



# The Tippet

March 2000

## President's Message

Judging by the lack of fishing reports last month, indeed it appears that we are at that slow time of the year. Never fear, however, spring is just around the corner and the Lake season will be starting soon. So, for our March presentation, we have Keith Hurdstrom of Cascade Springs Fly Fishing in Oswego, Oregon who will be presenting on their program of private lakes in central Oregon, and southwestern Montana. To get us tuned up for the upcoming season, I have asked Keith to cover lake fishing techniques, equipment, and flies. Keith is a former Moscow resident that some of you may know, and he is very much looking forward to a visit back home. Cascade Springs also offers an overseas program on the central coastline of Belize, and Keith will also introduce these fishing opportunities for those of us who like to make periodic winter excursions. Bob Harwood -- are you back in town yet?!

If you read the papers, you cannot miss the issues currently surrounding the survival of the Snake River Salmon and Steelhead. While I would encourage everyone to take a personal stand on this issue, as a Club, I believe we also need to provide input in regards to our collective stand on this issue. Our Conservation Committee and Board recently discussed these and other conservation issues and we will be soliciting input from the membership at our March meeting.

Also, don't forget that in March we will be raffling off the Bob Clark 4 weight Rod for those of you who have remembered to pay your dues. Last call will be the March meeting! Don't forget the raffle for the trip on the Henry's Fork of the Snake being offered by the Snake River Cutthroats Club. Shirley has the tickets. Finally, I will be looking for some donations of flies tied by

members of the club to send off to the Federation Jamboree that Jerry McBride talked to us about at the last meeting. We will also have some discounted memberships for those who would like to join the Federation and be eligible for a raffle for a Thomas and Thomas 9 foot five weight rod.

*Brian McNeill*

## Backcast (February meeting)

### Guests

Eric Norstrom from the Evergreen Fly Fisher Club and Zac from Kelly Creek Flycasters visited at the last meeting. There were also a lot of valentines sporting those red, white and pink carnation corsages.

### Fishing reports

It must be really cold out since there were no reports to speak of, unless you "swallowed your pride" as one member put it! I don't think I want to know. Personally, I opted for time at the tying bench and a copy of Datus Proper's "What The Trout Said".

### Old Business

Membership dues. A drawing for the Bob Clark fly rod will be held at the March meeting. You can't get on the board unless you're paid. Along that same vein, if you're not current on dues this is your last Tippet.

Upper Snake River Cutthroat raffle tickets are available from Shirley Engerbretson. \$10 a chance for that 5 days/ 6 nights guided fishing trip for two on the South Fork, Henry's Fork and Teton Rivers with Lodging at Last Chance Lodge. Drawing to be held April 15th, 2000 at the 7th Annual East Idaho Fly Tying Exposition in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

### New Business

Jim Siebe (jsiebe@moscow.com) was unanimously elected Conservation Chair. Dates were set for the spring and summer

fishouts at Amber Lake (April 29, 2000) and on the St. Joe River (July 14 - 16, 2000).

Dave Engerbrestson presented Brian McNeill with the Sherm Lowell President's Award. Sherm Lowell, one of the original founding members and the club's first president graciously donated one of Steve Allured's scrimshawed bolo ties depicting a jumping trout. The president will be required to wear the tie at all official club functions as a symbol of his power and authority. Because Brian was out of the room at the time of Dave's presentation, the award was graciously accepted by his wife, Kiko. When presented with the tie Brian was heard to exclaim, "What happened?".

Jerry McBride, president of the Washington State Council of Federation of Fly Fishers, traveled from Spokane to talk to the club about the wealth of opportunities in all aspects of fly fishing provided by the FFF. Those opportunities are probably best summed up in the FFF moto "Conserving Restoring Educating

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### Clearwater Flycasters 1999 Officers

*President* Brian McNeill

*Vice-President* John Tokar

*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)

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





(Gene Trump cartoon - used by permission)

## Book Review - by Don Shearer

### Home Waters: Fishing with an Old Friend

By Joseph Monninger

Chronicle Books, San Francisco, CA, 1999

190 pages, hardcover, \$22.95, ISBN: 0811822842

I must confess that I knew that I was going to like this book prior to reading it. The book deals with two of my favorite things, bird dogs and fly fishing. The basic story in Home Waters is the author finds lumps on his golden retriever's, Nellie, stomach and legs. He has her veterinarian remove the lumps but refuses to have them biopsied. Choosing not to know how bad the diagnosis maybe. He decides instead to make a trek out west so Nellie can one last time run along the streams they had fished together in the past.

The book could have easily fallen into a mushy babble about his dog. Fortunately, he skillfully avoids this trap as he narrates Nellie and his fishing trip through the west. It is evident throughout the book how much his dog means to him and how he came to realize this. "Before that moment, before having Nellie in bed beside me, I admit I had taken her, if not granted, at least as an immutable part of my life... Suddenly that presence was in jeopardy. I knew lying next to her, that I was frightened for myself at least as much as for Nellie."

From reading the book I got the impression that Monninger does not take his fishing too seriously. Fishing is just one of his excuses to get into the type of environment where trout live. If you have ever shared a special bond with a dog you will enjoy this book. This one easily passes the ultimate book test.

Through Fly Fishing". Jerry also re- enumerated the importance of supporting the FFF both at the club and individual level and encouraged all club members to join the FFF. After Jerry's presentation a motion was made and seconded that the club buy a block of 12 prepaid individual memberships for \$348 in order to take advantage of the fly rod incentive program offered by FFF. Details of who, what, where and when the rod would be raffled were deferred to the board/conservation committee.

### Raffle

Raffle winners at the February meeting included Jim Siebe, Tom Weber, Andy Kleinhof, Jim Palmersheim and Craig Lannihan.

### Speaker's Notes

Jim Palmersheim gave a fantastic slide show on the history, inspiration and motivations behind his many artistic endeavors. Jim started off his presentation with several studies in lithograph and took us through a lifetime of his art from his college days back east up to the present. As Jim pointed out, it wasn't until he moved away from the west that he became aware of the lure and pull of the western landscape with its wide open spaces. That homecoming, both physically and mentally, eventually became the focus of many of his paintings. Jim kept us awed and longing for those great outdoor spaces.

Great job Jim!

*Tim Cavileer*



## Conservation Committee Report



*Submitted by Jim Siebe, Conservation Chair*

The Clearwater Flycasters Conservation Committee met at Ricco's on Wednesday, February 16, 2000. Seven members attended, but minutes were not taken. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- 1) Discussion was had concerning the club's support for the Idaho Fish and Game's proposed license fee increase presented to the 2000 Legislature. The bill has been tabled in committee. However, it was decided that Marv Slind would write (as an Idaho resident) in support of said proposition;
- 2) Discussion was also had concerning nomination of an individual to sit as Eastern Washington representative on the citizen's advisory panel for the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFEG), pursuant to advertisement by WDFW. It was agreed that we would contact George Hinman and offer our endorsement should he be interested in making application. [Jim Siebe made the contact and George graciously agreed]; and
- 3) Discussion was had relative to the club's directive that we set forth particulars concerning the agreed upon purchase of 12 memberships in the FFF, in accordance with an offer where under we will be given a prize to dispose of as we see fit. We agreed to attempt to sell said memberships within our club and elected to order the 5 wt. 9 foot rod as consideration for acceptance of the offer. It was further agreed that we would raffle it off at an upcoming meeting, giving one ticket to every current FFF member and two tickets to each new member.

*Jim Siebe*



## Meet the Secretary

Our new treasurer, Shirley Engerbretson, now considers herself a true Idahoan, after having moved to Idaho nearly 29 years ago. Originally from Michigan, she says she wouldn't go back there to live if you gave her the state! Shirley has worked in the Administrative Offices of the Moscow School District for 28 years.

She developed an interest in fly fishing when she married Dave in 1981. She had done other types of fishing before that, so being on a stream or a lake was not new to her. So, it seemed to her that getting to go a lot of great places with Dave and meeting a lot of nice people, was tied into Dave's love of the sport. Over the years, she has been salmon fishing in Alaska, twice, to the FFF Conclave a number of times, fished Armstrong Spring Creek in Montana, as well as many other great places. The fish she is holding in the picture was caught on a cold, rainy day in a private lake in northeastern Washington state. Her pride and joy, however, was the first rainbow (a 14-incher) she caught by herself on Rock Creek in Montana, while Dave was around the bend. That cinched her love of the sport, and prepared her for many happy years of fishing adventures.

And you think some folks have too much time...

by Tim Cavileer

I'll admit that I'm taken in by some of the fly fishing catalogs from time to time. From the glossy Orvis to the "no-frill" Hook and Hackle catalog, I love armchair shopping for everything I could ever want for fly fishing. When the Cabela's Fly Fishing 2000 arrived the other day I immediately had to thumb through and find that 5 piece combo rod that was auctioned at Burgers and Flies. There it was along with the fleece wading pants, the Outcast Pac 9 pontoon boat, the Three Forks II fishing vest, the GORE-TEX Wading jacket and the fly tying standard tool kit that my daughter wanted. I was lost in it for days!

And rod building. I was able to spend countless hours contemplating the vagaries of reel seats, inserts, snake eyes, rod wraps and dozens of grip styles. It's enough to take my breath away. Fortunately, most of the time I get a reality check when I start contemplating the cost of my unfettered imagination. It's usually about then that I slowly set the catalog down, back away from the pile and carefully return the MasterCard to my wallet.

But that's when I saw it. It was right there on page 25 of the Kaufmann's Streamborn catalog. Custom color reels. This was "honest-to-goodness" "lay-me-down-on-the-beach" artistically anodized "Camo Coral". Each reel is individually anodized so no two are exactly alike! I just had to have it. I could just see me styling on the St Joe this summer. Now, if I could only get that option on my old Pflueger. No cutthroat's going to spot my reel as I lay out 40 ft of line against those crystal clear Carribean-like waters. No sir. Sign me up for a matching T-shirt. And all for a mere \$124 in addition to the cost of the Abel reel. Sell the farm. Cash in the Beanie Babies. This is one blue light special I just can't resist.

## Announcements

- 2000 Membership Dues. Last chance to renew this year's membership and still get a shot at the Bob Clark 4 wt rod. Raffle to be held at the March meeting. In addition, this will be the last Tippet for those members not paid by the March meeting!
- 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.

## Upcoming Events

- March 8, 2000** Clearwater Flycasters meeting, Shermer's Restaurant, Pullman, WA
- March 25, 2000** NW Fly Tying Expo, Eugene, OR
- April 14-15, 2000** 7th Annual East Idaho Fly Tying Expo, Idaho Falls, Idaho
- April 29, 2000** Amber Lake Fishout
- 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](mailto:thunder@clarkston.com)



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## Fly of the Month--the Halloweener

- Submitted by Dave Ting

I first learned of the Halloween fishing at Henry's Lake in 1994. In Bill Schiess's book "Fishing Henry's Lake" he takes credit for developing the fly in the early 80's. Byron White of Rexburg is given credit for naming it at that time. Since I learned this pattern from a friend in Pocatello, Idaho, I asked him (Rex Fprce) to explain its background. I guess you can call ours the HALLOWEENER since it's a bit different from the original Halloween fly.

The story goes like this:

I accidentally bought orange and OLIVE variegated chenille back in '94. I tied a bunch of flies up and they really did well. I think that this pattern out-fishes the traditional, but it's hard to tell since I fish with the new model almost all the time. We have caught many rainbows in SE Idaho reservoirs (Chesterfield, Daniels, Twenty-four Mile, and Treasureton) as well as cutthroats and hybrids at Henry's Lake. The fly has also produced very well at Yellowstone Lake. I haven't fished it much in streams, but it could be used as a streamer pattern for brownish bait fish or as a crayfish imitation. I've often wondered if it isn't taken for a crayfish, but haven't ever seen crayfish in any of these lakes. It's been the "fly-of-the-year" for a group of us in SE Idaho twice since '94.

Since I fish it with a sinking line most of the time, I don't weight it ... but you certainly can. I've also tied them with a new holographic fly fiber that is 3-D in place of the root beer flash and had great success!

The only thing that I would add, for relevance to N. Idaho, is that I have had success with it at Winchester Lake, Elk Creek Reservoir and Amber Lake (WA) every time I've used it.



Hook: Size #8 3X long streamer  
Thread: Black  
Tail: Black marabou feather; 6-8 strands of root beer Krystal Flash  
Body: Orange and dark olive variegated chenille  
Hackle: Brown hackle, palmered

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