February Newsletter

President's Message

Hello everyone! What a month January was! We had our first Tuesday Tying and Watercooler was so much fun. Thanks to all who celebrated with us! It was so great to see so many of our members out for the evening. The Nampa Fly Fishers of Idaho Tuesday Tying and Watercooler is for members who volunteered in our booth and for the Fly Fishers of Idaho Board. We kick the ball out of the park yet again this year by offering so many wonderful events, fly tying opportunities, casting coaches, and activities. 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 to have you with us and we hope you find your time with us to be very rewarding. If you haven't already, please request to join our private membership group at Western Fly Fishers Of Idaho. Include link!

Speaking of our Facebook group, I'd like to remind you that this is a great place to connect with other members! You can ask gear questions, share fishing tips, sell used gear, post photos of your adventures, and stay connected with the rest of our fly fishing family. Welcome to posts in the group! If you aren't on Facebook or aren't sure, just 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 fly planning.

As we get closer to spring, I encourage our members to plan their mornings day trips to include other members, especially our new anglers who could benefit from a fishing buddy or mentorship opportunity. Fishing is better with friends! If you're a new fly fisher you're meeting some company, please consider volunteering on kiosk 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 there at one point and we all remember what it felt like to be overwhelmed by everything and show you the ropes! Paying it forward feels good, and it's about the far future of women in fly fishing. If you're a beginner and want help on the water, don't be shy about it. Many of our members want to help a newbie take you fishing and help you get started!

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

JB Bradley
WFFI President

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 gathered at the Boise Fly Fishing Shop back in 1996 to begin this journey. What started as a carefully curated newsletter, 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 organizing a wide variety of events, from Wilson Springs in Hagerman to Silver Creek, Henry's Fork, the Salmon River, the Big Wood, the South Fork of the Boise, and even the Boise River right in town. These twenty women in Cast Making Flies, 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 tying class at the Boise Fly Fishing Shop, and by June, a group of 15 members planned their entire at-cost fly fishing class, and eight women took the train to San Francisco to attend the first International Festival of Women Fly Fishers. At monthly meetings, members learned from an impressive lineup of speakers including Lenny Wilkins from entomology and Bill Gregg, Ed Mueller/Bend Bailey, Kirsten Rinn/ Jackson, 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 supported by 30 years of leadership, leadership, and growth.

This year's calendar reflects just how far the club has come. Members can look forward to a full lineup of events including Spring Tying Sessions, Tuesday Tying and Watercooler, fly fishing engaging topics such as steelhead and cutthroat conservation, fly-fishing-friendly hikes, and expert tips for upcoming fishing trips to Duck Valley, Silver Creek, and Eastern Idaho. Beyond the water, the community continues to thrive through Tuesday Tying and Casting Conversations classes in February, May, and August. Our schedule also includes an all-day beginner workshop, final tube patches, monthly local day trips like Friday Night Flies at Silver Creek, and a wide variety of conservation projects, including cleanups at Ada, Ada Cr, Silver Creek, Sagebrush, Owsley, Henry's Fork, the Clearwater, and Driggs. Fly-tying design our fishing experiences to serve our diverse membership: novices and experts, casters and tyers, outdoor adventurers and those who simply want to connect with nature and express ideas. Whether you prefer an casting, tied camping, glamping, or staying in comfortable local lodging, there truly is something for everyone.

What began as twelve photo calls to coordinate meetups on cast waters has grown into a full season of thoughtfully planned learning opportunities, statewide trips, and much day-to-day connection. Our communication has evolved from hand-typed newsletters and updates, and fishing reports available in every women's locker. From hand-typed newsletters photocopied and mailed in stamped envelopes to today's digitally designed newsletters, social media, and online platforms, we have adapted to stay connected. 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 need each other.
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 these founding members continue to shape what we do today. As we celebrate our 30th year, we're grateful to honor those who came before us and to carry their spirit forward.

As we reach our 30th season, we honor the women who made that first cast in 1996 and the many members who have joined us since. Thirty years later, our community is stronger than ever, and the future is full of promise. Come to a meeting, join a session, or learning, laughter, and unforgettable days on the water. Fish ON!

WFFI 30th Anniversary Celebration

Instead of our regular January member meeting, we kicked off 2026 by celebrating a milestone we didn't want to wait for: the 30th anniversary of Women Fly Fishers of Idaho. Thank you to everyone who joined us at **The Renaissance** for an evening filled with great company, fancy fun, and plenty of celebration. From the appetizers and no-host bar to the member gifts and raffle prizes, 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 in an organization means a lot of people who have helped, supported, fundraised, and shared love of fishing that continue to keep this club thriving.

Photo Album

Presentation

Calling all Canyon County and Gem County Members!

Exciting news! You won't need to go to all the way to Boise for monthly meetings! We'll be kickstarting our meetings on Zoom and do a mini "watch party" in Caldwell each month. We're even doing a social hour before the meeting at Craft Lounge!

Full details, location, and RSVP are on our website so save-the-date and sign up!

For any of our members who are traveling, live further away, or living in warmer climates for the winter, we can provide the Zoom link upon request.

February Meet and Mingles

Join us for a bite to eat and drink before our monthly member meeting!

The Boise Meet and Mingle is at 8pm at the Twin Restaurant and Brewery, right down the street from El Ranchero and Qdoba, where our monthly meetings are held. The Twin has a great, inexpensive happy hour menu. The Cutbank Beer and Mingle is at the Craft Lounge at 5:30pm.

This is a great opportunity to hang out and socialize with other club members. See you there!

RSVP FOR TWIN BOISE MEET AND MINGLE

RSVP HERE FOR CALDWELL MEET AND MINGLE

February Member Meeting: Salmon and Steelhead Conservation in Idaho
February 18th 7pm-9pm

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 active drug training in the IDFG building during our meeting. Our contact at IDFG said she doesn't anticipate them to disturb us but will let us know if that may. 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.

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

RSVP HERE FOR BOISE MEETING

RSVP HERE FOR CALDWELL MEETING

Fly Fishing Film Tour
February 21st 6pm-10pm
Egyptian Theater

Let's get together and head to the 2026 Fly Fishing Film Tour! 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-boise.

RSVP HERE

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 to sign up for! We have a limited number field trains available at Duck Valley and cabins available at Bonneau 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 clower inn is sold out for the Salmon River Retreat but they still sell out. Take a look at the schedule below and mark your calendars!

Women Fly Fishers of Idaho

2026 ADVENTURES
FEBRUARY 2026 - FEBRUARY 2027

FEBRUARY
TUESDAY TYING AND WATERCOOLER

MAY
FLY BLENDER'S WORKSHOP
MEET AND GREET
MEET AND GREET

JUNE
CASTING CONVERSATIONS
FLY BLENDER'S WORKSHOP
25 JACK'S VALLEY OVERNIGHT
(MOTEL BEYOND JACK'S VALLEY)
25 SILVER CREEK OVERNIGHT
BREAK YOUR FIRST CAMPFIRE

JULY
FLY FISHING FILM TOUR
FRIDAY FLIES AT SILVER CREEK
FRIDAY FLIES AT SILVER CREEK
BEGINNER CAST MAKING
BEGINNER CAST MAKING
BEGINNER CAST MAKING