



# The Tippet

January 2000

## President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has had a great holiday season with friends and family. Well, it looks like my turn to be the "Big Cheese" for the new millennium has arrived! I am happy to say that I will be ably assisted by our newly elected Vice President John Tokar who has quickly gained a reputation this past fall as the "Steelhead Stud"! However, as the new team of officers starts in this year, once again we want to honor the past officers who have done so much for the club. Both Denny and Joe have served for a number of years in administrative positions that require work outside of our regular meetings. I also wish to thank our Past-President Jim Palmersheim for all of his hard work this past year. I think Jim did an excellent job of keeping the club informed of important conservation issues, as well as lining up some top notch programs, and I can only hope to come close to the high standard that Jim has set. At the January meeting we will present some small tokens of our gratitude to Jim, Denny, and Joe.

I also would like to remind everyone that this club is yours and that your officers including myself, John, Shirley, Tim, and John are here to serve you. So, if you have suggestions for projects, initiatives, programs, etc., please feel free to catch me at the meetings or contact me via e-mail at [McNeill@mail.wsu.edu](mailto:McNeill@mail.wsu.edu). As our new Conservation Committee Chair, John Read will also be soliciting your suggestions and input regarding conservation issues and initiatives.

For our January program we have Joe Foster from the Washington Department of Fisheries-Region 2 to provide us with an update of new selective gear regulations and steelhead listings, Rocky Ford Creek, and

other waters within the region. When I called Joe, he was more than happy to potentially brave January weather to come speak to the

Club, even though due to his official position, we cannot even pay for his dinner! Something about influencing his stance on fishing issues. Now who would want to do that?!

Brian McNeill

## Backcast (December meeting)

December's speaker was Krista Nichols, a graduate student at WSU School of Biological Sciences. Krista, the first recipient of the Bill Allspach Memorial Scholarship Fund, is working on her dissertation 'Genetics of Rainbow and Steelhead Trout' in Gary Thorgard's lab.

## Guests

Former president of the Clearwater FlyCasters, Gary Thorgard, visited the club along with Krista Nichols. Additional guests included Stan Hendrickson, from Seattle, Josh Holland, son of Dave and Rita Holland, Larry (?) from Missoula, Tom Anderson from Clarkston, Bob Baker, Alice, wife of (?), and Bill Neil were guests of the Clearwater Flycasters at the last meeting. Warren Wright did confess that Bill Neil was the real mover and shaker behind the PBS fly tying series by Dave Engerbretson and Leroy Hyatt.

## Fishing Reports

Stan Hendrickson reported catching four steelhead in the previous two days on the Clearwater using a sink tip and a heavily weighted fly. Details of the type, size and weight of the fly and sink tip type were lost in the ensuing clamor from various club members. Order was slowly restored by outgoing president, Jim Palmersheim, (*very slowly I might add*) with all hope of details being lost.

Dave Tharp reported meeting Dave Yonge and Leroy Hyatt on the Grand Rhode but didn't catch anything. I believe it was something to do with spending all his time trying to find a place to park amongst the throngs of other steelheaders.

In keeping with the spirit of evening of vague fishing reports, John Read told of Dustin fishing a private spring creek in Montana and catching big browns. The emphasis was on PRIVATE!

## Conservation Report

The conservation committee continues to meet the Wednesday after the general club meeting at Rico's in Pullman at 5:30 pm. All are welcome.

Several individuals brought up changes occurring to the Rock Creek area. For more information see the accompanying article from Joe Ford.

## Membership Renewal

Renew your CFC membership by the February 2000 meeting and get your name on raffle board for the 4wt custom-built Bob Clark flyrod. The flyrod will be on display at the January meeting. Bob wanted everyone to know that even though he is known for crafting fine BAMBOO flyrods and even though in the past he has made BAMBOO flyrods, the raffle flyrod will not be a custom-built 4wt BAMBOO rod. Plastic. Bob kept muttering something about plastic. So remember, pay your dues - family

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## Clearwater Flycasters 1999 Officers

President Brian McNeill

Vice-President John Toker

Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Engerbretson

Conservation Chair John Read

FFF Representative George Johnson

Newsletter Editor Tim Cavileer

editor's email: [tcavileer@uidaho.edu](mailto:tcavileer@uidaho.edu)

Virtual Tippet (CFC Website)

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

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



# Clearwater Flycasters PO Box 2149 CS Pullman, WA 99165

memberships will get to put two names on the board - and be here at the February meeting for the drawing!

## New Business

John Toker was elected vice-president for the year 2000. John can be reached at [johntoker@hotmail.com](mailto:johntoker@hotmail.com) 332-6603.

## Raffle

Raffle winners for December included John Read, Jim Palmersheim, Tom Anderson, Jim Siebe, Joe McGurkin, and Mark Clever.

## Auction (Flies by Joe McGurkin)

A beautiful tie clasp and brooch set of Atlantic Salmon patterns ('Nest Egg' and 'Fidelis' respectively) were auctioned at the December meeting and the proceeds donated to the Bill Allspach Memorial Fund. Thanks to long-time Clearwater Flycasters auctioneer Dave Tharp and to John Siebe who made the winning the bid. Special thanks to Joe McGurkin for tying and donating the exquisite gifts.

## Speaker's Notes

Krista Nichols gave a short overview of her proposed research in Gary Thorgard's lab. The basic question she hopes to answer is "What makes a steelhead different from a rainbow". Is it more than just size, color and shape? What are the genetics behind the morphological and physiological changes? Krista emphasized that her project isn't genetic engineering bigger and better steelhead but rather involves the mapping of genes that determine whether a rainbow becomes a steelhead or stays a rainbow?

## ALS Fly Fishing Fundraiser

Dear sir,

I'm running a fly fishing fundraiser for the ALS Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting ALS, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease. As you probably already know, Gary LaFontaine, the fine fly fisherman and author, has been diagnosed with this terrible disease. I'm running the fundraiser in his honor. I independently purchased a Sage RPL+ fly rod which I intended to give away in a raffle type format. Since then, I've received donations from several companies and individuals in the fly fishing industry including additional rods, reels, lines, and clothing. I am writing to you today to see if it would be possible for you to mention this fundraiser at your next meeting, add a link to your website to help me promote this campaign, or even possibly mentioning the fundraiser in any newsletter that you might publish.

The website address for the fundraiser is at:

[www.springcreeks.com/html\\_files/als.htm](http://www.springcreeks.com/html_files/als.htm)

Individuals only need to make a tax deductible (unless they win a prize) donation to the ALS Association of \$10 or more to be entered into the raffle. A \$100 donation gets 15 raffle tickets (5 free). Please ask individuals to name "Gary LaFontaine" as the "honoree" when making donations (you can do so on-line at [www.alsa.org](http://www.alsa.org)). Thanks ahead of time for your consideration in this matter. If you would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

*Tom Chou*

[Tom@mail.intlsensor.com](mailto:Tom@mail.intlsensor.com)

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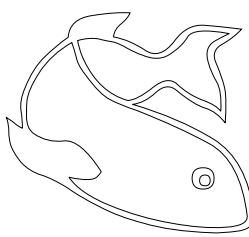
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## Straight from the Tying Bench

### PRACTICE, PROPORTION AND PROCESS Jim Cramer (via FFF Clubwire)

Last time we talked briefly about three important aspects of tying: Quality, Uniformity and Speed. This month we will continue along those lines.

If you really want to improve your tying skills you need to practice, practice and practice. Remember when you were in high school and the coach was trying to teach you a certain drill or special maneuver? You didn't do it once and then go to something else; you did it over and

over until you got it right or he gave up. The same applies to tying practice, you don't go from an Adams to a Humpy to a Pheasant Tail Nymph. Until you really get good you should limit your self to one pattern and one size during any one tying session. Even when you really do get good, you will tie better flies if you stick to one size and one pattern during each session. That doesn't mean that you can't change colors if you want a variety of Woolly Buggers, just keep them all the same size.



Before you start you need to clear the deck. The only tools and material that should be in front of you are those you need

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(*Practice, Proportion and Process continued*)

for the task at hand. Think for a moment about the tying process and place those items that you use the most at the most convenient spot to pick up yet out of the way enough that you won't accidentally knock it off the work surface. Hooks, for example, which you need only once per fly can be placed in the upper left corner of the work surface, out of the way but accessible. Dubbing and wax should be side by side so as you put one down the other is right next to it. Hey! You're getting to be a real efficiency expert. Don't forget the hackles that you sorted after last months advice (you did sort them didn't you?). If you didn't then pluck and gage enough for this session now and put them in a pile.

As you tie, try to get in the habit of always returning the tools and material to the same spot on the work surface. I know it sounds fuddy now and seems like it is going to take all the fun out of it and turn it into work. Trust me on this, once the habit is formed life will be simpler. A great deal of time can be wasted looking for that next piece of material that you just used minutes before. One of the most visible aspects of quality is proportion, which is the relative size of the individual parts to one another. Hackle and/or wings that are too long or too short throw the fly out of balance and make it look awkward. This is probably more noticeable on dry flies than for wets and nymphs. The length of the various parts is usually expressed as a function of the hook gape or shank length. The problem is that shape of the bend on some hooks makes the length of the shank hard to determine. Also the vise is covering the gape so it is not clearly visible. The solution is to make a mark on your vise or at the edge of your work surface to measure the materials against.

One of the first problems most novice tiers have is the handling of materials. They may get through the stacking and the measuring and then everything seems to go to hell when they start transferring the material back and forth

between their hands before tying it down. Let me walk you through the process. Assume that we are tying in a hackle fiber tail and that we have determined that the tail should be 3/4 inch long beyond the tie-in point. First make a mark 3/4 inch from the edge of your workstation on the right side. Now select a spade hackle, the ones along the side of the neck with the longest fibers. Align the ends of the fibers and holding the tips in your left thumb and forefinger cut or strip them from the quill. Grasp the butt end of the fibers with your right thumb and forefinger without mis-aligning the tips. Now measure and adjust your pinch spot against the mark you made on the work surface. Adjust so that your thumbnail is against the work surface edge and the tips are at the mark. Now transfer the fibers back to your left hand by touching your thumb and forefinger together as you pinch with your left hand. This preserves the measure point. Your tying thread should have been at point where you want the tail tied down. Place your left hand over the hook with your thumbnail at the exact tie-in point. If you position the fibers to your side of the hook and at a slight angle the torque of the thread will roll them to the top of the shank. Make the first wrap of thread by letting it slide down your thumbnail. Following wraps should be towards the eye of the hook. All of this is easier done than said. More on tails another time.

## Announcements

Renew your CFC Y2K membership by February 2000 and get a free chance at a custom-built Bob Clark 4wt graphite fly rod.

*Twin River Anglers winter shop hours.* I thought maybe I should let you know that I will again be going to winter hours from January to April. Our winter hours will be Tues-Fri 9-6 and Sat 9-5, closed Sunday and Monday. We will reopen on Mondays in May. We hate to see folks come all the way down here expecting us to be open, but always enjoy seeing our friends from the frigid north country. -Joe Norton

A special thanks to Shermers for the delicious fudge provided to CFC members at the December meeting!

Alan Berryman is looking for good photos to put on his website (<http://esa.palouse.net/steelhead>) that celebrate the steelhead and those who fish for them. Alan can be contacted at [berryman@turbonet.com](mailto:berryman@turbonet.com)

Get all the latest in salmon conservation news by subscribing to Idaho Rivers United Salmon and Steelhead Bulletin at <http://www.idahorivers.org>.

## Upcoming Events

- \*January 12, 2000 Monthly Meeting at Shermers, Pullman, WA
- \*January 20-22, 2000 Tri-Cities Sportmans Show, TRAC For more info: Jim Saunders (509) 586-1226
- \*February 9-13, 2000 International Sportsmen's Expo, Seattle, WA
- \*February 10, 2000 Public Hearing on the Army Corp of Engineers 'Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/ Environmental Impact Statement', Lewiston, Idaho. Time and place to be announced.
- \*February 19, 2000 Burgers and Flies, Moscow, Idaho
- \*March 25, 2000 NW Fly Tying Expo, Eugene, OR
- \*April 14-15, 2000 7th Annual East Idaho Fly Tying Expo, Idaho Falls, Idaho

## Conservation News

Idaho Fish and Games proposes to raise licensing fees for the year 2000 with the bulk of increases effecting Idaho residents. Fishing and combination licenses would be as follows:

► The season fishing license goes up \$5 for residents and \$16.50 for nonresidents. Short-term fishing licenses go up \$3 for the first day and \$1 for each consecutive day.

► The resident combination license goes from \$21.50 to \$30.50 and a new nonresident combination license is proposed at \$175.50.

► The senior combination license remains the same at \$4.50.

► The popular sportsman's pak increases \$17 to \$107 saving the buyer 38% over buying the items individually.

For more information see:  
<http://www.state.id.us/fishgame/fecintro.htm>



Idaho Fish and Game's five year Fisheries Management Plan is up for review this year. The 1996-2000 plan can be found at <http://www.state.id.us/fishgame/fishplan.htm>. This would be an excellent opportunity to give IDFG input and to advocate for managing more for wild trout - especially where native trout are threatened by stocking practices as seen on the St. Joe River.



The US Army Corp of Engineers Walla Walla District released its Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/ Environmental Impact Statement in December 1999. The document, in its entirety can be viewed at:

<http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/>

The EIS represents more than 4 years of work by Pacific Northwest scientists, engineers, and technical staff. The Bonneville Power Administration, the

Bureau of Reclamation, and the Environmental Protection Agency were cooperating agencies in developing the report. Other Federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, provided essential input. There was also participation by regional scientists and stakeholders.

The Corps operates four dams within a 140-mile stretch of the lower Snake River Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose, and Lower Granite dams. This document explores the four alternatives for improving salmon migration through those dams: 1) continue the existing dam conditions, 2) maximize transportation of juvenile salmon, 3) make major system improvements, and 4) breach the dams.

This summary document presents an overview of the technical, environmental, and economic effects of the four alternatives. A public hearing is scheduled in Lewiston, Idaho on Feb 10, 2000.

## Meet the new Vice-president, John Toker

At the last meeting John Toker was elected as our new vice-president and I thought it might be nice for everyone to get to know him a little better.

John tells me that he started flyfishing and tying at age 11 and has since flyfished from coast to coast and from Florida to N. Canada. His two obsessions are steelhead (*see the evidence below!*) and spring creeks, but he loves throwing a fly to anything that swims. Everything from Musky and sharks to flounder and panfish.

John is no stranger to the rigors of running a flyfishing club, having founded the Penn State Flyfishing Club, which is 70 members strong and focus' on teaching all facets of flyfishing.

John also became a certified guide and instructor in 1997 and has suffered through the joys of commercial tying over the past several years. He enjoys sharing time on the river and teaching others at least as much as his own time alone on the water (he says he'll always be a guide at heart!) and is looking forward to exploring this region further and getting to know everyone.

Finally, John says that the best place to reach him is on the Clearwater - just ask his significant other!



## Escure Ranch - Rock Creek Area Update - by Joe Ford

Cliff Ligons, Border Resource Area Field Manager for the Spokane Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office and Joyce Whitney, BLM wildlife biologist, talked to the Whitman County Sportsmen about the Escure/Rock Creek Ranch acquisition, on October 27th. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Spokane District Office, recently completed a land exchange resulting in the transfer of the Escure Ranch from private to public ownership. The Escure Ranch is located on the Adams-Whitman County line, south of Lamont, Washington. This Unit is now known as the BLM Escure Ranch

(Rock Creek Area) Management Unit.

Beginning Tuesday, October 19, 1999, the Escure Ranch Management Unit will be open for public recreational use.

Interim management is in effect until permanent measures are implemented to provide long-term management and protection. Special restrictions on overnight use, campfires, charcoal fires and motorized vehicles apply. Visitors should check the annual Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations for specific information on hunting and fishing. Special restrictions are in effect to promote wildlife-based recreation, improve riparian and wetland conditions and to protect important natural habitats. For more information call the Bureau of Land Management at 509-536-1200 or write to BLM, Border Resource Area, 1103 N. Fancher Road, Spokane, Washington, 99212-1275 or stop by the BLM, Spokane District Office located at the above address between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The Escure Ranch/ Rock Creek Property (it has had various working names, including Towell Falls property) consists of about 13,000 acres of shrub-steppe straddling the Adams/Whitman County line, south of Revere and Lamont. The

parcel includes Wall Lake and Perch Lake, as well as about eight miles of Rock Creek, and is illustrated on page 72 of the Washington State Atlas and Gazetteer. Among the scenic attractions are Towell Falls, an modest but attractive waterfall during spring runoff. Cultural features include stone fences built during the property's history as a sheep ranch.

The terrain is typical of the eastern edge of the scablands, with rock outcrops, potholes and cheatgrass. Mule deer, waterfowl, and hungarian partridge are common, and both rainbow and brown trout are found in Rock Creek and Wall Lake. The BLM biologists are interested in working with sportsmen's organizations to do creel and flushing surveys of the wildlife resources.

According to Ms. Whitney, the area is now open to limited public access for hunting, hiking and horseback riding, with a 2-mile access road from the Jordan-Knott Road into the Escure farmhouse. Several pull-off parking areas with outhouses and information kiosks exist or are being developed along this access.

Ms. Whitney gave the WCSA a 45 minute slide presentation about the BLM purchase of the property, the fish and wildlife opportunities on it, and the BLM's plans for managing the resource. There may

be opportunities for sportsmen groups to give input and help with habitat improvement projects.

Maps are available from the Bureau of Land Management office in Spokane (phone 509-536-1200). For more information on Fishtrap or other BLM administered lands, please contact the Border Resource Area Office at 1103 N. Fancher, Spokane, Washington 99212, (509) 536-1200. CFC member John Kramer also informs us that the maps can be found on the World Wide Web. Escure Ranch overview and site map are available as downloadable pdf documents at: [www.blm.gov/Spokane/planningdocs/escure/veg/appendix\\_a.htm](http://www.blm.gov/Spokane/planningdocs/escure/veg/appendix_a.htm)

News releases and Escure environmental assessments can be viewed online at:

[www.blm.gov/Spokane/news/00\\_02.htm](http://www.blm.gov/Spokane/news/00_02.htm)

And

[www.blm.gov/Spokane/planningdocs/escure/ea\\_escure.htm](http://www.blm.gov/Spokane/planningdocs/escure/ea_escure.htm), respectively.

Other BLM properties in the area, of interest to anglers, include Fishtrap and Hog Canyon lakes.

Joe Ford recommends that our conservation committee get in touch with the BLM folks this winter to plan some projects for next year!



"No wonder this stopped working...  
It's a Y2K Bug!"

*(used by permission)*

## Fly of the Month--Lady Caroline

-by Brian McNeill

The Lady Caroline is an old traditional Spey Fly that still is in use today for Salmon, Steelhead, and Sea Run Cutthroat. This fly was named after Lady Caroline Gordon-Lennox, daughter of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon at Gordon Castle. I really like the blend of the natural colors in the Lady Caroline. Steelhead flyfishers seem to like the movement that this Spey Fly demonstrates in slower flows and often use it as a “follow-up” fly after initially rising, but not hooking a fish.

Tying instructions:

Tie in the red golden pheasant fibers for a tail, and the oval and flat tinsels. Dub the body up about to the middle of the shank and tie in a blue eared pheasant hackle by the tip. Wind up five turns of the flat gold tinsel and follow with the blue eared pheasant. Cross wind five turns of the oval silver tinsel in the opposite direction of the gold tinsel “locking in” the stem of the blue eared pheasant hackle but still allowing the fibers to flow outwards. Tie in a red golden pheasant body hackle and pull down to the sides. Tie in two slips of bronze mallard and make a small head.



### Lady Caroline

Hook:	Alec Jackson Spey, sizes 7 to 3/O
Thread:	Black
Tail:	Red Golden Pheasant body feather
Ribbing:	Flat Gold and Oval Silver tinsel
Body:	Olive-Brown wool or dubbing (seal or seal substitute)
Hackle:	Blue-eared Pheasant
Throat:	Red Golden Pheasant body feather
Wings:	Bronze Mallard

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