



The Tippet

April 2000

President's Message

I love Bamboo Rods! Yes, they can be expensive, but they don't have to be, especially given some of the latest prices on graphite rods. No, they do not break easier than a graphite rod, but anything will break if slammed in a car door or similarly abused. What I like about bamboo is the natural feel, the flexibility and ability to hold big fish on light tippets, and the connection to the past when handmade rods were the norm, and everyone fished bamboo. Perhaps you are familiar with some of the contemporary flyfishers and authors who extol the virtues of split cane rods such as A.K. Best and John Geirach. If not, that's Okay, because for our April meeting, I have asked two members of our club to share their expertise regarding Bamboo Flyrods with us.

Dave Engerbretson has fished and built Bamboo Rods for a number of years. So, I have asked Dave to share with us some of his thoughts on what to look for in Bamboo Rods, especially the one that may have been passed down from a distant relative and jammed into a corner of a closet all these years.

Bob Clark not only makes very nice graphite or as he refers to them "plastic" flyrods, but is also a long time builder and repairer of fine split cane rods. Whenever, I need some rod repairs or restoration, I immediately call Bob. His work is excellent, it seems like he can fix anything, and he always seems to have the right guide or thread color (not easy tasks when dealing with old rods from the 40's or 50's). Thus, I have asked Bob to share his insights on the design and building process.

At any rate, I hope that you will take advantage of these experts and find out more about why you

may be seeing more bamboo rods out on the stream. We may even have a few more bamboo converts after this meeting!

Brian McNeill

Backcast (March meeting)

Guests

Welcome to new members Andy Filer and Monica Hiner from Troy, Don and Deta Stem from Pullman, and Corey Scott from Moscow.

Fishing reports

Bob Harwood told of fishing in Cancun for snook and tarpon and having a school of snook ignore his fly! Bob eventually did land two snook and a tarpon (15-20 lb range). Bob admitted that the advantage to making a Gyotaku is that he can add another 4 inches to the fish's length! Way to go Bob!

In another fish report, of sorts, Marv Slind announced that both he and Tom Lofaro landed new jobs in the Midwest. Marv will be moving to Decorah, IA and Tom to St. Peter, MN. Both will be missed!

Jack Mayfield, Dave Tharp and John Read reported 4th of July Lake open but that the fishing stunk. Make that, Jack found the lake a "challenge" while Dave caught two and John caught five.

Old Business

FFF Membership. Shirley announced that the club would be receiving a 9' 5wt T&T rod for buying a block of prepaid FFF memberships and that the rod would be at the April meeting. The conservation committee gave their recommendation for raffling the rod and debate from the general membership followed. A motion was made that new FFF members should get two chances and old members (FFF renewals) should get one chance. The motion passed with 23 for and 18

against. A second motion to hold the raffle at the May meeting passed unanimously.

New Business

A third motion was passed to draft a letter in support of breaching the four lower Snake river dams to aid in salmon and steelhead recovery. Comments on the Corps' Draft Feasibility Study and EIS were due March 31st, 2000. *Editor's note: The letter was drafted by members of the conservation committee, posted on the club website for comments, revised and then sent to the Corps by the president, Brian McNeill. The Corps has since then extended the deadline to April 30, 2000.*

The 2000 Steve Allured - Benton Collins Award was given to Bill Hendrix in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the activities of the Clearwater Flycasters, conservation and the sport of fly fishing.

Craig Lannigan announced that the
(Continued on next page)

Clearwater Flycasters 1999 Officers

President Brian McNeill
Vice-President John Toker
Secretary/Treasurer
Shirley Engerbretson
Conservation Chair Jim Siebe
FFF Representative George Johnson
Newsletter Editor Tim Cavileer
editor's email: tcavileer@uidaho.edu

Virtual Tippet (CFC Website)
<http://www.uidaho.edu/~tcavi/clearwater/>

CFC membership dues are now \$20/year for individuals, \$25/year for families, \$10/year for students.

Meetings on 2nd Wednesday, Sept - May, at Shermer's Restaurant, 300 S Grand, Pullman, WA

Wet Fly time at 6:00pm, dinner at 6:30pm and program at 8:00pm





(Gene Trump cartoon - used by permission)

Kelly Creek Flycasters are raffling a 5' 3wt bamboo rod (2 piece, 2 tips) built by Terry Nab. Tickets are \$10/chance and benefit the Bill Van Thiel Scholarship Fund. Those interested should see Craig for tickets.

Raffle

Raffle winners at the March meeting included Dave Ting, Judy Franks and Keith Saxton. Congratulations to new member Deta Stem on winning the membership incentive Bob Clark 4 wt rod!

Speaker's Notes

Keith Hurdstrom of Cascade Springs Fly Fishing in Oswego, Oregon presented a program on private lakes in central Oregon and southwestern Montana. Keith also covered lake fishing techniques, equipment, flies and lake fishing tips in the spring. In short, he suggested 1) fish the whole water column, 2) go slow and 3) use bobbers, er, strike indicators. When the water temperature is below 50F use a type II sinking line with a 60 second count and an extremely slow 1, 2, 3 strip. If that doesn't find a fish repeat using a 45, 30 and 15 second count down. Flies to try are leeches, snails and #8-12 black crystal buggers. When the water temperature reaches 50-58F it's time to think chironomids. A serendipity and brassie double fly setup (14-16 inch dropper) fished under a strike indicator and with a greased leader to within 6 inches of the fly is deadly.

Tim Cavileer



Book Review - by Don Shearer

Irresistible Waters: Fly Fishing in B.C. Throughout the Year

By Art Lingren

Raincoast Books, Vancouver B.C., 1998

176 Pages, softcover, \$13.95, ISBN: 1551921480

Lingren's book begins off with maps of the various areas of B.C. and then is followed by a section on the game fishes the province offers the angler. He includes a chapter on the different angling options that B.C. offers the fly caster; stillwater, salt, and streams. He then gets to the meat of the book in which he breaks down the year by the four seasons. For each area he describes the game fish and type of fishing available for each area by season. Lastly, he follows it up with appendixes showing, the license requirements and fishing regulations, contact information for B.C., and a table showing the game fish available to the fly angler for each area per season of the year.

Even though in the book Lingren gives some history of the angling in B.C., the book reads like a pamphlet from the B.C. tourism office. While reading I kept wishing he had focused on the history of B.C. In fairness to the author the book would be helpful to an angler who lives quite far from B.C. and who is planning the trip of a lifetime. But the potential trip planner could probably get just as good if not more up to date information from the B.C. tourism office for free. From the perspective of one who lives just south of the B.C. border, there are better alternatives to this book. This one fails my ultimate book test.

Conservation Committee Report



Submitted by Jim Siebe, Conservation Chair

The Conservation Committee met at Riccos on Wednesday March 15, 2000. Four individuals attended, but no minutes were taken. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- 1) We discussed and read the letter that Jim Siebe prepared on behalf of George Hinman's nomination to the Citizen's Advisory Board for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFEG).
- 2) We also discussed the content of the letter that the club unanimously directed we write in support of breaching the lower Snake River dams. It was decided that Jim Siebe would draft the letter with input from George concerning the omission in the analysis relative to the intrinsic value to local residents of having steelhead in the river. Tim Cavileer agreed to share the substance of his testimony at the hearing in Clarkston as well as some other thoughts. The document was then to be submitted to Brian for review and signature. Somewhere in the process (time being a major consideration), the letter was to be placed on the club's website for review by the membership, keeping in mind that the due date is March 31, 2000.
- 3) Finally, it was agreed that the committee should approach the club for another "hands on" conservation project. Tim Cavileer was interested in trying to obtain grant money for assistance and it was agreed that we should contact the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife for some ideas, as well as to discuss compatibility.

Jim Siebe



The President on spring break!

From the Editor

Putting together the Tippet has been a fun and rewarding experience for me since I took over in December. Many have contributed flies, articles, biographies and more. Thanks to those who make my job easier!

To be truthful there's usually more content available than space most months - the problem is how to choose and what to print! My own personal preference is to feature local talent and local content. So, for those of you who would like fame and fortune (just kidding about the fortune part!) there's plenty of space in future issues of the Tippet.

Not inclined to write? There's still opportunities to help by suggestions for content and direction. Should there be more or less on conservation issues, fly tying, fly fishing techniques, etc.? Let me know because I'm not a mind reader.

A final word on my editorial policy. I don't print specifics in the fish reports. The Tippet is online with both a printed and email version



and therefore a potentially wide audience- do our fishing spots need the additional pressure and exposure? Probably not. I'll leave the specifics at the meetings. It's up to you to ferret them out for yourself.

A second point is if it's copyrighted material, I need permission to print. Plain and simple. So, with all that said, I think I'll go fishing...

Tim

Announcements

✓ Upper Snake River Cutthroats club raffle tickets available from Shirley Engerbretson at \$10/chance. The prize, a 5 day/6 night guided fishing trip for two on the South Fork, Henry's Fork and Teton Rivers, will be awarded April 15, 2000 at the 7th Annual East Idaho Fly Tying Expo.

✓ As part of my move to Luther College, in Decorah, Iowa, I'm selling my steelhead gear. I have a 9', 8/9 Cabella's Fisheagle II rod (with fighting butt), as well as a Scientific Anglers System II 8-9 reel with two spare spools. The lines are: WF-8-F (floating), WF-8-F/S (wet tip), and WF-8-S (fast sink). The whole kit-and-kaboodle cost me about \$600, and I'm selling it as a package for \$500. I will bring the equipment to the April meeting for those who might be interested. In case someone can't come to the meeting but is interested in my rod, my phone number (208 882-2426) and e-mail (marvslind@norse.org). Thanks. Marv.

✓ Please come help Marv and Mickey Slind celebrate "Burgerville in their rearview window" When? Saturday, April 29, 7:00 p.m. Where? Colton Gun Club, just off Highway 195, on the north edge of Colton, WA. Why? To celebrate Marv's new job in the history department at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. (Yes, Mickey's work travels with her--she'll be moving her "virtual office" to Decorah.) To help them figure out how many beverages they'll need to have on stock, please let them know if you're planning to attend: marvslind@norse.org or (208) 882-2426.

Upcoming Events

April 12, 2000 Clearwater Flycasters meeting, Shermer's Restaurant, Pullman, WA

April 14-15, 2000 7th Annual East Idaho Fly Tying Expo, Idaho Falls, Idaho

April 29, 2000 Amber Lake Fishout

May 10, 2000 Clearwater Flycasters meeting, Shermer's Restaurant, Pullman, WA

July 14-16, 2000 St. Joe Fishout

August 1-5, 2000 International Fly Fishing Show, Livingston, MT

October 7, 2000 Kelly Creek Flycasters Annual Fly Fair.

Steamwheeler Room, Quality Inn, Clarkston, WA. For more info contact Tom Anderson (509) 758-6794 or thunder@clarkston.com

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Fly of the Month--Quigley's Cripple

We've all had the experience. A hot fly is written up in a magazine and yet when we tie it, somehow it just doesn't live up to the hype. Perhaps we've changed a material, scaled the fly up or down thinking this would be great for such and such a place and those picky trout. Experimenting is great and often leads to success - yet, often as not it can cause problems. How we deal with it can make the difference.

Such was the case when a club member brought up the problem of his Quigley's Cripples not hanging in the water at the advertised angle. After all, the whole concept of the crippled fly was that it would dangle there half in the water, half out, all the time looking to the trout like an enticing morsel for easy pickings. Suggestions centered around what to do to get the finished fly back on track - *after the fact*. Having tied up some Quigley's Cripples, I plucked them into a glass of water that night and was surprised to find that indeed, they didn't hang in the film at the proper angle. The "Angle of the Dangle" was wrong. Instead, they floated high on top of the water much like a dry fly.

I set about to discover why my Quigley's Cripples didn't float correctly and what could I do to make them float right. As it turns out, I was tying them in sizes #16 and smaller and the maribou material normally used for the abdomen was providing too much flotation. What had been a bonus in the larger version was now a liability in the smaller sizes. What could I change? As I thought about the problem it just seemed natural to substitute a quill body for the maribou and tie a modified Quigley. But would it solve the problem? Several experimental flies later, a few tosses in the glass of water, and I had my answer and a fly that did indeed, dangle at the proper angle. What had I learned? Check my flies. Experiment. Change them when necessary. *Before they leave the bench.*



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| Hook: | Daiichi 1270 #16 |
| Tail: | 3 emu barbs |
| Abdomen: | stripped quill |
| Throat: | clipped deer hair |
| Wing: | deer hair tied forward over the eye |
| Hackle: | grizzly |

After tying in the tail and wrapping the quill, spin a small amount of deer hair and clip to a ball shape. Tie in the wing forward over the eye leaving the butts extending back over the thorax. Wrap the hackle perpendicular around the wing tie-in point.

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