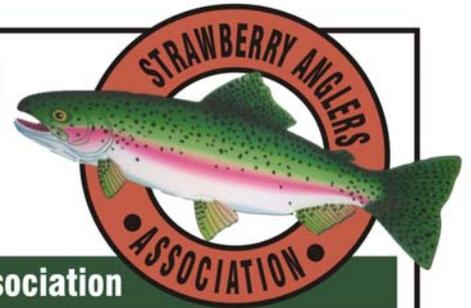




# THE "BERRY" GOOD NEWS



News and Notes from the Strawberry Anglers Association

Volume 12, Issue 3

July 2009

## Briefly . . .

- President Jim Carter is stepping down from his SAA position. Turn to Page 2 for details.
- Page 3 introduces and welcomes the new head Uinta Forest Ranger - Jeff Schramm.
- Avid angler Dan Potts shares a new way to fish Strawberry. Page 4 shows you how.
- Strawberry's food web and what it means for anglers is explained beginning on Page 5.
- The Strawberry Bay Marina gets a major makeover. Page 7 has the story
- An interesting look at Utah's fishing regulations over the years is found on Page 8.

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## New Strawberry Development Proposed

By Val John Halford

A new development located south of the Solider Creek Dam on Strawberry Reservoir is being explored by Burke Roney, a local entrepreneur and philanthropist. The proposal, which is currently being discussed with Wasatch County officials,



*The 6,660-acre development is located southeast of the Soldier Creek Dam.*

for a single dwelling unit to be built on each 160 acre parcel. To date, no specific site plan or subdivision plat has been submitted to Wasatch County planners for review.

For the past several decades, this area was used for cattle raising and logging. All logging on the property ended in 2003. However, several trails and roads still exist, but additional access will be needed. A proposed new bridge across the Strawberry River, will move the existing road to the Aspen Grove Marina from off the top of the Soldier Creek Dam. A National Environmental Policy Agency (NEPA) study is underway and its findings will help determine if a bridge should be built. The NEPA process will also look at whether or not identified sensitive lands, such as elk calving

is for a 6,600 acre "Strawberry Ranch Discovery Center" with a lodge, several support buildings, and a number of rental cabins.

Although still very much in the conceptual stages, the approximate 10-square mile Strawberry Ranch Discovery Center would introduce children and adults to Strawberry Valley's unique wildlife, geology, and ecosystems. A variety of activities promoting hands-on experiences would help increase awareness of Strawberry's natural environment. Interested individuals could hike the area, learn to identify and cook edible plants, view different types of wildlife, and even be trained to drive snowcat equipment during the winter months.

Still years away from being built, Roney has teamed with a number of partners from Jackson Hole and the St. George area to help secure needed financing to make his dream a reality. The region's current zoning, P-160, would allow



*Developer Burke Roney is excited about his plans. areas, will be significantly impacted and if a new road used to access this property is well advised or not.*

*(See: "New Development" Page 9)*

# The Time Has Come . . . To Step Down

By Jim Carter

It has been a great honor and pleasure to represent Utah's anglers as the President of the Strawberry Anglers Association for the past twelve years. But, as Lewis Carroll wrote in his famous poem, *The Walrus and the Carpenter*:

"The time has come," the Walrus said, "To speak of many things: Of shoes . . . and ships . . . And sealing-wax . . . and cabbages . . . and kings . . ."

Or, in this case, my decision not to run for reelection in 2010.



A dynamic duo - Jim Carter and his lovely wife Rosemarie.

As you know, SAA by-laws call for the Officers and Board of Directors to be considered for reelection on an annual basis at our January business meeting. As one of the original members of the organization, I was elected SAA's first president in 1997, and have been nominated and re-elected each January since then. And, believe me, I have enjoyed each and every minute of these past twelve years, but I feel the time has come for

me to step down, giving other individuals the opportunity to experience the many joys of leading this great organization.

Additionally, I firmly believe that the time is right for a new president to take the organization to new levels of accomplishment. Electing a new president at this time will ensure continuity and a smooth transition into the next decade. An infusion of "new blood," new ideas, and new leadership will surely help bring the organization to a whole new level of endeavor and many more successful activities and projects in support of SAA's mission and goals. Although I intend to be an active and supportive member of SAA, I am looking forward to fishing more and enjoying SAA meetings from the "other side of the table."

As I write this article, many thoughts flood my mind about the past twelve years, the many interesting people I have met and the fun times I have had because of the great opportunities SAA has afforded me. I have gained many new friends – people who have supported the ideas and concepts that I treasure toward Strawberry and fishing, in general. I have had great personal satisfaction in working with people who have helped me realize that we have taken many decisive, clear, and correct courses of action and that our work was truly making a difference and has had a positive impact on fishing and anglers in the State of Utah. I have had a great time and have had an opportunity to meet many of my personal goals. And, I attribute all of this to you - the SAA members, who have been so supportive, so passionate about Strawberry, and willing to share your time, your expertise, and your friendship.



*Electing a new president at this time will ensure continuity and a smooth transition into the next decade.*



## Your Strawberry Anglers Association (<http://www.strawberryanglers.com>)

### Officers

President - Jim Carter	(801) 269-0619
VP / Membership - Steve Carter	(801) 756-2418
Treasurer - Ron Dunn	(801) 268-1072
Secretary - Rosemarie Mitchell	(801) 254-7347
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Education - Robert Spratt	(801) 304-0994
Political Advisor - Ed Kent	(801) 573-0770
Communications - Loren Brooks	(801) 292-4080
Webmaster - Lisa Parker	contact via web

### The "Berry" Good News

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Newsletter Editors:

Kayla Willey	(801) 224-0790
Val John Halford	(801) 363-4250

**Next SAA Meeting  
Tuesday, August 4  
6:30 p.m.**

Utah Division of Wildlife  
Resources Building  
1594 W North Temple

**"WATER QUALITY SCIENCE AND PROCEDURES"**

**Speaker**  
Sandra Wingert, UDWQ  
Environmental Scientist

# Jeff Schramm - New District Ranger

By Kayla Willey

Meet Jeff Scramm, the new District Ranger for the Heber-Kamas Ranger District. He replaced Julie King and has been on the job since the first of March.



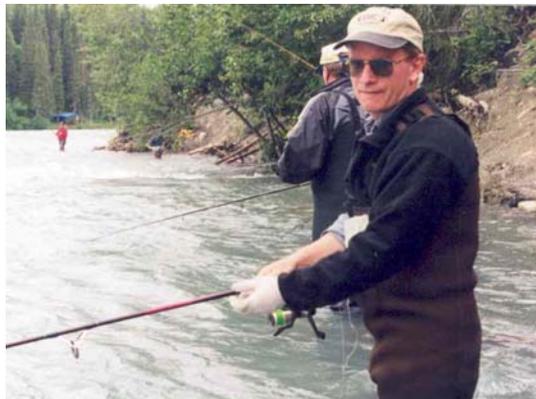
Jeff took over responsibility for the Uinta National Forest from Julie King

Jeff was born and raised in Payson and now lives in Heber City with his family. He holds a degree in Forestry Management from Utah State University and has worked the last fifteen years primarily in timber management in several forests in Idaho. Jeff came to this position from Flaming Gorge and the Ashley National Forest. As a Utah native, Jeff fished Strawberry frequently in his youth, but he says he hasn't actually fished Strawberry in a long time. The Strawberry Anglers Association will have to see what we can do to remedy that situation. He enjoys fishing the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska.

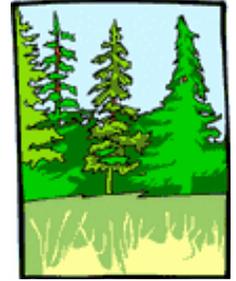
Splitting responsibilities between two major forest areas in Utah keeps Jeff very busy and he spends a lot of time traveling between Mirror Lake and Strawberry Reservoir. He likes to get the lay of the land in order to better understand his responsibilities. Jeff's immediate goal for the Strawberry Valley is to replace a select number of worn out facilities that were built back in 1990.

He is supporting a proposal to remove the dead trees at Clyde Creek, salvage the logs, and plant new spruce trees. He has been hard at work with Forest Service facility management personnel. A new toilet facility has already been installed at the Ladders and he is working on sprucing up various camping sites and courtesy docks. Unfortunately, these improvements are not cheap. A new toilet is \$17,000 and a courtesy dock costs between \$50-60,000, but Jeff is willing to work with several funding sources to try to maintain improvements at Strawberry at the highest standard. He feels it's important to keep facilities in good repair and doesn't see the need to build new improvements if those that are already in place can be properly maintained. So, you should see a lot of improvements on existing facilities at Strawberry in the near future.

Jeff is very interested in opening communication lines with the SAA. He would like to hear the concerns we have and will do what he can to make things better at Strawberry. He is always open to ideas on how to improve things. Jeff sees the SAA as playing a valuable education role, or link, between the USFS and the public. If our Association is aware of the many projects the USFS is involved in, we can better inform our fellow anglers. Jeff is also excited to be part of the Friends of Strawberry Valley. We welcome him and look forward to getting to know him better.



Jeff enjoys a fine day of fishing the wilds of Alaska.



*Jeff's immediate goal for the Strawberry Valley is to replace a select number of worn out facilities that were built back in 1990.*



# This Is It! The Jig-And-Bubble Rig

By Dan Potts

I have spent more than 25 years working to refine the techniques presented in this article. The jig-and-bubble has truly revolutionized my fishing over the past two and a half decades. The setup is virtually the same as for a fly-and-bubble except that the leader, if used at all, is usually shorter, and the fly is replaced with a lead head jig.

The smaller the head on the jig the slower it will sink. However, there is a threshold at which the jig may not be able to “pull” line through the bubble at all, as the friction would be too great. Split shot can be added to help smaller jigs sink at a desired rate, although added weight may change how the rig works on some situations. If a swivel is used, place the shot below it in case you snag up. Multiple jigs will also increase the sinking rate but are more likely to tangle on the cast.

There are two basic, easy to learn techniques. One is a simple cast-and-retrieve while the other is more of a lift-drop-lift approach (although you can use both on any given cast). The cast-and-retrieve technique is especially effective in shallow water, or over the top of weed beds. On a constant retrieve the jig can be held at a specific depth while being moved fairly slowly. After sliding the water bubble on the line a bead is also threaded on passing the line through it three times so that it will not slide down the line. The jig is then tied to the end of the line. The length of the leader between the bubble and jig can then be adjusted by pushing the line through the bead from both sides to create slack to slide the bead up or down the line. I add an additional bead between the bubble and adjustable bead to reduce line wear and provide a “clacker” to help attract fish.

*I consider the jig-and-bubble to have truly revolutionized my fishing over the past 25 years. The setup is virtually the same as for a fly-and-bubble except . . .*



An example of the results that anglers can expect with a jig-and-bubble rig.

The basic rig is simple (see Fig. 1). Like the fly-and-bubble setup, the jig-and-bubble rig consists of a sliding water bubble, a bead or a swivel, and a lead head jig. The bubble may be allowed to rest directly against the jig for simplicity, or the line can be run through a bead three times to create an adjustable length leader. In extra “snaggy” waters a lighter leader can be tied to a swivel below the bubble. If the jig does snag, the angler will usually only lose the jig, instead of losing everything! The lighter the leader, the less visible to fish. The length of the leader is entirely optional and depends on the technique being used, species being sought, castability, depth of the water, etc. By experimenting a bit, you will figure out what works best in any given situation. Always remember to “string” the float with the small end of the central shaft of the water bubble towards the fishing rod. If you don’t, pressure against the jig, bead, or swivel may open the bubble while casting, allowing its water to drain out.

I will not discuss the different approaches for the many different fishes for lack of space. However, suffice to say that I prefer a moderately slow descent to my jig for most species and situations.

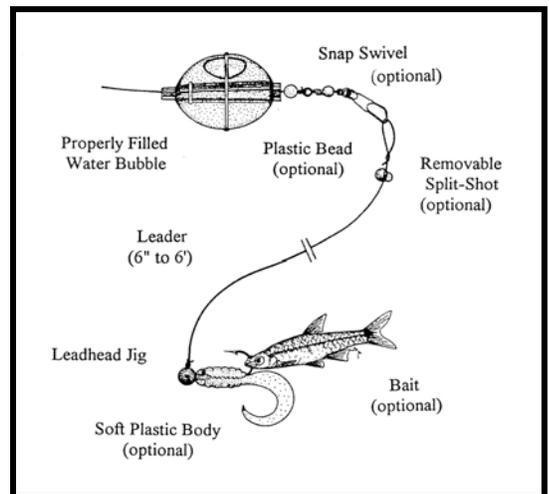
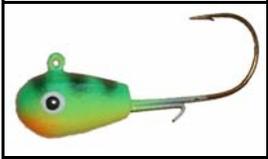


Figure 1 A typical jig-and-bubble fishing set-up.



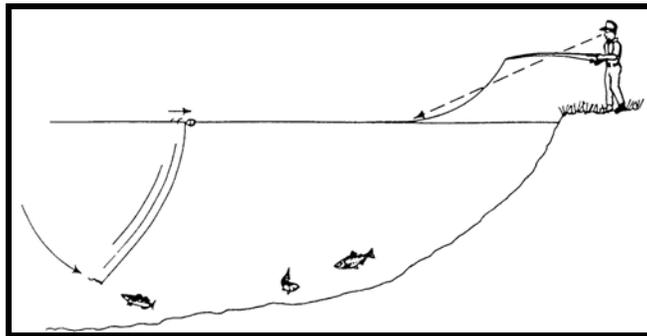
This setup is fished exactly the same as the traditional “fly-and-bubble” by casting and retrieving it. The difference is that because the jig sinks, one can simply stop reeling to allow it to fall to various depths to cover more water vertically.



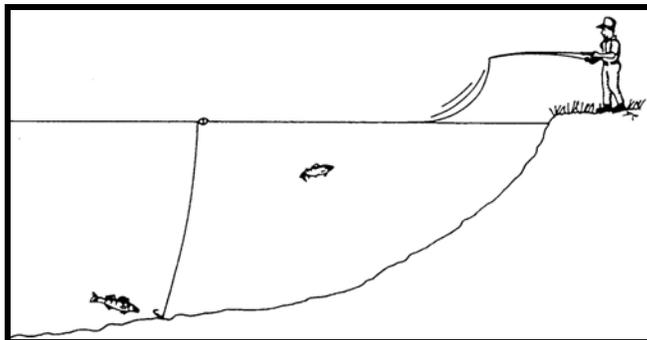
*Samples of the various tackle items needed to fish the jig-and-bubble rig, a productive angling technique.*

The lift-drop-lift technique is a bit more complicated, but usually far easier to setup. It is also far more effective in deeper, clearer water and for more wary fish. The rig usually only consists of a bubble and a jig, with nothing between the two such that the bubble sits right on top of the jig. Because the two are right together casting them far and accurately is easy. Simply cast the rig past a desired location. Engage the reel just before or as the bubble and jig hit the water to straighten the line and to eliminate the chance of loops forming on your reel spool. The jig is then allowed to sink on a tight line towards the bottom on a slow arc (see Fig 2). As the line slides through the bubble, the bubble slides up the line towards the angler. When the jig hits the bottom the bubble stops moving, and the line goes slack and “bellies” out towards the water (see Fig. 3). The jig can then be “snapped” or reeled up off the bottom as the “attraction” phase of the presentation to get the fish's attention (see Fig. 4). Any slack line is then quickly reeled up. The jig is then allowed to sink back towards the bottom on a tight line as the “triggering” phase to affect a take by a fish. The process is then usually repeated again and again by pulling the jig off the bottom, taking up the slack, and again fishing it back towards the bottom thus working it all the way back to the angler. When a fish takes the jig, the line tightens and the bubble often goes under (see Fig 5). Simply start reeling until you feel the weight of the fish before setting the hook.

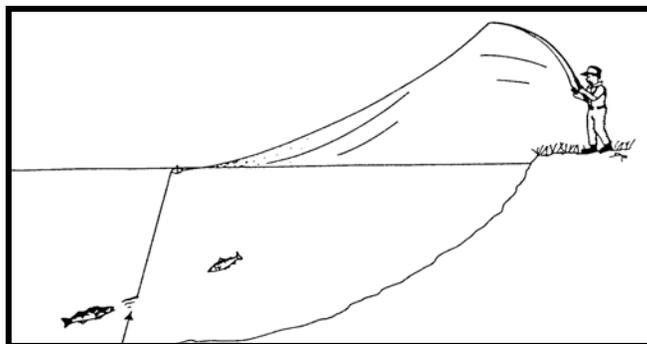
Well, there it is, the best, most versatile rig I have ever developed. But, how do you get that small jig to them on a slow, area-covering sink in the



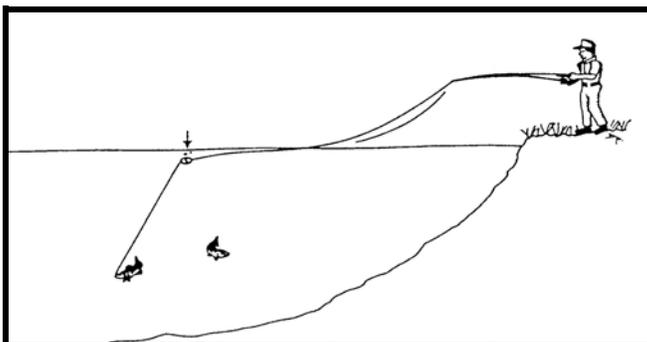
**Figure 2** Allow the jig to sink on a tight line toward the bottom.



**Figure 3** The jig has hit the bottom when the line “bellies out.”



**Figure 4** The jig is then “snapped” or reeled up to attract fish.

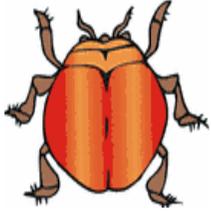


**Figure 5** On a take, the line tightens and the bubble goes under.

middle of a crystal clear lake? Easy, a jig-and-bubble! And, when the brookies start rising to a hatch of flies on top, you just cut off the jig, tie on a swivel, light leader and one of your favorite flies and you're in business. This is it!

# Understanding Strawberry's Food Wed

By Justin Robinson  
DWR Project Biologist



## Part One of Two

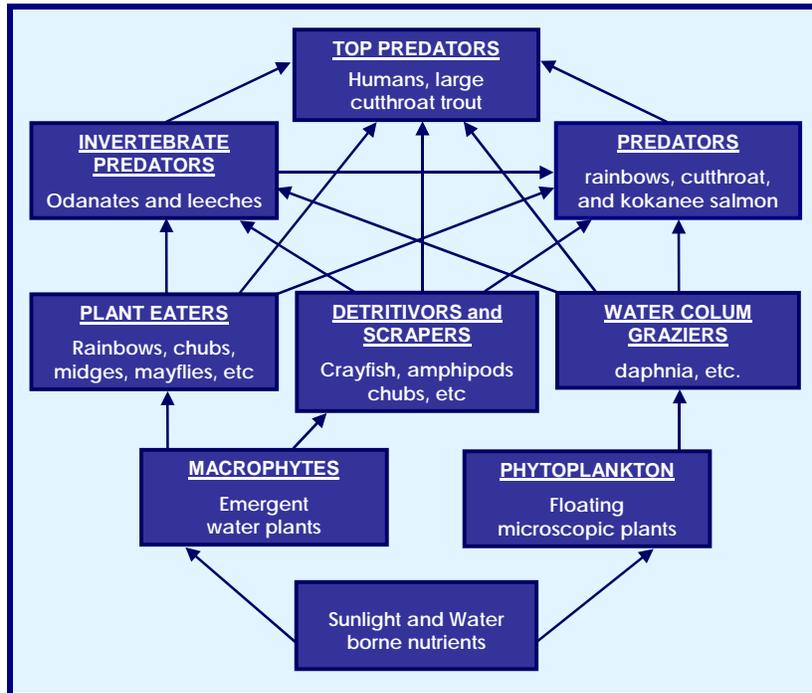
To some anglers the only “thing” in a water body that matters is the one living organism equipped with fins that will strike their tackle and may accompany them home in the cooler. Though this is an understandable, if naive, view - the potential for a much more satisfying if not successful outing is just a microscope away.

us discuss various methods like gill netting, population modeling, and others in previous issues of *The “Berry” Good News*. Food web analysis is yet another of the many tools that fisheries biologist utilize. For fishermen, a general understanding of Strawberry’s food web can help you become a better angler.

Later in this article I will be giving some thoughts and ideas on fishing techniques. Now, before everyone emails me to tell me how wrong I am, please understand I am presenting some basic ideas based on what we see in our studies. I know, as should you all, that these are not the only or even the best methods, but they do make sense when approached from a scientific perspective and they will work. Enjoy!

What is a food web? I like to think of it as a flow chart. Energy from the sun is taken in by microscopic algae that are suspended in the water column and by plants that grow from the bottom of the lake (macrophytes). These photo synthesizers are consumed by various animals like “bugs”, fish, birds and mammals and eventually some of

*For fishermen, a general understanding of Strawberry’s food web can help you become a better angler.*



**Figure 1** Strawberry Reservoir’s generalized food web and energy flow chart.

Food web science is the study of how energy moves through a system. Aquatic systems can be any defined area, from an aquarium in your house to entire oceans. The goal of a food web is to look at how energy moves from the sun to the top predator. Analysis focuses on each step that energy takes and what the benefits and consequences are to the overall system by this movement. Most science focuses on areas that have a reasonable size and a management unit focus.

these consumers are themselves eaten by predators like cutthroat and rainbow trout. Finally there are the top predators like the large cutthroat and even us anglers (See Figure 1).

One example would be Strawberry. Alan Ward and I have the responsibility of focusing on the aquatic biology aspects of the Strawberry Reservoir. Most of that focus is on the fishery. When looking at system health and interactions we have many tools we can use and you have seen both of



Scuds are an important part of Strawberry’s trout diet.



The whole idea of food webs for scientists is to make sure that the energy moves from one group to the next in a predicted manner. For you the angler the important part to understand is: what is eating what. By knowing what is being consumed by the fish you are trying to catch at the



*Daphnia are a critical link in Strawberry's food chain.*

time you are out fishing, you can tailor your presentation to imitate available food and improve your catch. This is not a new idea. Fly fishermen have been “matching the hatch” for decades and reservoir anglers have noticed that certain baits, lures, presentations etc. work better at different times and in different places. What I would say is that there is some method to the madness of what to use and when to use it. As a general rule, the key is to match your bait with what the fish are foraging on in their natural environment.

Next time I will look at the specific diet of each of our Strawberry game fish and times of the year that are most productive for fishing. I will also suggest a few general locations where fish concentrate during the year and what types of baits are the most effective. In the meantime, get out and enjoy the fine summer weather at Strawberry and catch a few fish!



## Strawberry Bay Marina Make-Over

By Kayla Willey

If you have been up fishing Strawberry this summer, you may have noticed some welcome improvements at the Strawberry Bay Marina. The Marina store looks very different with a brand new sign and expanded space on the second floor for more merchandise. The remodel looks great, but perhaps one of the biggest changes is an increased number of docks and slips at all of the



*The Strawberry Marina Store also sports a new look.*

Phillips' marinas. The Soldier Creek side marina expanded slip capacity on the new docks from 24 to 134 spaces! A similar expansion was made at the Strawberry Bay Marina.

Paul Phillips reports that new docks for the expanded space to accommodate more boats comes



*Marina Owner Paul Phillips was busy this past spring constructing dozens of new docks for all four marinas.*

at no small cost. Each new dock costs an estimated \$85,000, \$7,000 alone was spent in bolts, locks, and nuts! Each dock is kept afloat by 2 blocks of foam that could easily hold up a semi-truck! This new expanded capacity is appreciated by Strawberry fishermen as is the extensive work and effort involved in the indoor and outdoor makeover. Paul Phillips commented that they may need bigger gas tanks next. Thank you from the SAA for a job well done.

*The Marina store looks very different with a brand new sign and expanded space on the second floor for more merchandise.*



# Utah's Fishing Regulations Over The Years

By Val John Halford



Utah's management of state waters and game fish has evolved over the years. With more water to fish, and more different species to catch, the regulations designed to protect our sport have also dramatically changed. Since the first angling limits placed on the taking of cutthroat trout from Utah Lake were passed by the Utah legislature during the 1850s, our fishing regulations, by necessity, have become more complicated and detailed.

For example, Utah's simple fishing regulations during the early 1900s were published in local newspapers, often taking up only a single column of average-sized type. In 1914, a resident fishing license cost \$1.25 and the regulations stated that it was unlawful "to sell game fish or to sell any kind of game except ducks or geese." A legal limit of fish was "fifteen pounds per day or fifty pounds in possession at any one time."

*Older anglers can remember a time not too far distant when the entire fishing proclamation was printed on the reverse side of their license.*



*Utah's fishing regulations have successfully managed a limited resource.*



*The current slot limit at Strawberry Reservoir helps protect its larger cutthroat trout which, in turn, help reduce rough fish populations.*

Older anglers can remember a time not too far distant when the entire Utah fishing proclamation was printed on the reverse side of their license. Fishing regulations were also printed in local newspapers. In 1933, a "creel limit of trout shall be not more than eight pounds or not more than twenty fish in any one day." Strawberry's fishing season in 1940 started on June 15 and continued through October 15. Many public waters in Wasatch County were posted "No Fishing." In 1942, the fishing season spanned the same number of months but the daily time has changed from 5:00 am to 10:00 p.m. "Mountain War Time."

By 1958, the state's proclamation had grown to three full columns of print on a standard sheet of paper. Seining, or netting, of certain fish species was allowed, including carp, suckers, chubs, and yellow perch. However, nets or seines were restricted to a "mouth not wider than 60 feet." To control unwanted fish populations, "a royalty of fifteen cents per each one-hundred pounds of

any non game fish" was to be paid to the Utah Department of Fish and Game. "All game fish except yellow perch found in seines, nets or traps must be removed immediately and returned alive and unharmed to the waters where taken."

Several strange species of fish have also been regulated in Utah's fishing regulations over the years, such as mullet and mountain herring. By 1967, the limit for trout had decreased to 8 trout. A limit at Strawberry was "6 trout or salmon in aggregate regardless of weight." During this same year, several waters, such as Deer Creek Reservoir, were opened to

"twenty-four hour a day year-round angling." By 1983, a trout stamp was introduced to help raise needed funds and by 1985 the general season was extended year round allowing for ice fishing. The proclamation had grown to a 70 page booklet similar to that in use today.

No doubt, additional regulation changes will be required as our fisheries are dynamic ecosystems. However, it's important for every angler to keep in mind that Utah's fishing regulations are designed to carefully manage and protect a shared, limited resource for many years to come.



## NEW DEVELOPMENT

*(Continued From Page 1)*

Roney purchased the property from the Childs Family who, in turn, bought the land from a Utah sheep herder during the Depression years. He envisions an opportunity for everyone to visit the Strawberry Ranch Discovery Center, stay for an extended period of time and experience the out-

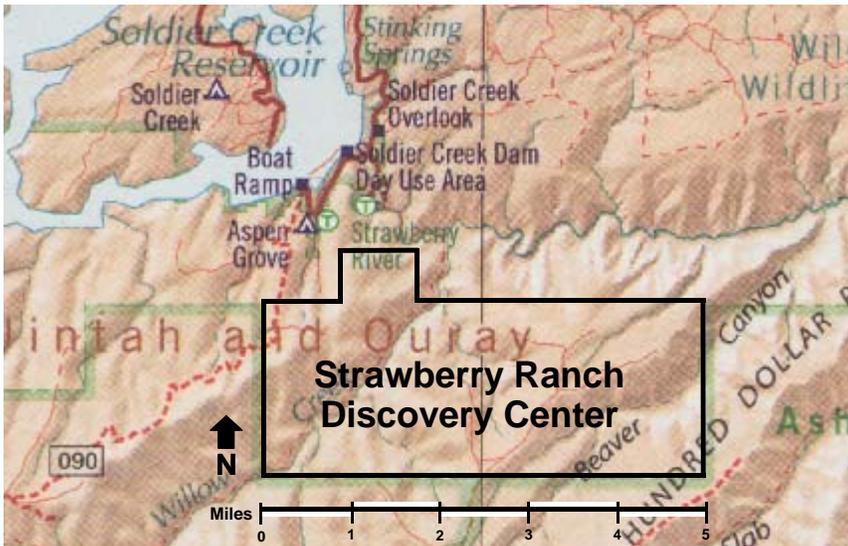
doors, perhaps in conjunction with a planned family reunion. Patrons could relax at a first class lodge located on Willow Creek, fish Strawberry Reservoir, and take advantage of a host of different classes and seminars.

It has yet to be determined if this development, which is surrounded by national forest lands on three sides and state-owned property on the



fourth side, will be a year around residential community similar to the proposed Strawberry Pines, or a seasonal retreat. For now, Roney remains hopeful that his development will move forward in a manner that will be compatible with the interests of all concerned parties, including anglers. The SAA will continue to closely monitor Roney's development proposal and keep you informed.

*Roney remains hopeful that his development will move forward in a manner that will be compatible with the interests of all concerned . . .*



*The Strawberry Ranch Discovery Center is currently being proposed for development.*

## Rare Cutthroat Population Located

The first known population of greenback cutthroat trout was found recently in Beaver Creek, a tributary to the La Sal Creek drainage in southeastern Utah. Prior to this discovery, it was believed that only three sub-species of cutthroat were native to Utah - Yellowstone, Bonneville, and Colorado River. Biologists at the DWR tested the fish to determine that they were in fact greenback cutthroat trout. Since greenbacks are currently listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, emergency changes in Beaver Creek's fishing regulations were adopted by the Wildlife Board. For now, Beaver Creek will be closed to possession of cutthroat trout.



*The beautifully colored greenback cutthroat trout.*



## Upcoming Meeting and Event Schedule 2009

**September 1**    **SAA Meeting**  
John Campbell, USFS Recreation Manager  
"Update of Outdoor Activities at Strawberry"

**October 6**        **SAA Meeting**  
Chris Wilson, Pathologist, Logan Fisheries Station  
"Whirling and Cold Water Diseases"

**November 10**    **SAA Meeting**  
Alan Ward, DWR Project Biologist  
Justin Robinson, DWR Project Biologist  
"State of the Lake" report

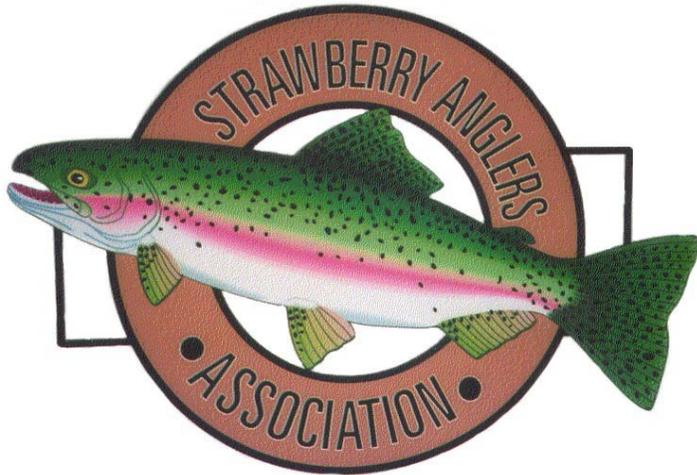
**December**        **No Scheduled Meeting**  
Christmas Party To Be Announced.

## Strawberry Anglers Association

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Murray, Utah 84107

Jim Carter, President  
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P.O. Box 219 Heber City, UT 84032 <a href="http://www.strawberrybay.com">www.strawberrybay.com</a>	<b>Strawberry Bay Marina and Lodge</b>    Paul Phillips Owners  Store: (435) 548-2261
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Website: [www.strawberryanglers.com](http://www.strawberryanglers.com)

