



The Tippet

November 2000

President's Message

Well, I guess I just have Steelhead on the brain! To me there is nothing in fly fishing like the strike and run of a wild Steelhead on the end of that line. Given the height of the season and the numbers of fish in our local waters, your Prez experienced a mini hot streak for a few outings that was quickly broken by a trip to the Clearwater. Nonetheless, Steelhead fishing is a challenge, and mine will be to get a big B-run fish sometime this season on the Clearwater. Now, my challenge, mind you, is practically an everyday occurrence for your Vice-Prez John Toker. As a result, our newsletter editor Tim Cavileer came up with the great idea (he has most of them around here) of taking advantage of the expertise of our local Steelhead experts and will be asking some of you to contribute to a column for future newsletters focusing on both basic and advanced techniques for fly fishing for Steelhead. I hope this will be helpful for those of you just getting started, as well as perhaps sharing some new techniques for those who are more advanced. Contact Tim if you would like to contribute.

Another item on my agenda in this lifetime is a trip to British Columbia for Steelhead. Since it may take a few years to get on this one, I can only line up the next best option. That is Steve Pettit for our November multimedia presentation on Fishing BC waters for Steelhead. Steve will also answer questions later regarding the State of Idaho's current plans to save our steelhead. So, be prepared to have Steelhead on the brain and experience a great November program. Hope to see everyone there.

Brian McNeill

Backcast (October meeting)

Guests

October guests included Rick Markley of Moscow (guest of Tony McDonnell) and Roy Vandenburg, an agricultural extension agent from Yakima (guest of George Johnson). Charlie Powell invited his fly fishing class from WSU but lamented the notable absence of students, save regular CFC member Don Shearer.

Fishing Reports

Marv sent a report of his only fishing outing thus far, less than 5 minutes from his office, where he managed to catch a 13" brown, lose a bigger one, and finally catch a 15" smallmouth, all on a #14 parachute Adams. I guess Iowa isn't so bad after all.

Dan Mitchell reported catching two steelhead in September: a 30in A-run steelhead on the Snake 9/23/00 and a 36in B-run steelhead on the Clearwater 9/30/00. Dan reported that it was very slow except for the week end of the 30th of Sept (the big rain) when there was quite a bit of action. Other than the B-run he had another steelhead pinned that ran for about 20 yards and then unhooked.

I also heard that our esteemed president had a three-fish day last month (10/12/00) on the Grande Rhonde that included one nice wild buck. Seems Bill Alspach's 'Beats Me' was the fly of choice that day! Too bad it didn't hold for the Clearwater, eh Brian? Past Prez Jim Palmersheim picked up two on the Clearwater to make up for Brian's lack!

Tony McDonnell told of 'Walter, the Fish', a 2 lb rainbow and the fight he put up on the Palouse River with guest Rick Markley. That's right, the Palouse River.

Alan Berryman announced that four new steelhead virgins were 'deflowered' last month on the Snake. Nice guy that he is, he put them onto the fish and went fishless himself!

Bob Harwood fished the Coville Indian Reservation and displayed a gyotaku print of an 8lb rainbow he caught on a wooley bugger. Bob also reported fishing in Boliva and printed 11 new kinds of fish, including a

Clearwater Fly Casters 2000 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

beautiful peacock bass. Okay, the last he didn't technically catch himself but it was a beautifully colored fish!

Glen Petry told a 'fish-stealing' bear story from his Alaskan trip and wondered about his friend's sanity when he tried to hold off the bear with arm waving and a handgun. Yow, ain't no fish that important.

Dave Yonge bemoaned that this was his worst year yet steelheading averaging around 75-80hr/fish caught.

Bill Hendrick asked for an official entry into the Tippet marking the first time in the history of the club that neither John Read nor Dave Tharp gave a fishing report. Clearly at a loss for words, Dave Tharp later in the evening mumbled something about fishing for carp in Banks Lake or rather not catching carp at Banks Lake. He didn't recommend the lake.

Jim Siebe had a great fishing to the Yellowstone area. He said the fire closures this summer resulted in little fishing pressure over big cutts and rainbows. He recommended Craig Mathews' new book, *Western Flyfishing Strategies*, for anyone thinking of fishing the Yellowstone area.





(Mike Croft cartoon - courtesy of Fly Anglers Online at www.flyanglersonline.com)

Conservation Committee Report

Only three members attended the meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2000. (September's meeting was canceled because no-one showed up).

We agreed that Jim Siebe would write the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to inquire as to why we never heard from them concerning our nomination of member George Hinman to the citizen advisory group on anadromous fisheries for which they advertised. We also discussed acknowledging and keeping better tabs on members who might have ceased attending our meetings because of physical limitations. It was suggested that we consider a "Chuck Frederickson Award" for those who have been members for a specified periods of time. No motions were made, however and therefore no action was taken.

Lastly, we discussed the general lack of interest in conservation activities and hands-on projects by club members. Again, no conclusions/decisions were reached and the meeting was adjourned after about fifteen minutes.

As a final note, the May meeting was similarly canceled due to lack of interest. The club might wish to address the particular direction they prefer to see the committee take, particularly in view of the poor turnouts (which, ironically follow one of the biggest turnouts in recent memory in April). Some more direction from the members would be helpful in terms of trying to come up with conservation projects/commitments.

Jim Siebe

(October Backcast continued)

Old Business

30th anniversary commemorative club pins were handed out at the meeting. Members at the meeting received one free with additional pins selling for \$3/each or 2/\$5.

Candidates are still being sought for consideration for the Bill Alspach Memorial Scholarship Fund. Brian read a postcard from last year's recipient, Krista Nichols, who expressed her appreciation for the award and how it helped her attend a genetics conference in Australia to present some of her research data on steelhead.

New Business

Dave Engerbretson was looking for a few individuals who would like to sign up as alternates to return to the Double E Ranch north of Spokane on July 7-8, 2001. He has a party set up to go on those dates but wanted to get a few backups for the inevitable cancellation. Cost is \$190/2 days access to the lake. Price doesn't include food or lodging. For more details contact Dave at denger@moscow.com or 882-1687. In other new business, Charlie Powell wondered if the club might want or support the development of a casting pond in Pullman/Moscow. The club also received a request asking the club to support an effort to start a fly fishing

newsletter for youth. The individuals are selling shadow boxes to raise money for the project. A motion was passed to buy a box(s) and use it for the upcoming club auction in March. Details will be discussed at the conservation meeting.

October's Speaker

Reid Miller presented an excellent program on sight fishing. Having recently fished in New Zealand he was very excited about the fishing opportunities there and the techniques employed. Reid gave a short Powerpoint presentation of sight fishing as covered in Les Hill and Graeme Marshall's book, *Stalking trout*. Some of the topics covered were: *Senses* - the fishes sense of sight, sound and smell; *Where to look* around rocks and the eye of the pool; *What to look for*; *How to stalk* - to see before being seen, proper attire, how and where to walk and considerations of light; *Fishing to sighted trout* and *Keys to Success*. Reid finished off the evening by showing a video of two Aussies fly fishing the D'Urville River in NZ. The two hosts, Rob Sitch and Tom Gleisner, comedians from Australia, made the already stunning travel documentary even more amazing with their wit and humor. An excellent evening Reid!

Tim Cavileer

Books to consider...

Stalking Trout: A Serious Fisherman's Guide, by Les Hill and Graeme Marshall, published jointly in paperback by Halcyon Press, CPO Box 360, Auckland 1, NZ, and SeTo Publishing, ISBN 0-908697-33-3.

Western Fly-Fishing Strategies, by Craig Mathews, Rod Walinchus (Illustrator). The Lyons Press; ISBN: 1558216413

Upcoming Events

November 8, 2000 6:00 pm. Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at Shermer's in Pullman, WA.

November 15, 2000 CFC Board/Conservation meeting, 5:15 pm at Rico's in Pullman, WA.

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|---------------------|--|
| President | Brian McNeill (mcneill@mail.wsu.edu) 883-8493 |
| Vice-President | John Toker (johntoker@hotmail.com) 332-6603 |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Shirley Engerbretson (shirle1@hotmail.com) 882-1687 |
| FFF Representative | George Johnson (gjohnson@pullman.com) 334-3135 |
| Conservation Chair | Jim Siebe (jsiebe@moscow.com) 883-0622 |
| Newsletter Editor | Tim Cavileer (tcavileer@uidaho.edu) 883-4572 |

STEALTH FLY FISHING

Rich Lobrovich - Tracy Fly Fishers

Stealth Fly Fishing can be summed up with an old saying "Walk Softly and carry a Big Stick". Before you head out to your favorite stream take a good look at your equipment. When you stalk wild trout you will use all six of your senses. These six senses are sight, sound, touch, taste, smell, and intuition. Since Fly-Fishing is not a static sport you must also consider the dynamics of the environment you occupy.

SIGHT: Your sight can be improved with a good pair of Polarized Sunglasses and a pair of side blockers. Wear a wide brim hat to prevent direct sunlight into your eyes. If you are standing in the middle of a stream and looking directly up stream you will not see fish very clearly. However, walk over to the side of the stream and look perpendicular to the water flow. Your vision into the water will improve significantly. Look for spider webs with insects for clues to the most recent hatches.

SOUND: Now stand on the side of the stream with your eyes closed and listen to the sound of the water. If you are in a long slow running pool you may only hear the sound of a rising trout. False cast your fly a few times over the water and listen to the sound your line makes. Now cast upstream and listen for the sound of your line hitting the water. Did it make a crashing sound? Open your eyes and take two steps toward the center of the stream. Look at the wakes your legs made and watch how far those waves travel into the pool! What types of boots do you wear? Are your soles, rubber, felt, felt with metal cleats, or chain slips overs? Did your steps make any noise on the bottom?

TOUCH: When you stalk Wild Trout you will need to know the environment that Trout live in. Touch the water with your fingers. Is it cold or warm? Better yet take the temperature. Touch the bottom with your hand. Is it muddy, sandy, or gravel? Turn over a few rocks to determine the food supply. These things are all time of year dependent.

TASTE: Since the mid 1970's our water supply has had Giardia, a painful bacteria. Do not drink the water... and do not eat the Aquatic Insects. Terrestrial insects are a different story some are very tasty.

SMELL: Take a slow deep breath and try to smell the clean air around you. Do you smell the fresh air after a rain shower, the Cedar, the Wild Azaleas? Smell the water if you want to... clean water should not smell.

INTUITION: Now that you have your five physical senses in order it is time to use your intuition. Think back a year or more when you were fishing this same spot or one just like it. Are the conditions the same? If you were walking along in a High Desert and smelled sage would you remember to use a Grasshopper pattern? Sitting along the bank and watching Trout rise will give you an indication of what and how they are feeding.

Look for fish in their feeding stations. Trout normally feed up stream or on the side of a rock. They do this because it uses less energy and food will flow to them. The aquatic food drifts past their feeding station and the trout move up or down, left or right. Cast up stream and let the fly drift to the fish. Since the trout will be looking upstream they will not see you if you are behind them. If you are to the side of the fish make sure that you do not cast a shadow on their position. Also consider how you are casting; too many false casts will also spook fish. While walking up stream try to avoid the slow pools, try to walk around as not to spook these fish. Trout do not hear sound, they feel sound through vibrations. When you walk on top of a bank those vibrations can also be felt by the trout below.

Reid Miller and a 'Stalked' NZ trout!



The clothes that you wear are very important. Try to match your clothes to the surrounding environment. Consider the decked out the dude or dudette with Christmas tree lights on the stream. Get rid of those metal zingers and stainless steel hemostats. They will give off a reflection that the fish will see. What color is your reel? Dark or polished? Do not forget the watch, rings and eyeglasses that we wear. What about your fly line? Consider using a clear or light colored line to prevent spooking the fish. The last two years I have been using a new tippet material made of Fluorocarbon. It works so well I have a hard time seeing the tippet and my catch rate has also gone up.

Stalk Trout in the stealth mode and watch your catching results improve.

Rich Lobrovich copyright 1999
richlob@jps.net
Tracy Fly Fishers

Fly of the Month--CDC & Elk, by Hans Weilenmann

This month's fly is simple and easy to tie. It's also incredibly effective. That's not surprising when you consider that Hans Weilenmann (*aka* Flytier) came up with the design.

Instructions and photos can be found at:

<http://www.danica.com/flytier/hweilenmann/cdcelk.htm>

CDC types are described at:

<http://www.flyshop.com/Bench/Features/3-98CDC/index.html>

Tying instructions:

1. Select a CDC feather of the required color and size. (The longest barbule approx. 2 times shank-length) Hold the CDC feather at the butt and, by stroking the feather between thumb and index finger towards the tip, bunch the tips together.

2. Tie in the bunch, butt pointing backwards. Tie down with two turns, then slip a third turn under the tips, forcing them up, and a fourth turn over the barbules, just forward of the third. This will lock the CDC barbules in place and prevent them from coming loose. Spiral thread forward to eye, then back one turn.

3. Clamp butt with hackle pliers and wind the CDC feather towards the eye in touching turns. You will find that the rear half of the body will resemble a dubbed one, but as you progress towards the eye, more and more free barbules appear. Stroke these backwards with each turn. A little practice will enable you to arrive at the eye with only the bare part of the stem left.

4. Tie off with one tight turn of thread, unclip the hackle but do not trim yet. Tighten with a second and third turn of thread. You will see that the CDC butt will move with the thread, securing the tie-off point. Clip the CDC butt.

5. Take a small amount of straight, fine-tipped deer hair. (I use coastal deer) Even the tips in a stacker. Lay the bunch on top of hook, parallel to the shank. Measure the tips so the wing will be just long enough to reach the outside bend of the hook, and no longer. Trim butts square with the front of the eye of the hook.

6. Tie down the wing with two tight wraps of thread. Make the third wrap through the butts, at about 45 degrees angle, effectively splitting the butts in two equal halves. Fourth wrap goes under the butts. Finish off with a whip finish and a little varnish.



(Photo and text by Hans Weilenmann)

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|---------|------------------------|
| Hook: | #10-18 dry fly |
| Thread: | black, 6/0 |
| Body: | cdc feather, type 1 |
| Wing: | fine coastal deer hair |

During the summer of 1994 I spent six weeks fishing various parts of Washington, Montana and Idaho. All in all I fished 19 rivers. On seventeen of them the CDC&Elk was the pattern of choice, by far out fishing the other flies I tried. It is my top surface pattern. And not just for use as a caddis imitation.

Summer 2000: Now back from three weeks fishing Utah, Idaho and Montana streams and rivers. Fished the CDC&Elk almost exclusively on fourteen streams/rivers this trip. In spite of the very hot weather, the wildfires, often low water conditions and the absence of any real hatch activity I had some excellent fishing! Landed hundreds of trout and a couple whitefish. All but five fish were taken on the CDC&Elk. Call me a very happy lad! ;-)

To summarize: the EHC is a great fly, but I like to think the CDC&Elk improves on this great pattern. If possible, better floating. Surprisingly durable. Illusion of movement provided by the straggling CDC barbules to suggest legs, antenna, trailing shuck, crippled wings, etc. Easily obtainable materials and incredibly easy and fast to tie. Give it a try!

Clearwater Fly Casters
Tim Cavileer - Newsletter Editor
124 South Hayes St
Moscow, Idaho 83843

