



Flyfishing Team USA to practice in Boise, Idaho for world contest



Pete Erickson will join top U.S. fly anglers vying to be named to Flyfishing Team USA before heading to Slovakia this summer to compete in the world championships.

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Current and prospective members of Flyfishing Team USA will meet and practice in Boise May 14-16 in preparation for the World Flyfishing Championship this summer in Slovakia.

The Boise area was selected by the team organizers because of its reputation for attracting sportsmen seeking solitude, great fishing and breathtaking scenery, according to a press release from Flyfishing Team USA.

Flyfishing Team USA team captain Jack Dennis, and president Jay Buchner, both of Jackson, Wyo., will oversee anglers seeking to be named to this year's U.S. team.

TeamUSA will include Boise's own Pete Erickson, who competed at last year's world championships in Spain and finished in the top 25 individually.

Erickson, a 9th grade English teacher at East Jr. High and fishing guide, will help lead and direct the team on local rivers, giving advice and expertise for the unfamiliar waters in the area.

Erickson said he is "delighted that the team has selected the Boise area for their practice sessions."

Each year, more than two dozen countries field teams of top fly fishermen to compete in what is known as the "Olympics of flyfishing."

Teams will go to Slovakia in August to compete for the medals in the catch-and-release competition.

There are no cash prizes awarded at the World Flyfishing Championship events. Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded to the top three teams, as well as the highest-scoring individual anglers during the week-long event.

Last year, Jeff Currier of Jackson Hole finished with a bronze medal awarded for individual performance — the first-ever medal for a U.S. fly angler.

He also led the team to an eighth-place finish, which is also the highest a U.S. team has placed at the competition.