



May 2000

President's Message

Well, spring has finally arrived, and judging from the recent Fishout at Amber Lake, the fishing season is starting out hot! We hit a beautiful (opening) day, and had a good turnout of club members. I'll leave it to the next meeting to get fishing reports from John Read, Dave Tharp, Craig Lanigan *et al.* I know I heard them comparing numbers ... I mean notes over hamburgers during our lunch break!

During my tenure as Vice-Prez and now as Prez, I have had a number of requests to have a representative of the Nez Perce Tribe in to talk to the Club about fishing and conservation issues that have an impact on all of us. Well, ask and ye shall receive! I am very pleased that our speaker this month will be Cylus Whitman of the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries. Cy heads up the Tribe's educational programs and will be giving us some updates on Steelhead and Salmon introduction and recovery efforts, as well as restoration efforts concerning Westslope Cutthroat on the North Fork of the Clearwater. I am sure that Cy will be willing to answer questions on just about anything else, so come prepared.

Don't forget that we also have a very nice Thomas and Thomas 9 foot 5 weight rod ready to raffle off for current FFF members, as well as those joining through the Club by the time of the next meeting. See Shirley to join at the beginning of the next meeting to get a shot at this. The odds look pretty good!

Brian McNeill



Backcast (April meeting)

Guests

Welcome to new member Robert Wielgus of Pullman. Special guests at the April meeting included Susan Jenkins (USFS Slate Creek Project), Kaye McGehee, Brian Jones, and Harry and Joel Turtle.

Fishing reports

You can sure tell the weather is warming up. Lots of reports at the April meeting. Probably the most unusual was Gary Evers trip to Cold Water Lake in Portland, OR. Cold Water Lake has a large ash cone in the middle of the lake compliments of the eruption of Mt St. Helens some 20 years ago. Float tubes were the order of the day for fishing in that unusual spot and football shaped trout the rewards. Alan Berryman fished the Skagit River but reported getting 'not a pull'. Dave Engerbretson and Jim Palmersheim were stumped on 'Frenchman's Pond' by unusual activity of 1/2 to 3/4 " damsels. Seems that neither of them could account for the bizarre activity and deferred analysis to Shirley who correctly identified lake turnover as the probably source. Dave Yonge did some flats fishing in Florida but only saw the fish swimming away from the boat. Dave Tharp finished up the reports by saying the Clark Fork was in good shape with ample gray drake hatches but little in the way of skwalas. Dries were not all that productive and instead the fish were partial to bead head nymphs, atomic worms and black bugs.

New Business

Shirley reported five new club members joined FFF and took advantage of the club sponsored membership. The club still has seven memberships left. Each new member will receive two chances for the Thomas and Thomas rod raffle in May and renewing members will receive one.

Susan Jenkins (bliss@micron.net) gave a slide presentation on the USFS Ragg Station Rehabilitation Project in the Gospel Hump Wilderness area of Idaho. The Forest Service

will be hosting a series of four Rockwork Skills Clinics designed to give participants hands-on experience in stream and trail restoration using native rock on Slate Creek. The workshops, running from June 25th to September 30th, could serve as potential conservation opportunities for club involvement.

Raffle

Raffle winners were George Hinman picking up flies tied Bob Clark, James Foster winning tying thread and recipes (from Gary and Sylvia Evers' gourmet dinner donated during the club auction) and Gary Evers winning several spools of tying thread.

Speakers' Notes

At the last meeting Dave Engerbretson and Bob Clark presented talks on the beauty, mystique and crafting of bamboo flyrods. Both talks could have easily captivated the audience for the entire night!

Tim Cavileer

Clearwater Flycasters 1999 Officers

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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)

Grandpa's Old Rod Dave Engebretson

I have no idea how many times it has happened to me over the years, but it has happened many, many times. The phone rings, and, after a brief introduction, a stranger's voice says, "I understand you know something about bamboo rods."

"Well, a little, I guess."

"I have an old cane rod of my grandpa's, and I wonder if it's worth anything?"

There are slight variations in the conversations. Sometimes it's an old rod that was bought at a garage sale, and sometimes it's a rod that Dad brought back from Japan after the war. But in all cases, the caller wants answers to any or all of the questions: does the rod have value; can I fish with it; or can it be restored?

There are just enough true stories circulating of old bamboo fly rods that have sold for several thousand dollars, so everyone believes that all old bamboo rods are worth a lot of money. This seems to be especially true of the bargain hunters who believe they have made a killing when they pick up an old rod at a garage sale for a few dollars, and they plan to re-sell it for hundreds or even thousands of dollars. Or, on the other hand, there are those who paid a fairly high price for an old rod, and want to know whether they got their money's worth. But one thing is for certain. Most people firmly believe that all old cane rods are valuable.

Would that such was the case. Unfortunately, the sad fact is that out of all of the old rods that I have inspected over the years, only two of them were truly valuable, and a very few others might have been worth up to \$300. In most cases, Grandpa's old -

Dreamers

Often it is said that people should live each day as it comes - as a capsule insulated against past pain and future anxiety. For the fisherman this is a difficult philosophy to adopt. We are dreamers. Our sustenance is derived from memories of the past and visions of tomorrow. It is easy for us to let the inner mind wander back - back - back, to placid streams or crashing rivers; to campfires under star-flecked skies; to tight lines and broken leaders. Almost always it is these past experiences, fired with a large measure of optimism, that we use to conjure up impending adventures.

For many of us, there is no time like early spring to stimulate our anglers dream cycle into high gear. Late winter edges farther and farther away and is supplanted by greener signs. Yellow skunks appear in the black muck, the dun shaded heron starts it's ritual flights, a cock pheasant crows from afar and pink petals dot the new green of salmonberry thickets.

Pushed by the hurrying presence of our surroundings, winter's fancies become realities of spring and summer. Our waders are cool and wet, the oars are creaking and the wrist works out a long line.

Seldom do our fancies exactly match the events. Dream fish are different from those in the net. No matter! Doing succeeds dreaming. Then the cycle repeats. The process sustains us through strife and hurt.

Anglers are fortunate people.

(by Pete Caverhill of the Osprey FlyFishers of Vancouver, BC for the FFF ClubWire Email NewsWire)

Conservation Committee Report



Submitted by Jim Siebe, Conservation Chair

The Conservation Committee met at Ricco's on Wednesday, April 19, 2000. Eleven members were in attendance, in addition to Susan Jenkins., who spoke at our last meeting and who came to elaborate on the Ragg Trail project for Slate Creek.

In accordance with the general informality of such meetings, no attendance or minutes were taken and no formal agenda was presented. The group went into executive session to discuss an unreportable matter (see us at the next meeting) and then concluded with discussion concerning the Slate Creek project.

It was moved, seconded and passed that we present the club with two alternative approaches to the Ragg Trail matter. Both recommendations entail formal club support for the project. The first alternative envisions actual club participation (beyond money and lip service) in facilitating sign up and club participation at a particular time. The second involves encouraging individual members to make contact and sign up as they are able to participate in the project.

Jim Siebe

(Grandpa's Rod first appeared in the Home News on 12/6/99. Reprinted by permission of the author. More info can be found on classic cane rods at <http://www.gorp.com/bamboo.htm>)

(Continued on next page)

- bamboo fly rod may well have personal value as a family heirloom, but as a collector's item, it probably has little value. But there are exceptions, though, and these are what keep our hopes alive.

For many years, say from the late 1800's into the early 1950's when fiberglass was discovered to be a good rod making material, split bamboo was the rod making material of choice. Thousands of mass produced "production rods" were built under a wide variety of corporate and private labels. There are many of these rods still around, and in general, they have very little value to the serious collector. Also, at the end of WWII, many GI's returned from Japan with bamboo fly rods made in the Orient. These rods can be readily identified. They usually came in long, rectangular wooden boxes, the rods themselves often had thread spiral-wound along their entire length, or sometimes in a series of intermediate wraps between the line guides. They usually had reversible handles which allowed the rod to be used either as a fly rod or as a spinning rod.

There are still many of these Japanese rods around, and they quite often turn up at garage sales. The tapers, workmanship and fittings are of poor quality, they are generally heavy and they don't cast particularly well. Probably the only reason for buying one is if you have need of the wooden box which is also of rather poor quality, by the way. If you spend more than a couple of bucks on one of these rods, you've been taken. I believe they sold new in Japan for about \$3 after the war.

The classic collectable bamboo rods that are valuable are those made by a limited number of individual craftsmen between the mid-1800's and roughly the mid-1970's. These are the rods by such men as Leonard, Gillum, Payne, Garrison, Dickerson, Young, Edwards, Uslan and a number of others. Several of the "production rods" by Montague, Granger, Orvis, and others may also be of value.

It should be noted, though, that many outstanding split cane fly rods are still being made today by a legion of dedicated craftsmen, and home builders. The quality of these rods may even exceed the quality of the old classics. These modern rods often sell for well over \$1000, and people wait in line to get them. I suspect that more fine cane rods are being built today than at any other time in history.

Wild Trout Symposium

Along with all the major fishery agencies, the Federation of Fly Fishers and Trout Unlimited are cosponsors of the Wild Trout Symposiums. These international Wild Trout Symposiums, originated in 1974, provide a forum for professional wild trout biologists and fishery conservationists to interact, to get to know each other in an enjoyable informal setting, and to be exposed to the latest wild trout status, science, technology and philosophy. These conferences equip participants to better preserve and restore this magnificent but declining resource. They focus on the needs of working level wild trout professionals and conservationists, and provide otherwise very difficult learning experiences.

Wild Trout VII will be held October 1-4, 2000 at Old Faithful Lodge in Yellowstone National Park, WY. We would like to encourage participation by the maximum possible number of fly fishers. You are all invited to attend in the grandeur of this fantastic environment.

Complete details including registration are available at:

<http://www.montana.com/wildtrout/>

Please circulate this information to friends, media, knowledgeable guides, notables, industry representatives and your wild trout biologists. Plan on joining us at WT-VII.

Marty Seldon

(Marty is a FFF Senior Advisor and longtime FFF representative to the Wild Trout Symposium)

Upcoming Events

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

July 12, 2000 Clearwater Flycasters Annual BBQ, 6:30 pm, Sunnyside Park, Pullman, WA. Contact Dave Tharp at 332-2314 for more info.

July 14-16, 2000 St. Joe Fishout, Fly Flat Campground

August 1-5, 2000 International Fly Fishing Show, Livingston, MT. The FFF Show 2000 is on-line, with information on all your favorite tyers, workshops and seminars, as well as where to stay and where to fish in Livingston, Montana at <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/show2000/> You can register on-line to make sure you get into your favorite workshop.

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--Wright's Royal



By Tim Cavileer

A friend and I were tying together a few weeks back when he let on that this was one of his favorite flies for use on the St Joe. It's a great looking fly that combines the durability and floating qualities of elk hair with the time proven attractor 'Royal' combination of peacock and red floss. However, I've never really been satisfied with my abilities to wrap peacock and was hesitant to try tying it.

Fortunately, about that time I watched an Alec Jackson tying video and picked up a few handy tips for improving my tying. One such tip was the use of a dubbing tool or 'Shepherd's Crook' to wind materials when tying with peacock or ostrich herl. It was amazing to watch Alec wrap materials (even floss and wire) on to his hooks using this simple device. The man simply hates chenille and uses this tool to make far superior replacements. I didn't have one so I went out to the garage and found a short dowel and cup hook to make one. The Wright's Royal was the perfect fly to try it out on.

After dressing the hook with thread, make a 4" loop of thread at the rear of the hook and tie in 3 strands of peacock herl. Clamp the ends of the herl and thread loop in your hackle pliers and spin using the dubbing tool. Twist until the flue of the herl stands out at right angles. Then take a few turns of the peacock around the hook and tie off. From there continue on with floss, more peacock rope, elk hair wing and hackle. As I said earlier, it's a great looking fly and an amazingly simple with the right technique and tool.



Hook:	dry fly #12-16
Thread:	black, 6/0
Body:	peacock herl and red floss
Wing:	light elk
Hackle:	brown, palmered
Throat:	peacock herl

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