

Fishing the Artificial Fly Like A Living Insect

Presentation to the Clearwater Fly Casters, April 14, 2021

Successful fly fishers deceive trout into taking something that is not edible and there are tens of thousands of fly patterns claiming to fool trout by imitating their natural food. However, physical appearance is but one part of imitation – the other is presenting the fly in a way that mimics its natural behavior. In response to this reality, fly fishers have created a myriad of categories (nymphs, wet flies, soft hackles, emergers, flymphs, spinners, etc) that are designed to mimic natural food in both appearance and behavior. I will expand on this concept by showing videos of the below surface feeding behavior of trout together with underwater insect behavior – the latter will focus on Caddisflies. Catching large brown trout in both Idaho and New Zealand will be used to amplify these imitation concepts. Finally, I will introduce a concept/proposal that I anticipate will more formally link the Clearwater Fly Casters (CFC) to the William F. Barr Entomological Museum in the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology & Nematology at the University of Idaho.

Michael Parrella is in his 6th year as Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and Professor of Entomology at the University of Idaho. Prior to coming to Idaho, he was Chair of the Department of Entomology & Nematology at the University of California, Davis where he taught multiple classes focused on *Entomology & Fly Fishing*. Dean Parrella is an emeritus faculty member at UC Davis and is both a Fellow and Past President of the Entomological Society of America. This is his second presentation to the CFC.