



The Tippet

October 2000

President's Message

Greetings from your Prez! I heard I missed a great meeting last month for the 30th Anniversary of the Clearwater Flycasters. It looks like Steelhead season is coming on strong with the fish counts very high at this time. I'll be looking forward to reports from you flyfishers in October. Our Vice Prez should have some interesting data since he has taken up residence on the Clearwater River! He also should have returned from a trip to Canada as well.

At presstime, I am still hoping to line up someone to address the topic of Flyfishing for Steelhead in the spirit of the current season. However, just in case that is not possible, longtime CFC member Reid Miller has graciously agreed to provide a program on fishing in New Zealand based on his recent experience. Thanks for the backup Reid!

We had very low attendance for our Conservation Committee meeting at Ricos last month and I hope it was due to my neglect in sending out a reminder. I guess I thought Marv was going to do it! Anyway, it might be worth thinking about whether the time and the meeting place is the best to get some real conservation work done on behalf of the club. Also, do not forget those nominations for the Bill Allspach award to insure that we have a speaker for December...um I mean to make sure we help out a deserving student.

Brian McNeill

Backcast (September meeting)

Guest

Guest at the September meeting included charter members Sherm and Fran Lowell, David and Sonja Mosely, Grant Henderickson, and Ottis Rechar. Other guests included new members Nathan and Brandi Lubliner and Jerry Pruitt. Other guest were Sharon Hunt (Dave Tharp) and Dave Clark. Welcome!

Fishing Reports

Dave and Shirley Engerbretson told of their summer trip to Canada's Elk River and Crow's Nest in Alberta. They also attended the FFF conclave gathering a nice collection of raffle prizes for the club. John Read started off the St Joe Fishout report and suggested renaming it the St Joe Pigout. Comments and cat-calls were heard throughout the evening, most of which had to do with the amount and quality of food consumed - you just had to be there!

John Read also mentioned fishing Amber 'In the Weeds' and Dave Tharp reported that Dismal Lake was in fact, 'pretty dismal'.

Dave Yonge fished various places this summer in addition to the infamous St Joe Fishout and had a great time out with his daughter on her first time fly fishing. He also fished for tarpon (but didn't catch any), lady fish, jack and speckled trout in Florida.

George Johnson and his wife fished Issac Lake on the Blackfeet Reservation with great success. Bob Clark reported that fish were all over the place at Kelly Creek.

Gary Evers fished over rising grayling for four and a half hours in the Alaskan Sheep Range among the numerous bear tracks. A fly rod in one hand and a 30.06 over the shoulder!

New Business

The board is accepting nominations for the Bill Alspach Memorial Scholarship. Commemorative pins marking the club's 30th anniversary were ordered (*and have arrived*), and hats are in the works. Dave Engerbretson

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

asked about setting up an alternative evening for those interested in fly tying and 10-12 people indicated an interest. Setting something up was deferred to executive meeting.

Speakers

The club was treated to wonderful reminiscings from charter members Sherm Lowell, George Himman, Ottis Rechar, David Moseley, George Johnson and Grant Henderickson. Tales from the club's early years, memories of fishing trips, fishing partners, and lost fishing rods abounded. As VP and master of ceremonies John Toker put it at the end, it was a great evening and we all came away with a greater appreciation and connection to the club and it's past. Thanks guys and thanks to all who worked setting up the evening!

Tim Cavileer





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



Fashion conscious Dave cooking dinner on the Great St Joe Cookout of 2000

October Book Review - Don Shearer

Morris & Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes
By Skip Morris & Brian Chan
Frank Amato Publications, Inc., Portland, OR
96 pages, softcover, ISBN: 1571881816

As the fisheries biologist for the Kamloops area of British Columbia with over two decades of flyfishing lakes and the creation of several fly patterns to his credit, Brian Chan has the proven credentials to write a book on the subject of flyfishing trout lakes. Morris has previously penned several fishing books. In the collaboration it seems that Chan offered most of the content and Morris did the writing.

The book is written with the beginner in mind. Within the book you can find all the things that are familiar in books for the beginning angler; explanations of fly lines, reels, rods, etc. Where the book has a lot to offer the more advanced fly finger is in the breaking down the different areas of a lake to fish and methods of fishing lakes. The authors relate well the different fishing methods to what the insect and aquatic organisms that trout feed upon are doing. The drawings that demonstrate the different fishing methods described are done well and help drive home the points being made in the text.

I was impressed with section of the book that dealt with the critters upon which trout feed. How to identify, times of year they are available to trout, and recommend flies for each organism, were presented well. The book is full of nice color photos of the different insects and aquatic organisms that are available to trout in lakes. In addition to the photos there is a extremely well done chart showing when each organism is available to trout during the year.

I was especially pleased with two areas of the book. First, on page 58 there is a chart of retrieves that Chan uses for the different insects he is trying to imitate and for each of the different angling methods mentioned in the book. As a beginning lake angler the correct retrieve to use is often one of the toughest things for me to figure out. Using Chan's recommended retrieves is a good place for an angler new to lakes to start from. The second area of the book with which I was pleased is the last chapter, which deals with safety and fishing courtesy. With the ever increasing number of anglers, a little lesson on courtesy to beginners before they hit the water is a good idea.

Upcoming Events

October 12, 2000 Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at Shermer's in Pullman, WA.

October 19, 2000 CFC Board/Conservation meeting, 5:15 pm at Rico's in Pullman, WA.

President	Brian McNeill (mcneill@mail.wsu.edu) 883-8493
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Why do I Flyfish?

Henry Kanemoto (via FFF ClubWire)

I flyfish because it takes me into a place filled with cool flowing waters inhabited by beautiful iridescent creatures usually surrounded by a cathedral of green. It removes me from my usual work, which is stressful, and hurried, and performed in darkened air-conditioned rooms with artificial lighting. I can escape, if only for a short time, from emergencies and beepers and the rest of our high tech world. I can return to a more peaceful place, and in my mind to a much simpler time. I am linked by tradition to the greats of flyfishing, Halford and Skues, Gordon and Wulff, and even back to the apostles, who Norman Maclean considered fishers of men. I am part of a tradition, which like a flowing river, joins me to the past, even as it carries me into the future. I have the benefit of their knowledge and I can learn from their writings. And their wisdom often extends beyond flyfishing into how to live a good life, and how to conduct yourself before other men and women.

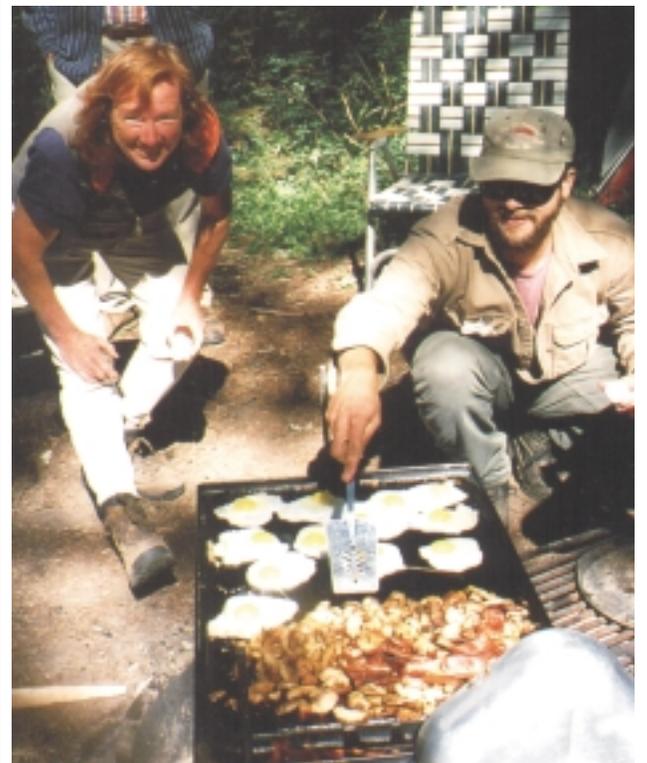
Flyfishing is, for me, a metaphor for life itself. You set for yourself a code of conduct - upstream, dry fly only, to rising trout if you are a strict moralist. You resist temptation when the fish are feeding subsurface, or you may "sin" and fish to the nymphing trout, resolving next time do better. The fish carry no prejudice. They care not about the color of your skin, your gender, your handicaps, or your station in life. All are equal before the fish, and all are judged equally. You have total control of your actions, unlike the "real" world where your actions are tempered by the needs or influences of others. You must accept responsibility for what follows, and this is not an insignificant lesson in today's world. The fish is your adversary, and by him, will you be judged. There is instant feedback - a satisfying tug at the end of the line or silence and rejection. This too is unlike the "real" world, where the result of your actions is often separated from the action itself.

Flyfishing allows me to satisfy a natural predatory instinct, which dates back to the time when our ancestors were hunters and gatherers. It is a challenge, to fish with the fly. There is the thrill of stalking a truly large fish, the anticipation of the cast, the suspense of the drift, and the subsequent elation at a hook up or disappointment at the rejection. There is the adrenaline rush of the fight and the satisfaction of the catch. You can act as God and give the fish back his freedom and life, or you can exercise your ultimate right as a predator and kill him for the table. Life and death, another lesson not easily learned.

Perhaps that is why I release almost all my fish now, I deal with death in my real job every day. There is always the anticipation of a new day, a new adventure. Every trip is different with unexpected challenges to be met. Conditions change. Every day is different, and yet it is also strangely the same. Putting on the waders and vest, stringing the rod, checking the leader. The walk to the stream, scanning the water for rises, checking the bushes for prior hatches. The first step into the water, the approach to the lie, the deep breath before the first cast. Each action, a ritual behavior we follow which comforts us. Flycasting itself is a pleasing sensation. It is relaxing. There is an almost hypnotic cadence to the cast. The back and forth motion of the rod with the tug of line against rod just before we release the cast. Casting is an art and as Norman Maclean states "art comes by grace, and grace does not come easily." So much of what I do is not art and is not graceful at all. In much of our modern life, we are surrounded by pettiness and ugliness. By contrast the flycast, in and of itself, is a thing of beauty. It is pure in its simplicity and yet difficult to master. It remains one of the few artistic things I have learned. It is a right brain exercise, and much of what I do is left brain exercise.

A good and peaceful life is composed of balance, and flyfishing gives my life balance. We search for perfection in all we do. In flyfishing there is the promise of constant improvement but perfection can rarely be attained. Therein lies the challenge of flyfishing; to improve, to attain a state of grace. There is also the comradeship with other flyfishers. There is the sharing, both literally and figuratively, of sustenance. This shared experience makes our own experiences so much richer. Because of this comradeship, we are fishing for our friends as well as with our friends.

So my friends, that is why I flyfish.



Breakfast on the St Joe

Fly of the Month--Green Butt Shunk

This month's fly is a familiar steelhead pattern that's tied slightly differently. As I started steelheading more and more this past year it was only natural that I started to tie larger patterns geared toward steelhead. Tied slightly differently in that I've taken a classic steelhead pattern and used floss for the body and tied it 'salmon fly style' to produce a reduced profile or low water pattern.

1. Tie in the tinsel gold side to the hook just behind the hook return, wrapping the tinsel (silver side showing) in tight but non-overlapping turns back to the rear of the smashed down barb and then back to the tie-in point.
2. Tie in the green floss and wrap in a similar manner leaving a short tag of silver tinsel showing. Just before reaching the point opposite the front of the barb tie in the red saddle hackles under the floss and continue wrapping toward the rear several turns. Wrap the floss forward to just behind the hook return and tie off.
3. Tie in the oval tinsel on the back side of the hook and the black floss. Wrap the floss rearward binding down the tinsel as you go. Keeping tension on the tinsel will help align it along the hook shank. Reverse the floss leaving enough green floss showing to suit your personal taste and return to the tie-in point. Wrap the rib forward over the black floss in four to five evenly open spirals. Tie off.
4. Tie in the soft black hackle and take three of four turns (*less for slimmer profile, more for a fuller look*) and tie off.
5. Tie in a slim bunch of white calftail (*don't stack*) as a wing.
6. Cover the butts with thread, whip finish and cement.

When you're done tuck it in next to your regular chenille bodied green-butted shunks and think thin.



Hook:	Daiichi #6
Thread:	black, 6/0
Tail:	red hackle fibers
Tag:	flat silver tinsel
Butt:	fluorescent green floss
Body:	black floss
Rib:	fine oval silver tinsel
Hackle:	black hackle, soft
Wing:	White calftail

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