By Jim Carter

As I started to pull information together for this "year in review," I concluded that I was very proud of what our organization has accomplished this past year. The SAA began the year working with the Utah State Legislature helping with the Blue Ribbon Advisory Council which resulted in $300,000 for the program. In March, our organization sponsored a booth at the International Sportsmen's Exposition held at the new Sandy Convention Center. We were able to introduce our organization to the public, gain some new members, and received a number of membership renewals.

The spring brought a flurry of activities with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Members participated in fish marking and planting in May, and a gill net survey in June. In October, many SAA members were on hand again to help the DWR with the fall gill netting and fish planting.

One of the highlights of the year was the opportunity SAA members had to take visiting wildlife directors from the Western United States and Canada fishing at Strawberry. The directors were in Utah attending the WAFWA Conference in Park City. After a very successful morning fishing the Reservoir, a luncheon was served at the Strawberry Bay Marina.

In September, SAA had a booth at the Friends of Strawberry Valley Wildlife Festival held at Daniels Summit and the Strawberry fish trap. About 1000 people attended. This was a great time to educate people about Strawberry as a fishery and enjoy beautiful fall weather.

Our association enjoyed a number of other accomplishments during 2001. August brought our annual barbecue at the Strawberry Bay Marina. Over 150 people attended and a good time was had by all. A SAA member, Ed Kent, has been appointed as a member of the Central Region Advisory Council. The Association became part of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Council and the Utah Anglers Coalition. Utah’s 2002 fishing regulations benefited from SAA input and our group offered testimony concerning the illegal snagging of fish. We are in the process of raising enough money to secure a new outboard motor for the fish planting barge and hope to have this goal accomplished by spring of 2002. The SAA now has a lapel pin that has gone over well. Finally, we enjoyed a number of great presentations at our business meetings from a host of experts and knowledgeable individuals.

In 2001, the SAA continued its good relationship with a number of important officials and organizations.

(Save: "Highlights of Year 2001" Page 9)
Laird & Eldora Spratt - Exceptional Volunteers

By Val John Halford

Most volunteer organizations have a cadre of devoted individuals that really make a difference. Laird and Eldora Spratt are such people. The Strawberry Anglers Association is fortunate to have this good husband and wife team as members. Whatever the work assignment, time of day, or season of the year, the Spratts are ready to lend a hand. Both Laird and Eldora, who celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary this year, are as much at home in a SAA booth answering questions about Strawberry Reservoir as they are planting fish with the DWR. During the past year, they have volunteered their time gathering gill net survey data, staffing informational exhibits, mailing newsletters, attending business meetings, planting young trout, entertaining out-of-state wildlife resource dignitaries, repairing the fish planting barge, and helping with other SAA assignments.

Born and raised in Draper, Laird attended Jordan High School where he met his sweetheart, Eldora. In June, 1998, Doug Phillips, the former owner of the Strawberry Bay Marina, extended the Spratts an invitation to attend the first meeting of the Strawberry Anglers Association, and both have been active in the organization since.

Laird and Eldora’s many talents and skills, which they generously impart, are enhanced by their hard work ethic. Their good nature and willingness to help is exceptional. For example, on one occasion while waiting for the next DWR truck load of young fish to be planted, Laird spent this time at the Strawberry Bay Marina helping dozens of boaters launch or land their craft. Members of their extended family, including Robert, Rosemarie, Sheri Clark and the grandchildren, help with the distribution and mailing of over 500 copies of “The ‘Berry Good News,” a demanding and time consuming task.

A plaque honoring the Laird and Eldora Spratt’s commitment to the Strawberry Anglers Association was presented at the November business meeting. The dedication reads, “The Strawberry Anglers Association is proud to honor their hundreds of hours of dedicated service in helping preserve and protect Utah’s premier trout fishery.” The SAA membership extends a “Well Done” to this hard working, volunteer couple.

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

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The “Berry” Good News

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Next SAA Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 5
6:30 pm
Work Force Services Building
5735 S. Redwood Road
Speaker
Roger Wilson
Wildlife Biologist
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Page 2 THE “BERRY” GOOD NEWS
The project was the largest chemical treatment ever attempted, requiring nearly the entire world supply of rotenone and costing an estimated $3,500,000. Following the treatment, Strawberry was restocked with Bear Lake cutthroat trout, sterilized rainbow trout (to prevent cross spawning with cutthroat), and Kokanee salmon. The fishery recovered rapidly, and by 1996 anglers were spending over 1.4 million hours and catching more than 617,000 game fish. The average catch rate during this time was approximately 0.5 fish per hour.

In 1995, the FDA suspended the stocking of rainbows sterilized with synthetic hormones. However, thanks in part to the efforts of the SAA, "heat shock" sterilized rainbows were reintroduced in 1998. Limited numbers of Utah chub and suckers were once again found in Strawberry Reservoir as early as the Spring of 1993. Although the early reappearance of these species is disappointing, their eventual return was anticipated. The current game fish assemblage in Strawberry is intended to resist major non game fish reinfections. Present nongame populations are limited to less than 8 percent of the total fish biomass in the Reservoir, and the DWR is monitoring the situation closely.

Today, Strawberry Reservoir continues its role as Utah's leading trout fishery, sustaining over 2 million angling hours per year. The future of Strawberry will depend on the attention and care afforded it by the angling community. Strawberry is too precious a resource to not preserve and protect.

Fishing pressure at Strawberry Reservoir has always been tremendous, even during a time when Utah's angling population was much smaller.
The Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC) has assigned an important part for Strawberry Reservoir to play in the upcoming 2002 Olympic Winter Games. SLOC’s contingency plans for the Soldier Hollow Cross Country Skiing and Biathlon venue call for snow making to take place at the Chicken Creek West Day Use Area, situated on the northwestern shore of Strawberry Reservoir. In the event that mother nature fails to supply adequate amounts of snow at Soldier Hollow, Olympic organizers will implement a back-up plan to artificially manufacture a supply of the frozen white stuff on the banks of the Reservoir. Weather data for the past 50 years indicate that snowfall at the Soldier Hollow venue, located at an elevation of between 5,400 and 5,900 feet, is normally abundant. However, if anticipated snow amounts fall short of that required by the International Ski Federation for “safe and fair competition,” Strawberry Reservoir will be pressed into service. The Reservoir was selected as a contingency snow making site because of its geographic location at 7,600 feet, more than adequate water supply, and relative proximity to Soldier Hollow.

Olympic planners anticipate that needed snow will be made only during nighttime hours, from 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM, as the colder temperatures aid in the process. One or two snow guns will be used to produce up to 35,000 cubic meters of snow. A pump system will pull water from Strawberry Reservoir through an intake hose. This hose will have a special screen placed at its entrance to prevent fish from being drawn into the operation. Once made, the piled snow will be loaded into dump trucks and hauled to the Soldier Hollow site. Trucking of the manmade snow will take place during the evening and at night to reduce traffic concerns.

Strawberry’s contingency snow making operation is scheduled to begin on October 15, 2001 and continue through March 17, 2002. Ice fishing access to West Chicken Creek Day Use Area will be limited to snowmobiles only. Signs have been posted notifying fishermen of access restrictions during this time period.

Strawberry’s Link With The 2002 Olympics

Strawberry ice fishermen need to be aware that access to the Chicken Creek West Day Use Area is currently closed and will remain so through mid-March of 2002.

Just How Big A Big Fish Are Ya?

Following the advice and encouragement of DWR fisheries biologists, you’ve just released a large cutthroat trout back into depths of Strawberry Reservoir when your fishing companion asks, “What do you think he weighed?” Without using a set of scales, some of which require that you puncture the fish’s jaw and suspend it from a hook, it’s difficult to tell. A simple computation will save you from harming your catch or causing the fish unnecessary stress. All that’s required are two quick measurements - the length of the fish from nose to tail and the length around its girth, or the widest part of its body. The estimated weight of your catch is calculated as follows: Length × Girth × Girth ÷ 800. For example, if a nice cutthroat trout you have just landed measures 22 inches long and 11.5 inches around, its approximate weight is 22 inches × 11.5 inches × 11.5 inches ÷ 800, or 3.64 lbs, or 3 lbs and 10 oz. The calculated results should be within a half pound, plus or minus, of the fish’s true weight. Remember, perform the two needed measurements as quickly as you can to minimize stress and maximize the fish’s survivability.
Routine gill netting was accomplished once again at Strawberry Reservoir during the spring and fall of 2001. The work was accomplished by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources personnel with assistance from the Strawberry Anglers Association, U.S. Forest Service, and others. Gill netting is the primary monitoring tool for the Strawberry fishery, and information gathered in this effort is used in evaluating such parameters as species abundance and distribution, fish health, spawning condition, sex ratios, growth, condition, feeding habitats, and year class strength for the various game species. This data serves as input into the population model which predicts numbers of cutthroat trout available by year class in the fishery, and ultimately provides the rationale for regulation proposals. Gill net data is also used to track the relative abundance and population expansion of rough fishes like Utah chub and Utah sucker. Since the 1990 treatment, spring and fall gillnetting has been accomplished every year, and additional summer netting has been undertaken when there are special information needs.

Total game fish catch rates for the spring and fall of 2001 (1.32 and 1.10 fish per gill net hour respectively) were down from the last 3 years, but were very similar to rates encountered during 1997. It should be noted that lower game fish catch was primarily the result of limited rainbow and kokanee abundance in the sample, a situation which was also reflected in lower angler catch for these 2 species during the 2001 fishing year. Rainbow limitation was due primarily to the relatively poor showing from the 1999 year class stocked during the spring of 2000. The survival of these rainbows was impacted by the large predatory population of cutthroat present in the reservoir at this time. Rainbows stocked during the previous 2 years (1998 and 1999) had done very well and had produced some good fishing. 2001 gill net catch rates for kokanee were the lowest seen in many years, and were reflected in the limited Strawberry River spawning run. However, Indian Creek experienced a respectable peak kokanee run of about 2,000 spawning adults during the fall of 2001.

Total cutthroat catches throughout most of the 1990's have been very consistent indicating stable long-term populations. This trend continued during 2001 with cutthroat trout catch rates of 0.94 and 0.56 fish per hour for the spring and fall respectively. Cutthroat trout bore the brunt of the angler catch and harvest during 2001, and supported some of the best fishing we have seen in years. Preliminary estimates from creel survey data collected during 2001 indicate an overall catch rate of 0.51 fish per hour, which is 18% higher than that encountered during 1996, a very good fishing year.

The spring 2001 catch of Utah chub (2.60 fish/gill net hour) declined dramatically from the spring of 2000. However, overall catches of Utah chub during 2000 and 2001 have increased substantially over previous years. Based on pooled gill net data from the spring and fall of 2001, Utah chub presently account for 34% by numbers and 24% by biomass (weight) of the total fish population at Strawberry. Although chub numbers remain well below the levels encountered during the late 1980’s, biologists are concerned about the apparent
The ice fishing season at Strawberry Reservoir is underway and the action should be good. A few helpful tips will help to improve your success during the only time of the year that you and your friends can walk on water.

Where To Fish: A good fisherman may walk for miles to find a better fishing hole away from other people, but on the ice they seldom get more than a rock throw away from the parking lot, and they seem to think that the middle of a crowd is a fine place to fish. Move around and see if you can find a location away from the crowds, or at least at the edge of a large group. Try the shallow bays, 10 to 20 feet of water, early in the season and then move out to deeper water, 30 to 40 feet, during February and March. If you try an area and fail to find fish, don’t stay and wait. The trick is to move to the fish.

Finding The Fish: As a lake freezes, the fish are still shallow and stay there feeding until the shallows become uncomfortable. This happens after the ice gets covered with snow. The snow blocks sun light and results in death and decay of plant life which, in turn, robs the water of oxygen. In shallow lakes this can be fatal to the fish and is known as “winter kill.” To avoid winter kill, the fish move into deeper water where they suspend and are dormant or feed on daphnia. These suspended fish can be hard to catch. Some fish move deeper but hug the bottom and still try to feed. To find these fish, search by drilling ice holes close in to shore, then drill successive holes in deeper water until you find the fish. Feeding fish tend to form up in small schools. If you find fish, and suddenly they are gone, wait awhile before moving as they may return. A fish finder is a great tool for the dedicated ice angler.

Stealth: Short of camouflage and face paint, anglers’ sneak up, stay low and avoid sudden movements when stream fishing, but they seem to think that fish lose their sight and hearing when ice forms. Sound travels easier through ice and shadows and movement scare fish just as if there were no ice. Practice caution and keep quiet while ice fishing. Under the ice, everything slows down. Fish become nibblers under the ice and seldom hook themselves. Watch your line for even the slightest indication that a fish may be biting.

Tackle: Fish have all the time in the world to inspect your line. Fluorocarbon or thin, clear lines will result in more fish. Smart ice anglers use a strike indicator of some type. Small floats attached to the line signal the lightest bites and piano wire rod extensions show up nibblers. Short rods make ice fishing easier and stiff rods make hooking fish a more sure deal when fishing deep. Ice fishing reels can be very simple. Some ice fishermen don’t even use a reel but prefer to feel the bites with bare hands.

Lures: Trout take basically the same lures as before the freeze, but in smaller sizes. Bright colors attract, and glow-in-dark ice flies work too. Smell is very important and wax worms, meal worms, or even night crawlers are almost mandatory. Most local tackle shops carry a good assortment of ice fishing supplies. Don’t be afraid of experimenting in presenting the fish with something they haven’t seen or aren’t used to. Regular fly fishing nymphs work, especially daphnia and scud patterns, for ice fishing if you add a little weight to get them down.

Good luck “cold footing” this ice season. Stay warm and remember to use common sense. See you on the ice!
**Practice Safety On The Ice**

Ice fishing at Strawberry Reservoir can be a fun family activity. However, it’s important that anglers use common sense and exercise caution, especially early and late in the season when ice conditions can dramatically change. Fishermen should come prepared for emergencies. The following safety tips will help make your day on the ice an enjoyable event.

- Don’t ice fish alone - take along a friend.
- Leave information at home where you are going and what time you will return.
- Dress warm. Wear a hat and use good quality, water resistant snow boots and gloves.
- Carry hand warmers or a propane heater.
- Bring along plenty of drinking water and a thermos containing a hot beverage.
- Wear sun glasses or goggles - use sunscreen.
- Test the thickness of the ice by drilling a hole near the shore over shallow water.
- Walk in a single file and avoid stepping in previously drilled holes, which may be covered by newly fallen snow.
- Use boot cleats or crampons to help maintain footing especially on smooth, wind blown ice.
- Carry a rope that can be thrown to a person that has fallen through the ice.
- Lie prone on the ice to better distribute your weight and keep a safe distance when attempting a rescue.
- Carry a set of hand spikes to help pull yourself out should you accidentally fall through the ice.
- Wear a life vest or personal flotation device.
- Carry a cellular phone to contact emergency rescue personnel.
- Store a blanket or two in your vehicle to be used to keep an accident victim warm.

Ice thickness on a lake can vary. It is impossible to judge the strength of ice by its appearance or by throwing a large rock from shore. Ice strength is dependent on a number of factors including the size of the water body itself, the depth of the water, currents, springs, snow cover, nighttime temperatures, and the time of the year. Ice first forms in shallow bays during the early part of the season. Near the end of the season, these same shallow bays are the first areas to thaw and have open water. Safe ice is a minimum of 4 inches thick for people and 6 inches thick for snowmobiles.

Be extremely cautious crossing ice near river mouths, points of land, islands, underwater springs, or pressure ridges. Currents almost always cause ice to be thinner at these locations. Some reservoirs and lakes fill during the winter months and ice near the shoreline can be unstable. Toward the end of the season, ice will begin to pull away from the shore during the day and refreeze at night. It is not uncommon for anglers to walk out on a lake in the morning only to discover a wide band of water has opened near the shore during the afternoon. Finally, avoid drinking alcoholic beverages while ice fishing as its use dulls your judgment and increases your chance for hypothermia.

**Four Fish Limit Statewide**

Utah Fishing Regulations for 2002 have several important changes that anglers should note. The Utah Wildlife Board voted to lower the trout limit to 4 trout daily at water throughout Utah. According to the 2002 Utah Fishing Proclamation & Information booklet, “The lower limit will provide more consistent fishing by spreading trout out over a longer period of time.” Among the exceptions to the 4trout limit rule are the Uinta Mountains, where anglers can have up to 8 trout (as long as at least 4 of them are brook trout), and Flaming Gorge Reservoir, where current trout limits will remain in effect until an agreement to lower the trout limit can be reached with Wyoming.
Gill Net Survey Results
(Continued from Page 5)
recent population expansion of this species. It is imperative that anglers voluntarily release the larger cutthroat trout to maintain adequate populations of predator sized fish in the reservoir to put pressure on Utah chubs. Anglers need to take personal responsibility for the future of Strawberry, and actively participate in management by releasing these fish.

Anglers should expect some fluctuation in game fish abundance at Strawberry from year to year. Sport fisheries and the habitats that support them are dynamic ever-changing systems, influenced by a variety of environmental factors over which managers have limited control. Small changes in first year survival for fish stocks can translate into dramatic differences in adult fish populations available to the angler. One stabilizing factor for the Bear Lake cutthroat trout in Strawberry is the significant contribution of natural reproduction to the long-term population.

Based on a preliminary assessment of recent gill net data, biologists expect that fishing during 2002 will not be quite as good as that of 2001. We anticipate that angler success should be very similar to what we saw in 1998.

Over the last several years, volunteers from the Strawberry Anglers Association have provided many hours of assistance in our gill netting effort. I would like to express my appreciation to all of those who have helped. I would especially like to thank Bruce Reynaud, the Strawberry Anglers Association Volunteer Work Director, for his efforts in coordinating this effort. Keep up the good work.

CUTTHROAT
By Michael Bernard

My father stands on water
His body blurred in
Cold white glow
Where the edges
Of shore become blind and frozen
Even the air is unrecognizable.

We are together, with the lake
And the sky
And the sagebrush hills
Folding into a single
Substance which cover us.

He spirals the blade
Into the ice
Until it breaks through.
The water pushes up and falls;
A cyclops eye
Pulsing in solitary blackness
We wait at the icy cornea
Looking into abysmal stirring.

It is silent here, motionless
As an unspoken miracle,
I am his son
Nothing else.

The line twitches
From the deepness
I witness silver spinal curving,
A slow interaction of spins
And angles between my father
With a distant sparkle.

He pulls upward, long narrow fish.
It flips in rapid turns
Beside the hole.
With its flat scaled light
Collecting layers of snow.

Every particle of our being
Set into one rhythm.
Both of us in tandem
With the rise and fall,
With the heaving wind
Of invisible horizon.

We suck in the cold air.
Place that earth
And atmosphere united,
Holding ourselves there
In the white void
As a height
Few persons touch.

(Background Illustration by Paul Bernard)
I hope this will give our membership an idea of how this year has gone for SAA. We are trying to keep busy and to become a positive influence in Utah for the sport of angling. Without the support of our members none of these things would be possible. Thanks to you, there is a new positive attitude about angling and its importance for Utah. The next few years will provide more opportunities for members of the SAA to serve the angling community and to improve angling in Utah. Dedicated volunteers can really make a difference for angling now and for the future. Come and get involved. We need you!

---

**Kayla’s Kooking Korner**

*It’s the end of the Holiday season and you are tired of turkey and ham. Why not try a new twist on holiday cooking and stuff your trout!*

**Baked Stuffed Trout**

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 small onion chopped (3/4 cup)
- 1 stalk celery chopped (1/2 cup)
- 2 slices bread, cut into 1/4-inch cubes (1 1/2 cups)
- 1/2 cup fresh sliced mushrooms
- 1 dill pickle spear, finely chopped (1/4 cup)
- 1 Tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 Tablespoon chopped parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup dried basil leaves
- 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 Tablespoons olive oil
- 2 Whole Trout (Strawberry Reservoir size)

Heat oven to 350 degrees. In a 10-inch skillet, melt butter. Add onion and celery. Cook for 3-5 minutes, or until tender. Remove from heat. Stir in remaining ingredients except olive oil and trout.

Pour olive oil onto large sheet of tin foil. Roll trout in oil to coat. Stuff each trout evenly with stuffing mixture. Spread any additional stuffing mixture between trout. Seal the trout in foil. Bake for 45-60 minutes, or until fish is cooked.

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**MEMBERSHIP RENWAL NOTICE**

**STRAWBERRY ANGLERS ASSOCIATION**

☐ YES! I wish to **renew** my Strawberry Anglers Association membership and help shape the future of Strawberry Reservoir. My **yearly membership** dues are $10.00 per person.

NAME: __________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: _________________________________________________________________________

CITY: ___________________________________    STATE: ______________   ZIP: ____________

DAY PHONE: __________________________   EVENING PHONE: _________________________

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____________________________________________

☐ YES! I am interested in volunteer work projects for Strawberry Reservoir. (Check all that apply.)

☐ Fish Planting
☐ Gill Net Surveys
☐ Public Education
☐ Legislative Monitoring
☐ Newsletter Articles

Mail this form and your check to:

STRAWBERRY ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
735 Labrum Avenue
Murray, Utah 84107

For more information, please call (801) 269-0619
Strawberry Anglers Association

735 Labrum Avenue
Murray, Utah 84107

Jim Carter, President
(801) 269-0619

ALL MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE IN JANUARY, 2002
PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW—SEE FORM INSIDE ON PAGE 9

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