



The Tippet

January 2001

President's Message

I am writing my first "President's Message" while home for the holidays. Ohio certainly is a far cry from Washington and not just geographically speaking. Northeast Ohio is where I grew up as well as where my family still resides. I am sitting here anxious to return to the Pacific Northwest. Of all the places I have lived in my young life it is where I am most at peace. It is my home.

Obviously the wonderful fishing we have in our area plays a major role in me feeling so at home. We all know of my obsession with steelhead, and where else better to feed that obsession. However, it is the people I have gotten to know during the year that I have been in Washington that makes me feel the way I do.

I was so happy to find there was a flyfishing club in the area when I first moved to Pullman. Meeting people with common interests quickly gives one a sense of belonging. It didn't take long for me to feel accepted by the members of the club and begin developing some true friendships. (It took only slightly longer for Jim Palmersheim to sacrifice me as a future president.) I owe a great deal to many members of the club and to the Flycasters as a whole. I am grateful to serve as President for 2001, it is a chance to give a little back to a group of people who have given me so much.

John D. Toker

President

Backcast (December meeting)

Your editor was missing in action last month due to family commitments. A big thank you to Jim Siebe, Joe Ford and Shirley Engerbretson for covering the meeting and taking notes.

Fishing reports: Dave Yonge reported how John Toker caught three steelhead in his presence as he whipped around his Orvis spey rod. Something must have rubbed off the right way because Dave picked up a nice steelhead earlier this month (see photos on page 3). Joe Ford reported on fishing in AK near the Port Valdez this past summer.

Conservation committee report: The club voted for \$50 sustaining memberships and \$300 lifetime memberships.

Raffle: Bob Harwood donated a circular painting of a cutthroat for the evening raffle. There were also two sets of salmon flies donated. Several feathers were also donated to the raffle as well. Jim Siebe won the painting, Dave Ting won flies tied by John Toker, and Denny Cartwright won other flies. Joe McGurkin was also a winner. Seems like that lower right hand corner table had all the winners.

Other News: Once again the CFC Board has completely surprised a recipient for the Allured/Collins award. Joe Ford was honored with the annual presentation of the Steve Allured - Benton Collins Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Activities of the Clearwater Fly Casters, to Conservation and to the Sport of Fly Fishing.

"I really wasn't expecting this," Joe said. "I really enjoyed editing the Tippet for those ten years, but I have to say that the current version really puts my work in the shade. Thank you all!"

Jim Palmersheim stepped into the Conservation Chair position vacated by Jim Siebe, who moved in the Vice-President spot.

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

December's Speaker

Our speaker was Dawn Reynolds, the newest member of the Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission. Commissioner Reynolds interest and concern was impressive, principally because she is actively seeking the input and involvement of local sportsmen's groups on wildlife management issues. She presented some of her impressions on the workings of WDFW, the Commission, and salmon recovery efforts, as well as some questions and answers. She showed us some examples of WDFW publications and posters on the subject, including a nifty poster on stream macro invertebrates (bugs, y'all).

She is very interested in getting kids involved in outdoor sports, and has been pursuing ways to get a kids' fishing pond constructed in Pullman. As you may recall, she was dissuaded from having fish put into the creeks in town because of excessive pollution. Sunnyside Park ponds are also unsuitable for edible food fish. Apparently a possibility exists to construct a pond on



Book Excerpt - via FFF ClubWire

I don't believe that every encounter with nature automatically transports us back to some mystical sense of well-being stolen away by modern life. No doubt people have been inattentive and distracted as long as we've had the brains to string thoughts together. But I know that we're equipped to see and hear more than we usually do and that sometimes, when conditions are right, we can open ourselves to a world so rich with sensations that it makes the booming progress of civilization dim to insignificance.

Drifting downstream that afternoon, I realized that there's a big difference between hearing and listening. Hearing is passive; listening is active. We hear traffic and airport noise and the shouting loudspeakers in a department store. We listen to laughing children and hooting doves, to leaves rustling in wind-stirred aspens, to trout sipping mayflies in a river. In these noisy times the thousand subtle voices of a river can throw a calm over our lives. I swear it's music to our ears.

(from "The Music Out There," in The River Home: An Angler's Explorations, by Jerry Dennis. Copyright 1999 by Jerry Dennis and St. Martin's Press.)

(Backcast Continued)

"greenbelt" land in one of the new developments in town, and she was asking if the fishing club (and/or others) would be interested in supporting the effort. This idea has great potential, especially since the club has expressed interest in the past on the possible development of a casting pond in the Pullman/Moscow area.

Dawn is open to input so give her your opinions. You can find her law practice listed in the Pullman phone book, and she will return calls.

Tim Cavileer

(Folding Hackle continued)

Don't ever let your materials give you a hard time, you are the boss. To complete the job tie the hackle in at the tip where the folded portion starts with the tip extending out over the eye of the hook. Clip the excess tip and carefully wrap the hackle forward so each wrap lies directly ahead of the previous one. Stroke any wild fibers to the rear as you wrap, it fact just stroke them all to the rear as you wrap, it helps. Two more little tips; when you tie in the hackle at the tip - tie it in with the folded fibers pointing down. And second as you wrap the hackle you may have to twist the stem slightly to keep the fibers oriented to the rear.

Oh, one more point, you can fold you hackle in advance so you won't have to stop and lay down your tools each time - one more thing to speed up your tying.

(by Jim Cramer of the Russian River Flycasters of Santa Rosa, CA for the FFF ClubWire Email NewsWire)

Announcements

- ✓ Twin River Anglers has switched to its winter store hours. The fly shop will be open 9am - 6pm Tuesday - Friday, 9am -3pm Saturday, but closed on Sunday and Monday. Normal Monday hours will resume May 1, 2001.
- ✓ A special get well to Bob Warner and Dave Engerbretson, both of whom had surgery during the month of December.
- ✓ 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 \$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.
- ✓ CFC 30th Anniversary pins are still available for those who didn't receive them. See Tim or Shirley at the next meeting.

Upcoming Events

January 10, 2001 6:00 pm. Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at Shermer's in Pullman, WA.

January 17, 2001 CFC Board/Conservation meeting, 5:30 pm at Rico's in Pullman, WA.

February 17, 2001 Burger and Flies, Moscow.

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Folding Hackle - Jim Cramer

Folding hackle is a technique of stroking the hackle feather prior to wrapping it in so that all the fibers lie on one side of the stem. It is used only on wet flies to the best of my knowledge and when done properly results in all the hackle fibers slanting slightly to the rear. The finished result is a fly is both classic and classy in appearance. It looks especially good on steelhead patterns.

The technique that works best after some practice is as follows. First stroke the fibers towards the butt to get them to stand out at right angles to the stem. Then with the shiny side of the feather facing you, grasp the butt of the feather between the middle and ring finger of your left hand. Hold the tip of the hackle with your right thumb and forefinger. Keeping the feather taut, extend your left thumb up towards your right thumb and place the pad against the feather. Then use your left forefinger to stroke down and to the rear across the hackle fibers, as close to the butt as your finger mobility will allow. Done correctly this will fold all of the fibers to one side of the stem. Moistening your left thumb and forefinger will help as will a little stroking action with your left thumb if needed. Keep the feather taut and use as much force as needed with the left thumb and forefinger without stripping the fibers or breaking the stem.

(Continued on opposite page)

Dave Yonge and Don Johnstone fished the Clearwater back in December when Dave caught this beautiful steelhead. Can you tell he's happy?



THE FISH SMART

I was recently reading an article out of a *major* fly fishing magazine in which the author made the statement, "as trout get smarter, we will need more blah blah, blah..."

Smarter fish? Is this more of that genetic tampering stuff? How 'smart' can a fish really be? Is there an intelligence limit or can we expect some trigonometry-trained trout soon?

Face it, trout have the brain about the size of a pea. How smart are they, really?

Elephants are thought to have a genetic memory, that is, newborns can find their way to a watering hole they have never been to, and locate it precisely. This same genetic memory goes for food, what is safe to eat, what is not safe to eat. We cannot say the same for trout. I once caught and tossed a live grasshopper, wiggly legs and all, right into the path of a feeding trout. The grasshopper floated safely by and continued to do so as long as I could see it downstream. Smart fish? This is the same smart fish that about ten minutes later inhaled a creation of deer hair, yarn, gold wire, and chicken feathers thinking it was something edible.

Yep, these guys are getting smarter for sure. Those fly tying (selling) types seem to think so. Every year the 'new' patterns emerge (yes, pun intended) to be the ticket to those trigonometry-trained trout. Those trout have just out-smarted last year's model.

Several years ago I was fishing the South Fork of the Merced River, precisely casting meticulously tied mayfly

patterns, and getting totally ignored by fish of an obviously superior intelligence. These fish were out in the middle of the river calculating trigonometric ratios in order to dart to my fly, just miss it, and throw in a little tail splash as a final taunt. Just the week before an old-timer (experienced fisherman) had asked me, as he looked into my fly box "what ever happened to the ol' royal coachman?" That thought came to my mind as I tried an old coachman pattern and yup, you guessed it, fish on! How smart indeed. Substantiated proof once again that weak genetics override superior intelligence. No genetic memory in the South Fork, yet.

How smart you still ask? Fish in the Green River have scarred and swollen lips because of so many hook removals. Fish in rivers all over have been caught with a fly still attached to a shredded piece of 6X tippet, dangling from the lower jaw. There is also that college dropout trout who breaks off a #16 Adams pattern, only to eat the exact same pattern in the exact same time it takes to tie on the new pattern. It's a real bonus to get your original fly returned.

We need to reconsider the 'smart' trout and rethink the not-so-smart fly fisherman. Once again, genetics override intelligence.

(by Gil Hassen of the Merced Flyfishing Club of California for the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire)

Related Quote:

In bright sunlight, when I could see everything that happened, I had once watched a small trout that I had just caught and released, rise almost immediately to the same fly floated down over the same place.

Colin Fletcher

Fly of the Month--Caddis Variant

Chuck's Caddis Variant - by Tim Cavileer

I was introduced to this fly by a friend from Pennsylvania about three years ago. By using a curved hook, substituting Hi-Vis for the wing material and introducing a thread rib in a contrasting color to the body dubbing, he expanded the range of the fly to imitate not only caddis hatches but various mayflies as well. Sometimes it's hard to improve on a pattern but this is one case where I think the exception to the rule is true.

Caddis Variants, originated by Chuck Stranahan, are easy to tie, durable and lend themselves to a many variations by using different color combinations of body, rib and wing material. Tying is simple. Attach the thread and rib material at the mid-shank point. Wrap the thread to the rear of the hook, dub the body to mid-shank and wrap the rib forward. Tie in the Hi-Vis downwing style. Attach the hackle and wrap forward. Tie off and whip finish.

Some body colors to try are: tan, cinnamon and yellow bodies with contrasting 3/0 thread in a darker color than the body (6/0 on smaller flies). You can also vary the hackle and wing color for a range of light to dark flies. One particular combination of yellow body/ pale green wing/medium ginger variant hackle is useful for imitating the small Yellow Sally.

This fly, in different color combinations, has been very good for me during both caddis and mayfly hatches on the St Maries and on Kelly Creek in late summer. An added benefit of using the Hi-Vis is that with a few false casts the fly is ready to float hi and dry all over again!



Hook: Daiichi 1130 or Mustad 80200BR, #12-18

Thread: brown

Rib: brown 3/0 tying thread

Body: yellow or tan dubbing

Wing: Hi-Vis

Hackle: ginger dye grizzly

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