someone took the time to take you under their wing and show you the ropes? Paying it forward feels good...and it's critical for the future of women in fly fishing. If you're that beginner and want help on the water, don't be afraid to ask. Many of our members would be happy to take you fishing and help you get started!

I hope to see you all at our member meeting next week!

Jill Bradley  
WFFI President

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## From Our First Cast to 30 Years Strong: Then & Now at WFFI

### **From Our First Cast to 30 Years Strong: Then & Now at WFFI**

As we step into our 30th year, it's hard not to feel a sense of gratitude for the women who cast the very first lines that became Women Fly Fishers of Idaho. Thanks to Connie's carefully saved newsletters, we recently had the chance to look back at our very first season in 1996, and what we found was both inspiring and impressive.

That first year was anything but small.

In 1996, members were already exploring a wide variety of waters, from Wilson Springs in Nampa and Clear Lakes in Buhl to Silver Creek, the South Fork of the Boise, the Big Wood River, and even the Boise River right in town. These early outings weren't just fishing trips; they were opportunities to learn, build confidence, and form friendships that would shape the club for decades.

Education was a cornerstone from the very beginning. In March of 1996, more than 40 members attended a free, all-day casting clinic with Orvis instructor Lori Ann Murphy. WFFI members shared their skills at a local fly-fishing expo, and eight women even traveled to San Francisco to attend the first International Festival of Women Fly Fishers. At monthly meetings, members learned from an impressive lineup of speakers covering everything from entomology and fish biology to Alaska trout fishing, Amazon River adventures, and fly-fishing photography.

Looking back, it's remarkable how much was accomplished in that first year. With limited resources and a small but passionate membership, WFFI created a vibrant, educational, and welcoming community that quickly gained momentum.

Fast forward to 2026, and that same spirit is still very much alive, now

Fast forward to 2020, and that same spirit is still very much alive, now supported by 30 years of experience, leadership, and growth.

This year's calendar reflects just how far the club has come. Members can look forward to monthly educational meetings from February through June and again in the fall, featuring engaging topics such as steelhead and salmon conservation, trout migration in local rivers, and expert tips for upcoming fishing trips to Duck Valley, Silver Creek, and Eastern Idaho rivers, to name a few. These are complemented by quarterly fly-tying nights and three Casting Connections clinics in February, May, and August. Our schedule also includes an all-day beginner workshop, float tube practice, monthly local day trips like Friday Night Flies on the Boise River, and overnight adventures ranging from Bruneau Dunes and Duck Valley to Silver Creek, Sagehen, Stanley, Henry's Fork, the Owyhee, and Driggs. We thoughtfully design our fishing experiences to serve our diverse membership: novices and experts, young in age and young at heart, stillwater float-tubers and walk-and-wade adventure seekers alike. Whether you prefer car camping, tent camping, glamping, or staying in comfortable local lodging, there truly is something for everyone.

What began as landline phone calls to coordinate meetups on local waters has grown into a full season of thoughtfully planned learning opportunities, statewide trips, and multi-day adventures, now supported by cellular and satellite messaging, digital maps, weather updates, and fishing reports available in every woman's pocket. From hand-typed newsletters photocopied and mailed in stamped envelopes to today's digitally designed editions shared through our website and email, WFFI has continually adapted with the times. Through social media, texting, and online platforms, we remain a vibrant, connected community offering structured mentoring, diverse programming, and ambitious trips to Idaho's iconic waters, while, for all that has changed, so much remains the same.

We still learn best by doing.

We still cheer each other on.

We still celebrate every catch and every new skill, big or small.

And we still believe that time on the water - together - is time well spent

enjoying the sport of fly-fishing!

The passion, curiosity, and generosity of those founding members continue to shape who we are today - a motley crew of FISHY WOMEN who don't take themselves too seriously and wouldn't want it any other way!!

As we launch our 2026 season, we honor the women who made that first cast in 1996 and every member who has helped carry the line forward. Thirty years later, our community is stronger than ever, and the future is full of promise. Here's to many more seasons of learning, laughter, and unforgettable days on the water. FISH ON!!

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## WFFI 30th Anniversary Celebration

Instead of our regular January member meeting, we kicked off 2026 by celebrating a huge milestone — **our club's 30th anniversary** — and it couldn't have been more fun.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at **The Stonehouse** for an evening filled with great company, fishy fun, and plenty of celebration. From the appetizers and no-host bar to the member gifts and nonstop mingling, it was the perfect way to honor three decades of our club.

Most importantly, thank you to our members — past and present — who make this club what it is. Also huge thank you to all those who donated to our event. Thirty years is an incredible achievement, and it's because of the community, friendships, and shared love of fishing that continue to keep this club thriving.

[Presentation](#)

[Photo Album](#)



**Monthly Meeting: Salmon and Steelhead  
Conservation in Idaho  
February 18th 7:pm-9pm  
Idaho Fish and Game**

600 S Walnut St, Boise, ID 83712



Professional fishing guide Isabelle Allen will discuss life cycle and migration, ecological impact as well as conservation strategies and the economics associated with salmon and steelhead conservation.

PLEASE NOTE: The Boise Police Department will be conducting police dog training in the IDFG building during our meeting. Our contact at IDFG said she doesn't anticipate them to disturb us nor will we be in their way. We wanted to make our members aware that this training will be going on and not to be alarmed by the police presence.

The equipment sales table will be open for our February meeting! It's a fantastic opportunity to find top-notch equipment at affordable prices, or if you've got some extra fishing gear you can sell it here.

Merch table: the WFFI merch table will be open for business at the February meeting. Come check out all our WFFI swag!

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Fly Fishing Film Tour  
February 21st 6pm-10pm  
Eqyptian Theater  
700 W Main St, Boise, ID 83702, USA

Let's get together and head to the [2026 Fly Fishing Film Tour!](https://www.showclix.com/event/fly-fishing-film-tour-02-21-26-6pm) We'll be attending the 6pm show and maybe grab a bite to eat afterwards. You will need to purchase tickets to this event ahead of time since it usually sells out. You can buy tickets here: <https://www.showclix.com/event/fly-fishing-film-tour-02-21-26-6pm>.

RSVP HERE

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# 2026 Outings & Events Calendar

We have some amazing events planned for this year! Many of these events are posted on the events page on our website and ready for your RSVP. We have a limited number motel rooms available at Duck Valley and cabins available at Bruneau Sand Dunes. If you plan to attend either of these multi-day events, we suggest you get your RSVP in now to secure your accommodations. The closer we get to the dates of this event, the more likely they will sell out. Take a look at the schedule below and mark your calendars!



## Women Fly Fishers of Idaho



SCAN ME TO LEARN MORE AND JOIN!

### 2026 ADVENTURES (MEMBERS ONLY VERSION)

#### MAY

02 BEGINNER'S WORKSHOP

09 CASTING CONNECTIONS

22-24 BRUNEAU DUNES OVERNIGHT  
(CABINS AVAILABLE)

#### JULY

9-12 SAGE HEN OVERNIGHT  
(GROUP TENTSITE/IND SITES)

23-26 STANLEY OVERNIGHT  
(GROUP CAMPGROUND)

\*BOTH ARE GREAT DAY TRIPS

#### APRIL

11 DICK KNOX POND  
LEARN TO FLOAT TUBE

23-26 DUCK VALLEY OVERNIGHT  
(MOTEL ROOMS AVAILABLE)

#### JUNE

13 HORSETHIEF RESERVOIR  
DAY TRIP

25-28 SILVER CREEK OVERNIGHT  
(BOOK YOUR OWN CAMPSITE)

#### AUGUST

01 CASTING CONNECTIONS

13-16 HENRY'S FORK OVERNIGHT  
(CABIN AND YURT AVAILABLE)

20 OVERNIGHT DAY TRIP

BOTH ARE GREAT DAY TRIPS

29 OWYHEE DAY TRIP

## SEPTEMBER

05 SF BOISE ANDERSON DAM  
DAY TRIP

OWYHEE OVERNIGHT TBD  
(AIMING FOR 17-20 SEP)

26 FRIDAY NIGHT FLIES  
BOISE R IN TOWN

## OCTOBER

03 FRIDAY NIGHT FLIES  
BOISE R IN TOWN

17 LAKE LOUIE HIKE AND  
FLOAT DAYTRIP

23-25 DRIGGS STEELHEAD  
OVERNIGHT



MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH (EXCEPT JULY-AUG)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR MEMBER'S FACEBOOK PAGE OR WEBSITE [HTTPS://WFFI.CLUB/](https://wffi.club/)



# Lamson Speedster Rod year-end Raffle

Thanks to the fine folks at Boise-based [Lamson](#), we have one of their brand-new [Speedster 9 foot 5 weight rods](#) to raffle off at the end of the year!

Here's how you get raffle tickets for this amazing rod.

- Each time you attend one of our monthly member meetings, you'll be given a raffle ticket when you sign in and get your name badge. Put your name on the ticket and put it in the jar.
- Each time you volunteer to help at one of our events, your name will be added to the drawing.

Drawing will be held at our Holiday Party.

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**We have a winner!**

Each year at the Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo, we hold a special drawing just for new member who join our club for the first time

during the expo.

This year, long-time member Helena Freilich donated one of her amazing hand-burned gourds for the raffle prize.

This year's winner is Carla Thompson! Carla will pick up her lovely prize at an upcoming meeting.

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Join **FFI-certified Master Casting Instructor Mary Ann Dozer's** Virtual Casting Workshop, dive into the how and why of casting, and watch your fly casting go from good to great. **You will boost your confidence, improve accuracy, and increase your distance.**

**The eight-week workshop will run from April 11th to May 30th, 2026. Each week there is a group session and a virtual coaching session.** With a maximum of eight students, this interactive workshop fosters a supportive and collaborative learning environment. Everyone can learn from each other, creating a sense of inclusion, encouragement, and motivation.

The content focuses on **building a foundational cast at 30'** and then accuracy, distance, and aerial mends from 20' to 40' plus.

For more details



SCAN ME!

**Workshop participation includes:**

- Eight interactive virtual group sessions
- Eight 1-on-1 virtual coaching sessions with Mary Ann
- Access to a tutorial video library for one year,
- Spiral-bound color workbook, accompanying PowerPoint slides, and supporting text.
- Access to Onform – A video analysis tool
- Investment: \$450

[www.flyfishingpursuits.org](http://www.flyfishingpursuits.org)



Take your cast from good to great!