



The Tippet



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April 1999

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm sure by now everyone is getting somewhat jumpy or anxious for the weather to break and to head out to his or her favorite lake. I had a chance to go to one of the few lakes that are open recently and was not disappointed. From start and finish, the weather was fantastic. But during the day we experienced just about every weather pattern one can expect for this time of year short of a hurricane (hmmm, kind of like the weather we have right now). We would have taken advantage of the uni-directional wind for the early kick back had the fishing been any worse, but it was great. I guess the weather is always the same underwater and that's exactly where our flies and the fish were. Between the four of us we probably caught well over..., I'll stop here, while I'm ahead. I don't want to give too much away...except the wind seemed to change direction when we decided to stop for the day and by then it was one heck of a paddle back.

Speaking of super lake fishing, we have a special treat this month. Craig Lannigan is going to spill the beans on the still waters he fishes each year in Montana. He will speak on where, when and how to fish these Montana wonders. Now if you've ever seen his pictures of or the size of the fish he catches from these lakes you won't want to miss this program.

We hope you will join us for one of the most fun events of the year. Don't forget your checkbook this month at Shermer's Restaurant, Wednesday April 14, as always with wet-fly time at 6:30, dinner at 7:00 and the program at 8:00.

**Jim
Palmersheim**

(Jim Palmersheim may be reached by e-mail at jamesp@turbonet.com or by telephone at (208) 882-4502)

THOSE DARN DUES AGAIN!

Treasurer Denny Cartwright reminds all of us that **DUES ARE PAST DUE**, and if you have a **red dot on your address label** you owe dues for 1999. Right now only about 60% of the members are current on their dues. Don't break off your *Tippet!* Pay now!

BACKCAST: MARCH MEETING

Numerous guests attended, making a very full meeting indeed. Of special note was the long-missing Dr. Stacey Dean, who has opened his own practice here in

Pullman . *Palouse Medical* is located in the same building on Grand Avenue, near Dismores, that used to be his

office several years ago. It seems that the good doctor has finally achieved enough seniority on his Wednesday night committee, to be able to leave early and come to our meeting!

A new member – a Texas transplant, whose name escaped your editor - asked for help with a U of Idaho project to promote fly fishing skills with youth. Seminars will be held at the Latah County Fairgrounds in Moscow, featuring fly tying, angling skills, casting, stream ecology and ethics. Sign-up sheets were circulated, but if your interested in this, contact President Jim Palmersheim, who should know how to get involved.

BAN (Ban All Nets) Initiative petitions were circulated, and will be available at future meetings. Two pages were mailed in to the campaign headquarters.

Fishing Reports included Tom Lofaro, who fooled a few trout with Pheasant Tail Nymphs on the Big Hole River in February. John Read & Dave Tharp found that 4th of July trout were still slowly cruising in pods, and taking big red Chironomids or purple Woolly Buggers fished under bobbers – er, “strike indicators.” Alan Berryman described a jaunt to the Yucatan, where he caught a few bonefish but admitted he'd prefer to catch steelhead. Bob Harwood's trip to Crooked Island in the Bahamas was less than ideal due to rotten weather. And Micky Slind (if your editor got it right) did not fish at all, but met a caddisfly researcher with his own indoor caddis habitat while visiting the University of Minnesota.

OLD BUSINESS:

Scheduling of events: the *Amber Lake fishout* was moved to May 15th. The debate on the Summer BBQ was settled: the annual *CFC Barbeque* will be on Weds July 14 in Pullman's Sunnyside Park, and will be separate from the *St. Joe River fishout* is scheduled for July 16-18 at Fly Flat Campground. (Although conceivably some leftovers may make the commute.)

THE AUCTION, of course, was the big news and this year was another pretty good one. The fabled Fishing Tree parked itself at the feet of President Jim Palmersheim, who was consoled that it is, at least, a once-in-a-lifetime prize. Trouble is, it's two years 'til next one!

Party favors, in the form of some surplus spools of tinsel and thread, were passed out around the room to get the crowd warmed up. Then auctioneers George

Johnston and Dave Tharp worked the audience for all they could shake out of their pockets. (*continued next page*)

For instance, as Dave Engerbretson was inspecting a vintage wicker creel, George tried twisting his arm with: "I know you're in, I can see it in your eyes!" "That's just from smelling it!" replied Dave. This year's take was a little less than last time, but more than the one before that: a final tally showed the club raised \$2053.50 altogether, with \$1027 going into the Bill Alspach Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Some of the merchandise was truly spectacular, such as the Canadian Fly Stamp fly plate, which brought \$375; the Monty Dole dam-breaching print brought in \$200 for Idaho Rivers United; Bill Hendrix's hand-made nets went for \$150-180 each; and a Bob Harwood Grayling gyotaku print for \$140. Cookies were a hard-fought item that wound up serving the whole audience, thanks to Joe McGurkin and Jim Seibe. There were plenty of flies, including dozens of Chernobyl Ants, caddis, assorted steelhead and dry flies, and an amazing #18 Bomber by Leroy Hyatt!

PIKE TRIP DRAWING

Our fundraising raffle (for the Griswold Pike Fishing Trip at Mawdsley Lake Fishing Lodge in north-central Saskatchewan) was won by Joe Ford! Thanks to all who participated, the raffle board raised close to \$600 for the Bill Alspach Memorial Scholarship Fund.

CATCH-&-RELEASE LEGISLATION

As of March 22, Marv Slind reports that SB 5104 (the State Senate bill to restrict catch and release fishing for steelhead) failed to make it to a floor vote by the deadline of March 17.

Thanks to everyone who passed information along to Marv.

KELLY CREEK FLYCASTERS TO HOLD BANQUET AND AUCTION, APRIL 10

The Kelly Creek Flycasters are having a fund raising banquet in the Idaho Room, upstairs at the Helm Restaurant in Lewiston,, ID, on Saturday April 10. Steve Pettit is putting on a three-projector slide show about steelhead fishing on the Babine and Bulkley Rivers in B.C. This is a new show being premiered at this event! Steve promises that it is really nice with lots of fish, animals, beautiful scenery and water, all set to music and narration – a truly special presentation.

The wet fly hour and silent auction will begin at 5:30 PM. The buffet dinner of roast turkey with all the trimmings, will commence at 6:30, with Joe Norton's bucket raffle taking place during and right after dinner. Steve's show will follow the bucket raffle.

The world famous and locally renown auctioneer from Palouse, Washington, Mr. Dave Tharp, will conduct the oral auction following the slide show. We all know how much fun Dave's auctions are. There will be about a

dozen nice items to be sold, so it will be a rather short auction.

Tickets for the evening's bash are \$20.00 each, and must be purchased in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. Only 100 tickets were printed and as of March 21, half had been sold. To get tickets, contact Bob Clark (208) 743-1034; Dave Clark (509) 751-1266; or Tim Andrews (208) 746-1795. They will make firm commitments and hold tickets for any Clearwater Fly Caster who would like to come enjoy a great show and auction at the KCF Banquet!

SIERRA CLASSIC SUPPORTS FFF

Sierra Classic Fly Rods produces custom elegant fly rods at reasonable prices as we sell direct to the flyfisher through our "club direct program."

In addition, Sierra Classic offers a FFF club donation program. FFF Fishing clubs enrolled in this program receive a donation for each rod purchased by their members. Contact me for details or visit my website at:

<http://sierraclassicflyrods.com>

Bob Kieling 805/495-0863 or bkieling@aol.com
or fax: 805/371-4196

LIKE ALASKA, DON'T LIKE BEARS?

A new fishing resort has started up on Kalgin Island, in Cook Inlet. The owners promise (and offer pictures to prove it) excellent salmon fishing on a private homestead, with an exclusive salmon stream and a gorgeous remote lake near at hand. Best of all, they promise no brown bears are found on Kalgin Island.

The owners offer considerable flexibility in their costs and accommodations, ranging from "bring your own food and cook it yourself" to "full service with everything provided." Base prices for a fishing trip, per person per day, vary with the season:

\$85 (May 10-July 15) and \$135 (July 15-Sept. 30).

Check out their website for more information:

www.alaskaisland.com

or contact by mail or telephone:

Alaska Island Retreat (907) 566-7420
Box 2641
Soldotna, AK 99669

CLEARWATER FLYCASTERS 1999 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Jim Palmersheim

VICE-PRESIDENT: Brian McNeill

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Denny Cartwright

CONSERVATION CHAIRMAN: Marv Slind

FFF REPRESENTATIVE: George Johnson

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CFC Membership dues are now \$20/year
for individuals; \$25 for families.

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<http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~slind/cfc/cfc.html>

WDFW WEEKEND UPDATE 3/29-4/7 1999

Fishing continues to be good and getting better in many spots, but be sure to buy a license first.

Washington's new fishing and hunting license system goes into effect April 1, shifting from a calendar to an April-through-March licensing year to better coincide with seasons. The licenses also are packaged differently this year, with all enhancement fees, surcharges, catch record cards and other documents rolled into one fee.

The new freshwater fishing license, for example, lets an angler fish for anything in freshwater – bass, walleye, steelhead, salmon and sturgeon. The price for all that opportunity this year is just \$20, compared to last year's \$48 (\$17 for license, \$5 for warmwater surcharge, \$18 for steelhead catch card, and \$6 for food fish license).

One more change anglers will find with this year's fishing license is a free "Access Stewardship Decal" or parking permit to use Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) water access sites and wildlife areas. The decal is free to fishing and hunting license buyers, but \$10 to those who don't fish or hunt but use those sites for waterskiing, bird-watching or other activities.

Recreationists can buy their new fishing licenses and access decals at WDFW offices and vendors listed on the WDFW website at:

<http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/lic/vendors/reg1.htm>

Here's where to go with that new fishing license:

In Puget Sound, the blackmouth (hatchery chinook salmon) season continues through April 10. "When the weather cooperates, many anglers are catching their one-fish limit in a short period of time," said Tony Floor, WDFW's coordinator of the Puget Sound sport fish enhancement program.

"I wish I could say that fishing for these hatchery chinook salmon is always this good! But it's not too late to get on the saltwater and enjoy this great fishing." Floor suggests anglers take advantage of upcoming good tides, noting that there really isn't a bad tide between now and the end of the season. Best bets for success are Port Angeles, Port Townsend, Point No Point, Possession Bar, the San Juan Islands, Fidalgo Head at Anacortes and central Puget Sound.

Recent additional trout plants in southwest Washington have improved the action at several waters, according to WDFW fish biologist Joe Hymer. Those include browns at Swofford Pond, rainbows at Kline Line Pond and Battleground Lake (including 50-75 large trout at each), and browns at Lake Sacajawea and South Lewis County Pond.

In south-central Washington, WDFW fish biologist Geoff McMichael reports that smallmouth bass are starting to move from the Columbia River into the Yakima River and will provide good catches of fish up to four pounds through April. McMichael advises using quarter-ounce tube jigs (gitzits) in a smoke with red flake color, bounced on the bottom of the river in rocky areas with deep, slow water that is close to fast water. Don't

mind muddy water because the bass still find a way to eat the jigs, he says. Look for tags on these smallmouths, too. WDFW and the Yakama Indian Nation have been tagging bass for the past two years to learn more about their movements and growth. Some 3,000 bass have been tagged between the Tri-Cities and Prosser. Persons catching a tagged bass should call the toll-free number (1-888-604-8568) on the tag to report the date and location. WDFW will get back with information on when and where the fish was tagged.

Starting April 1, additional stocking of hatchery rainbow trout in the small lowland lakes and ponds in and around the Yakima/Ellensburg area should boost fishing success. WDFW fish biologist Eric Anderson says some of the most consistent producers are Myron Lake, Interstate-82 Ponds # 4 & 6, Rotary Lake, and Wenas Lake in Yakima County and Mattoon Lake and the Fio Rito Lakes in Kittitas County.

"This is also the time of year when we start hearing about anglers hanging into larger brown trout at Wenas Lake," Anderson said. "The browns are cruising the shorelines looking for something to eat," Anderson said. "Rapalas cast from the shoreline or trolled slowly near the bank, or trolling at the base of the dam with nightcrawlers, will occasionally entice these bruisers."

In southeast Washington, Lyons Ferry Hatchery manager Butch Harty reports that Columbia County's Tucannon River lakes – Beaver, Big Four, Blue, Deer, Rainbow, Spring and Watson – were just re-stocked with more 10 to 12-inch hatchery rainbow trout. Bennington Lake in Walla Walla County also is slated to get 2,000 1-1/2-pound triploid rainbows about April 1; this extra release of these sterile, fast-growing trout is courtesy of the cooperative efforts of the Tri-State Steelheaders and WDFW.

COMMISSION MEETS IN SPOKANE, APRIL 3 SPOKANE— The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission will set 1999 hunting seasons at a public meeting here April 3.

The Saturday meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. in Empire Rooms A and B of the Ridpath Hotel, 515 W. Sprague Ave. Public input on any fish and wildlife topic is scheduled for approximately 9 a.m. and 3:45 p.m.

Most hunting season changes proposed for commission adoption are minor adjustments, such as calendar dates and special permit levels based on animal winter survival and other conditions. The commission will specifically address amendments to Game Management Unit boundaries; permits for moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat; small game seasons including upland bird youth hunts and elk and deer seasons and special permits.

The commission will also: consider recommending that the director adopt department/tribal hunting management guidelines later next month; consider adoption of volunteer cooperative enhancement program rules; and hear an update on the department's budget.