



WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

COVERING THE DRIFT

WSCIEFF WILL HAVE BOOTHS
AT SEVERAL
2015 FLY FISHING SHOWS

MY WEEK AT
KIDS FLY FISHING CAMP

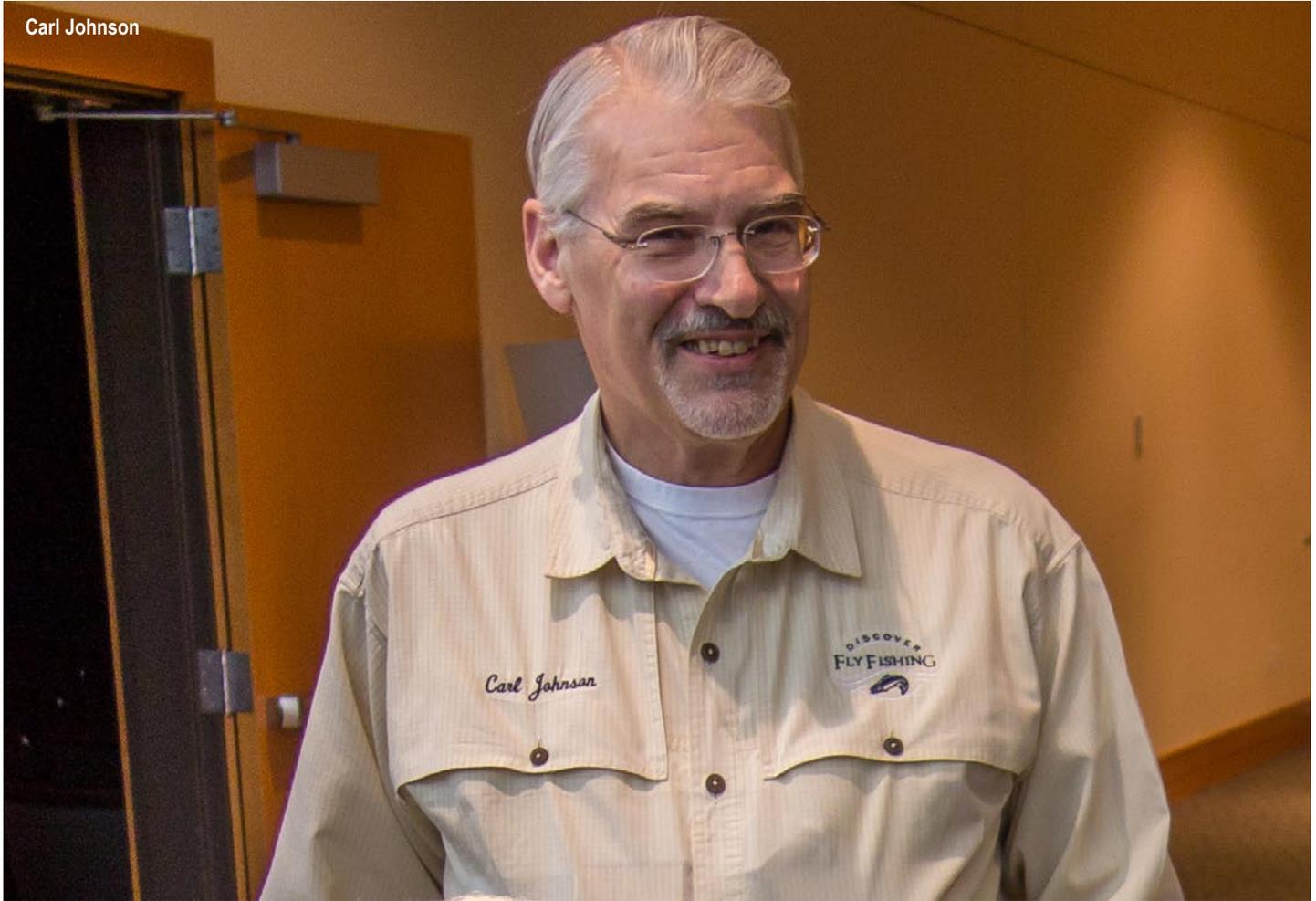
SPECIAL CUTTHROAT
WORKSHOP

CUTTHROAT GRAND SLAM

1,600 MILES
3 STATES
7 DAYS
LOTS OF SHEEP

PLUS
FLIES FOR CHANNEL CATS

Carl Johnson



Upcoming Fly Fishing Shows in Washington

The annual International Fly Fishing Fair held in Livingston, Montana this past August was a great success and a fun time. I hope many of you had the opportunity to take part in this event. There were a couple of folks from the Council who were recognized during the President's banquet on Wednesday night. Vicki Hoagland and David Paul Williams were awarded the 2014 Council Award of Excellence. Congratulations to everyone.

It was announced that the 2015 International Fly Fishing Fair will be in Bend, Oregon on August 11th through 15th. The Riverhouse Hotel and Convention Center will be the host hotel and Fair location. There will be more information about this exciting news in coming issues of this newsletter and the IFFF magazine as well on the IFFF website.

The 2015 Fly Fishing Fair dates are May 1st and 2nd in Ellensburg. We are going back to the Friday Saturday

format of our previous years. We tried Saturday and Sunday but that did not serve our attendees, volunteers and vendors as well as did the Friday Saturday time frame. The event will feature the usual array of tyers, free seminars on a wide range of topics, fly casting and some fee paid workshops. Please keep checking our website for updates. If you are interested in being part of the Fair committee, please contact me or another Board member.

Speaking of websites, we are currently updating the Council website; please stay tuned for our new website. It should be online soon. I want to thank Sam Matalone and Jim Maus for their hard work putting it together.

The Council will again have a booth at the Tri Cities Sportsman Show in Pasco, Washington Sportsman Show in Puyallup and The Fly Fishing Show in Lynnwood. Please stop by and say hi.—**Carl Johnson, Council President**



My Week as a Camp Counselor

I had the opportunity and pleasure of participating in the Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy which exposes young people from ages 2 to 16 to all aspects of fly fishing and conservation. This week-long 'camp' is sponsored by the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited and Washington State Council of the IFFF and is hosted by members of the Olympia Chapter of TU and the South Sound Fly Fishers.

Activities are conducted at Hicks Lake in Lacey. The site offers group 'bunkhouse' accommodations for all students. Three meals are provided each day. I stayed in a cabin by myself.

The 16 boys and two girls were supplied with hats, fishing vests, and some reference material including a basic fly-tying manual.

Each group attended skill development

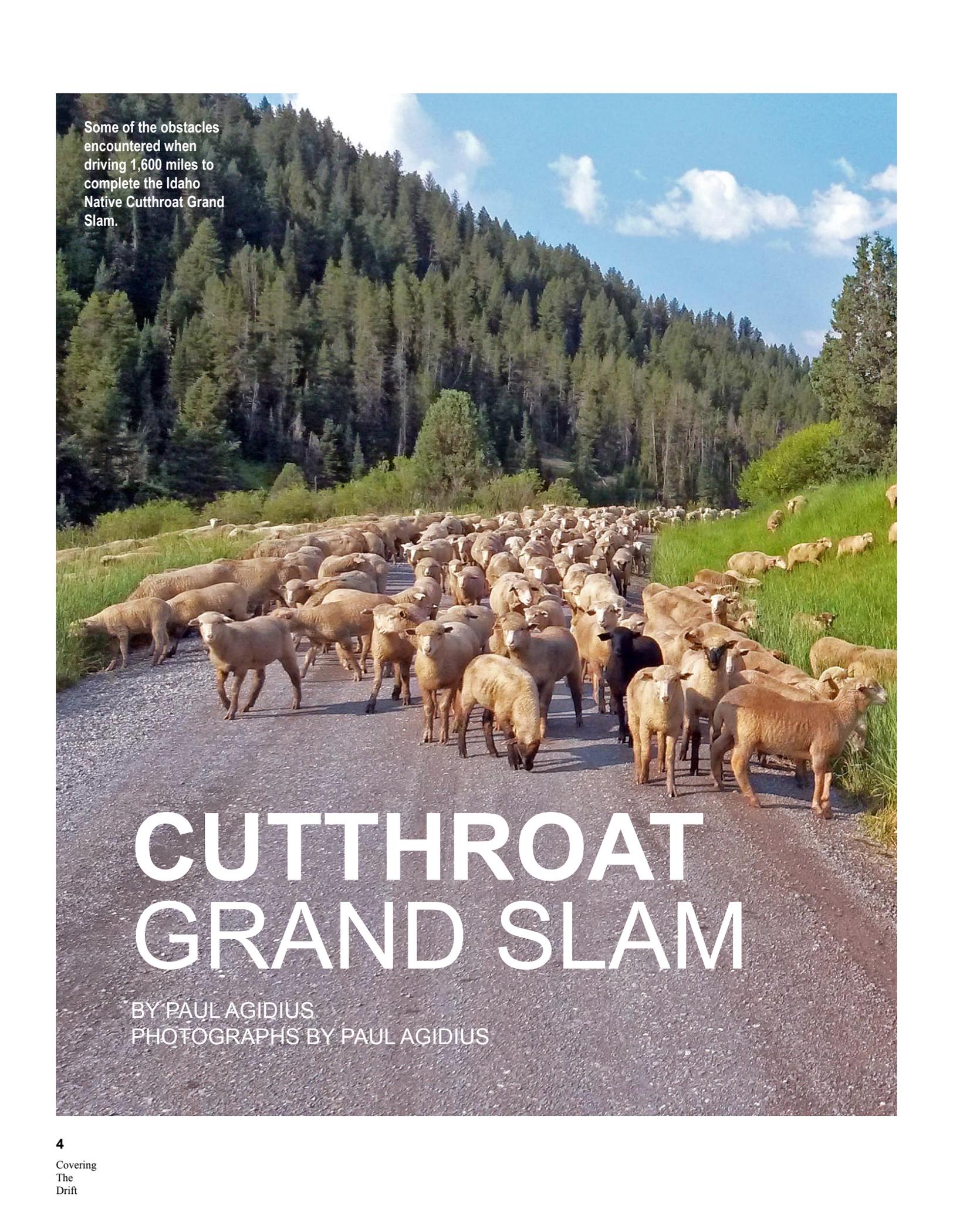
sessions such as: casting, fly tying, knot tying, water safety, streamside ethics, still-water fishing techniques, etymology, fish biology, fisheries conservation, and invasive species.

Most mornings and evenings the students were driven to a stream or nearby catch and release pond. Thursday and Friday mornings a trip to a Puget Sound beach was undertaken. This was the first year for this activity.

Saturday was getaway day. Each student was presented with a certificate of completion and a couple of awards were presented. Just when everybody stood up in anticipation of departing, each was presented with a five-wt. rod, reel and line package. Surprise!—Bob Young

2015 CAMP DATES

The Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy will be held June 21–27, 2015 at Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. 12– to 16–year–old boys and girls can apply from January 1 to April 15, 2015. Download applications at www.nwycffa.org. An applicant must submit an essay (explain why he or she wants to attend the Academy) and a letter of recommendation from a school teacher or counselor. The cost is still \$275, but sponsorships are available and no applicant will be turned away due to lack of money. Contact Mike Clancy at mtclancy39@comcast.net or 360 753 1259.

A large flock of sheep, mostly light brown with a few black ones, is moving across a wide gravel road. The road is flanked by green grass and shrubs. In the background, there are dense evergreen forests covering hillsides under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Some of the obstacles
encountered when
driving 1,600 miles to
complete the Idaho
Native Cutthroat Grand
Slam.

CUTTHROAT GRAND SLAM

BY PAUL AGIDIUS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL AGIDIUS

THE IDEA OF A TRIP FOR THE

purpose of catching all four of Idaho's native cutthroat trout in their native drainages first emerged, as many great ideas do, during our monthly fly tying session. After consulting with Idaho Fish and Game, laying out a plan and selecting a date, club members Marc Ratzlaff, Cliff Swanson, Steve Bush, and I left Moscow and headed up the Lochsa River to Powell Campground. On that first day two of us were able to start the trip in earnest by each catching a Westslope Cutthroat.

The next day we traveled to St. Charles Creek located in the southeast corner of Idaho. St. Charles Creek is a small creek located in the Bear River drainage with little structure and lined with brush, making casting a challenge. The fishing was slow but we all managed to catch at least one Bonneville Cutthroat the following morning.

After breaking camp we headed north through Wyoming to the south end of Palisades Reservoir and then back into Idaho to McCoy Creek. If you haven't been to McCoy Creek you need to add it to your bucket list.

It's a medium-sized stream with miles of great access alongside a Forest Service road. Before a thunderstorm sent us back to camp, we each added a Snake River Fine Spotted Cutthroat to our list. That evening we were entertained by sandhill cranes along the Palisades Reservoir shoreline. Knowing we might not make it back that way again, we spent the next morning fishing McCoy Creek before heading to Bitch Creek.

Bitch Creek is a good-sized tributary of the Teton River. For the first quarter-mile below Highway 32 the stream runs through an open meadow before entering into a narrow canyon lined with boulders and lots of pocket water. Here again the fishing was slow, but the stream did give up Yellowstone Cutthroat to three of us. On our way north the next morning we stopped at Squirrel Creek long enough for the fourth member to catch his. We then traveled back to the Lochsa River where the remaining two members of our group caught their Westslope Cutthroat.

Thus, after 1,610 miles through three states over seven days, four members of the Clearwater Fly Casters Club earned the right to say they completed the Idaho Native Cutthroat Trout Grand Slam.



A happy group of cutthroat hunters having breakfast at the Lochsa Lodge, 13 miles west of the Montana-Idaho border. From right to left: Marc Ratzlaff, Paul Agidius, Cliff Swanson, and Steve Bush.

David P. Williams



What Flies Channel Cats Really Dig

So when was the last time any of you uttered the words, *ictalurus punctatus*? For the non-Latin speakers (and that would include me), note that those words have nothing to do with a Harry Potter incantation or spell. Instead, they describe a super-fun fish to catch that pretty much swims under the fly fishing radar. Yep, that's right I'm talking about channel catfish.

Certainly there are those readers who will sneer, curl an upper lip in total disgust and cease reading. That's cool. That means they will miss out on an exciting fly fishing opportunity. And, in response to angling demand, WDFW is expanding its channel catfish stocking program.

First, some myths about channel cats: they only eat decaying stuff (you know, just like rainbows scarfing salmon flesh), they only live in mucky water (like the John Day and Deschutes rivers) and they are stupid (fisheries biologist

research puts them in the top tier of smarts. Trout wear the dunce cap).

And now the good stuff about channels. In addition to being smart, they have exceptional hearing, their entire body acts as a sensory organ and that same body has super-powerful muscles making them superior fighters once hooked. But wait, there's more. They are true omnivores, eating the foods that are abundant and available. I've taken them on several of my smallmouth bass patterns including the BananaRama, Bleeding Minnow, Afternoon Delight and Marabou Clouser.

Stu Thompson, a crazy Manitoban, has been banging big channel cats for over twenty years and his favorite channel catfish fly is the brown DDH Leech.—**David P. Williams, Council Secretary/Newsletter Editor**

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Special Cutthroat Workshop

The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society (WDAFS) is proposing to convene a select panel of taxonomy experts for a Special Workshop on the subspecies classification of Cutthroat Trout.



The reason for this action is that consensus on the validity of the fourteen Cutthroat subspecies recognized by the late Dr. Robert Behnke has eroded as sophisticated new DNA sequence-based methods have come into play. But differences exist in interpreting this new evidence. Uncertainties over which are truly subspecies and which should either be lumped together or split apart have already stalled the ESA recovery program for one Cutthroat subspecies, and could also affect the recovery programs for others. Individuals responsible for aquatic habitat restoration and management programs, as well as those responsible for Cutthroat Trout fishery management programs, are also starting to call for subspecies clarification.

The Western Division believes the scientific expertise exists to resolve the issues involved. If the necessary funds can be raised, this Special Workshop will be held August 16-20, 2015, as part of the 2015 joint AFS/WDAFS Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Will you join with the Western Division to help make this Special Workshop happen? Pledges and contributions at any level will be greatly appreciated and will earn you recognition as a Special Workshop co-sponsor. Please make them out to Western Division American Fisheries Society, earmarked Special Cutthroat Workshop, and send to WDAFS Treasurer Travis Neebling, c/o Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 3030 Energy Lane, Casper, WY 82604.

For a prospectus document with full details about this Special Workshop, contact any one of us at the e-mail addresses listed below.

Signed: Planning Committee, Western Division Special Cutthroat Workshop; Patrick Trotter, Seattle, WA, ptrotter@halcyon.com; Pete Bisson, Olympia, WA bissonp1@gmail.com; and Brett Roper, Logan, UT broper@fs.fed.us.



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