

Clearwater Fly Casters PO Box 2149 CS Pullman, WA 99165



The Tippet

February 2001

President's Message

I've completed my first month as president and have not heard any talk of scandal or impeachment, things are looking pretty good. By the looks of things outside we're going to be tying flies and daydreaming of rising trout for a while yet. Unless of course your Dave Tharp, who very soon will be spooking large New Zealand trout with one muffed cast after another. Though at least he will be there to photograph the numerous trophy browns that Sharon will be fooling. Locally, a few of you were experiencing some fantastic January steelheading on the Clearwater. That is until the Corps decided to help keep California out of the dark and started playing with their big concrete toy in Orofino. So it looks like we will all have to catch up on all those things that we neglect when the fish are biting. There are just some times when I find it hard to go on living.

Since things are so quiet these days there is no reason to miss our annual Valentines Day meeting. Not only will some of us be graced with the presence of our sweetheart but all of us will be graced with the presence of Ken Iwamasa. Ken is returning to present a show on taimen fishing in Mongolia. For those of you unfamiliar with taimen, they are a large species of salmon that inhabit large river systems in regions of Mongolia and Siberia. Remember to bring your club dues to the meeting if you have not already so that no leg breaking has to go on. Shirley hates to rush her meal so that she can deal with such messy matters.

During our January committee meeting

we discussed adding a few more outings during the summer and it certainly seemed popular. We may want to start setting dates and locations for those so be ready with some ideas. Also we put in motion plans for fly tying classes, the organization of which was placed in good hands but is still probably a little ways away. Finally, it was pleasing to see the responses we got to the survey and if anyone didn't have a chance to respond just come to the next conservation meeting. We will be happy to listen to your comments, and then we will probably try to put you in charge of something.

Your Prez,

John D. Toker

Backcast (December meeting)

Guests

Last month's guest included Larry Merck from the UI. Welcome Larry.

Fishing reports

Or as someone described them, health reports! Both Bob Warner and Dave Engerbretson expressed their appreciation and thanks to the club for flowers during their recent illnesses. Bob said he wanted to give a fishing report but that his wife had hidden his fishing equipment! First thing he planned to do now that he was feeling better was to find that equipment.

Tony McDonnell reported catching his first steelhead and figured he had in 130 hrs before bringing it to hand. Dave Yonge also caught a steelhead (see photo in last month's Tippet) but said something about logging 700+ hrs. Apparently, Don Johnstone and he fought over who would go second through the run. Dave won and was rewarded for his magnanimity! Or something like that.

Clearwater Fly Casters 2001 Officers

President John Toker
Vice-President Jim Siebe
Secretary/Treasurer
Shirley Engerbretson
Conservation Chair Jim Palmersheim
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

Conservation committee report

Jim Palmersheim reported that the conservation committee selected a recipient for the 2000 Bill Alspach Award. Trevor Chowin, a master's student in James Nagler's lab at the University of Idaho, will aim his thesis at determining whether the recently discovered phenomenon of female-appearing adult wild chinook found to be carrying a male-specific marker, is occurring throughout multiple generations of wild chinook and whether it appears to be widespread or localized to the Hanford Reach. Congratulations Trevor.

Old Business

Shirley reminded us that 2001 membership dues are due. Newly designed club hats will be available at the next meeting. See John Toker or Shirley Engerbretson.

New Business

Burgers and Flies 2001 will be February 17th, 2001 at Craig Lewis' home in Moscow, Idaho.



A Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers

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(Backcast Continued)

The following dates have been set for the 2001 outings:

May 5th, 2001 Amber Lake Fishout
July 11th, 2001 BBQ Sunnyside Park
July 12-15th, 2001 Fishout on the St Joe

Speaking of the St Joe fishout, word has it that Bill Hendrick had added another dutch oven to his repertoire and that the camp shower has had substantial upgrades. In other news, Tim Cavileer has taken over as club historian and is now keeper of the videos. Are there any volunteers for club librarian? A motion was made and passed that the club look into acquiring its own url (web address).

Raffle

John Toker won the fish print provided by Bob Harwood and Jim Palmersheim won the caddis variants.

January's Speaker

Our speaker was our very own Bob Harwood, world re-known 'Gyotaku' artist! Bob talked about a fishing trip he took last July to Bolivia along the Mamore River system. Bob caught 14 kinds of fish, including a peacock bass. His talk was illustrated by slides and original fish prints.

Tim Cavileer

Jim Palmersheim photo



Caddis Variant

Hook: Daiichi 1130, #12-18
Thread: brown
Rib: brown 3/0 tying thread
Body: yellow or tan dubbing
Wing: Hi-Vis
Hackle: ginger dye grizzly

Last month's FOTM photo was such a wash I had Jim redo the photo!

Book Review - by Jim Siebe

Western Fly-Fishing Strategies

By Craig Mathews, illustrated by Rod Walinchus

Craig Mathews is well known and respected as an angler, fishing guide, author and innovator. He is also the owner of Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone. This, his fourth book on fly fishing, offers relevant and timely advice to anglers at all skill levels.

The text is well organized with easily understandable and helpful illustrations. Craig deals with choosing and using tackle for differing conditions, reading water, casting and dealing with wind and weather. While the focus is ostensibly on his home waters (the Golden Triangle surrounding West Yellowstone), his advice can be easily applied elsewhere. He does a great job of discussing basic concepts with a greater context than the immediately obvious. I was interested to read a discussion on how fast, graphite rods can threaten a fundamentally sound cast. I was also interested to learn that a double taper line with just a few yards exposed will cast much better in windy conditions than a WF (which requires one to get the belly out before it really powers itself anywhere).

I read the book cover to cover in one night on a visit to the Yellowstone country. The next day, I landed four twenty-plus inch fish on the Madison (luck or good timing?). While I won't guarantee those results, I do heartily recommend this read. I know I intend to revisit its contents on a regular basis.

Announcements

- 2001 Membership dues. See Shirley before the meeting to pay your dues or send them to the club address: Clearwater Fly Casters, PO Box 2149 CS. Pullman, WA 99165. Dues are \$300/lifetime, \$50/sustaining, \$20/individual, \$25/family and \$10 student.
- March's meeting will be the Club's fund raising auction. Donations and auction items can be given to Dave Tharp. Dave can be reached at 878-1769 or ics@pullman.com
- Angler's 2001 Calendars are available for \$10. See Shirley before the next meeting.
- Bruce Henderson is offering a two day, "Beginning Steelhead" Fly Tying Class on Feb. 11 & Feb. 18 1pm to 4pm. \$35 fee. For more information contact the *Guide Shop* in Orofino at (208) 476-3531.

Upcoming Events

- February 14, 2001** 6:00 pm. Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at Shermer's in Pullman
February 21, 2001 CFC Board/Conservation meeting, 5:30 pm at Rico's in Pullman
February 17, 2001 Burger and Flies, Craig Lewis' home, Moscow.
March 24, 2001 NW Fly Tier's Expo, Eugene, Oregon
May 5th, 2001 Amber Lake Fishout
July 11th, 2001 BBQ at Sunnyside Park, Pullman
July 12-15th, 2001 Fishout on the St Joe

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A SPECIAL OLYMPICS FUND RAISER

What is it: A fund raiser for special Olympians in Moscow, Idaho. You'll learn about fly fishing, fly tying, have free stuff given to you all day and enjoy a free dinner of burgers and salsa.

When: Saturday, February 17, 2001
Time: 3:30 to 9:30pm or come whenever, leave whenever (auction at 7:30 pm)
Where: 2900 S. Mountain View Road, Moscow, Idaho

Directions: 1st right past Tidymans going east off the Troy highway. Mountain View Extension. Go to the end of the road look for the Lewis residence. We will be in the shop out back.

What to Bring: Fly tying gear, money for the auction and a great attitude.

What's provided: Fly tying gear, dinner, beer, pop, and a great atmosphere.

Who to call:

Joe McGurkin
(h) 208-882-7798
(w) 208-882-5531
email: mcgurkin@moscow.com

January 2001, Conservation Committee Meeting

Items discussed were:

Outings Adding another club Fishout/Outing in the fall ...either late August or early September.

Conservation Projects Getting the CFC involved with the City of Pullman in planning and building a pond (that will sustain a healthy fish population) in Pullman. Hands on restoration projects for various local rivers e.g., the Grande Ronde and St Maries rivers.

Fly Tying Start a beginning fly tying class and/or a monthly get together.

Auction The CFC Biannual Fund Raising Auction coming this March. Start collecting.

Top 10 Reasons for Winter Fishing

Winter, at first thought, is not the greatest time to go fishing. Certainly most fishing is enjoyed in the warmer months of the year. So why would one go fishing in the winter? It's cold and miserable outside, right?

Well, there are many reasons, not the least of which is that you can catch fish year round. So, really the question is not why, but why not? I could list many reasons of pretense like avoiding crowds or the challenge of landing a pike through the ice, but those are not the real reasons.

So I give you my Top Ten List of the official reasons to fish in winter. Not that I can compete with the late-night show hosts, but depending on your viewpoint, here are ten good reasons or maybe they are not-so-good reasons to go fishing in the winter.

Reason #1 - Winter is a time to repair, clean, or just generally reorganize your fishing gear. One such piece of equipment that may need fixing is your waders. They probably have a few leaks in them. In order to patch the leak, you have to find the leak. So go fishing and wear your leaky waders. The cold water will readily pinpoint those leaks, and presto, you can go home knowing just where to squirt the glue.

Reason #2 - Everybody wonders if trout really do feed in the winter. One sure way to prove or disprove this question is to survey the fish by placing some temptation in front of their nose. I have tested this theory many times. Often the conclusion is that no, they do not feed, at least that's what the usual nobite response would show. But occasionally, one odd fish messes up the survey, convincing me to continue my research another day.

Reason #3 - Sometimes you want to act like a kid and slide down a snowbank to get to the good fishing spot. Which is kind of hard to do in the summer.

Reason #4 - In the interest of medical research, someone has to test the limits of exposure, particularly frostbite. One winter fishing dilemma is gloves. You need gloves to avoid frostbite, but they do get in the way of most fishing techniques, so one is constantly taking them off or getting them wet. Frostbite follows, thereby voluntarily collecting data for research.

Reason #5 - While reeling in a wet line, the rod guides scrape water off the line and the frozen air manufactures ice in the guides. Ice that must constantly be broken away. How else can one appreciate the lazy days of summer?

Reason #6 - Standing waist deep in the tailwater of a freezing river in the middle of January, when the air temperature is in the minus range and the water temperature is only slightly higher, is good therapy for a sore leg.

Reason #7 - Sleeping on a frozen lake in February will rid our heads of the defective brain cells that convinced us to go in the first place.

Reason #8 - In order to legitimately complain during the summer about how crowded your favorite water is, you must experience the loneliness of winter. Besides, when people ask if you caught anything, you can lie and say, "Of course not, don't you know fish don't bite in the winter." (Review reason #2).

Reason #9 - Just like your driver's license, your fishing license is good all year round. Do you know anybody that only drives in the summer? You are cheap and need to get your money's worth.

Reason #10 - Your favorite football team only plays one day a week. You have to find something to do when they are not playing. Might as well be fishing.

So why are you still sitting there?

(by Joel L. Evans of the Grand Valley Anglers of Grand Junction, CO) via FFF ClubWire

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Fly of the Month--TransparANT

Originated by Harrison Steeves III, submitted by Tim Cavileer

I've always liked this pattern and have tied it in the past. Unfortunately, I haven't made quite the effort to fish them nearly as much as I should. Something that I plan to change this summer. The club recently added four of Harrison's videos to its collection, among which one is called Ants. Complete tying instructions can be found in the video, online at <http://www.flyfishamerica.com/NationalArticles/SteevesTransparAnt/TransparAnt.html> or in the magazine Fly Fish America, March/April 1998.

While this pattern is simple to tie it's not a speedy one. A true rotary vise is absolutely necessary. One point that I've found helpful is to tie it production style. At one sitting I'll tie a half dozen of each underbody with red or black thread. Then I'll come back and apply the epoxy to each, let dry overnight and finally tie and wrap the hackle. I don't normally use the straight ring-eyed hooks but I can understand why Harrison uses them. When applying the epoxy to down-turned eye hooks you'll have to be careful not to let the epoxy run down the shank to close the eye. Additionally, you'll want to be sure to not wrap thread between the two bumps or the epoxy will flow between the two and you'll not get the distinctive two-humps of the ant silhouette. Waiting the five min for the epoxy to setup can be tedious so I grab a book and read a few pages as I slowly turn the fly. Hey, multi-tasking at its best. Adding a bead or varying the color of the thread before applying the epoxy can really produce some striking flies!

Tying Instructions:

1. Build the thread up for the abdomen. Cut the thread and reattach to form a smaller thread bump for the head.
2. Mix the 5 min epoxy and apply a drop with a thin needle or bodkin to the abdomen while rotating the hook. Apply a smaller amount of epoxy to the head. After the epoxy sets up, remove the fly and set it aside to dry over night.
3. Attach thread to the bare shank, tie in the hackle , wind two turns and tie off.



Jim Palmersheim photo

Hook: Tiemco 101, #14-20
Body: tying thread
(color to suit)
Hackle: black saddle

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