



# The Tippet

May 2001

## President's Message

So has anyone thrown on some camo cloths and headed to the Clearwater for some combat style fishing? I have not witnessed it myself but reports are it is a madhouse. I hope to hear some positive reports at the meeting if anyone has been down to the river trying their luck for a hard fighting and very tasty spring Chinook.

I have talked with some people that are involved with the water issues on the Snake and Columbia about how things look for our beloved anadromous friends but have gotten no positive answers. It appears that the powers that be seem to change the mind about things almost daily so it is going to be a game of wait and see. I just hope the fish have the water they need for their travels, I sure would hate to be picking ticks off of steelhead this fall cause the rivers are short on water.

I hope everyone enjoyed the presentation last month by Teryl T. I know it would certainly have been useful in keeping a few ex-girlfriends around for yours truly. But I guess it's better to have fished and lost than to have never fished at all. Or is that "to have loved", Hmmm, I guess I'll play it safe and just love fishing. Anyway, it was a great show by a wonderful lady and I certainly enjoyed deeply. I do hope that some members take her up on the Bed and Breakfast deal, it sounds wonderful.

This month we will have Don Dale in to do a presentation on the Clark fork. Don owns and runs a lodge and guiding service on the river so should be well versed in it's fish and their moods. From talking with him it sounds like it will be a very informative and enjoyable show. Also, he will have a very pleasant surprise for us to enjoy immediately after dinner. So come out and enjoy an evening with friends and find out what the surprise is. Be sure to get out and

enjoy the beautiful weather as well. If you can't get to the water then loosen up that rusty casting arm on the lawn. Heck, tie a nut to your leader maybe you'll catch a squirrel when you back-cast into a tree.

Your Prez,

*John D. Toker*

## Backcast (April meeting)

### Guests

April meeting guests included George Crowe, Martha Foster (who turned 29 again!), Mark Lamb (of The Traditional Sportsman, Lewiston) and Marty Davis.

### Fishing reports

Bob Wallace regaled us with many stories of fish and not fish, current and past, and long and short. One of the many, but most interesting, was his recounting catching steelhead back in 1948 from seven different streams in the area, all within a two week period. He caught steelhead in the Selway, Wanahai(?), Asotin, Grande Ronde, Snake and Tucannon. Of course, we're talking pre-dam here! Tony McDonnell reported having a stellar day on Coffepot, unlike some of the other members, with over 18 fish in the 14-22" range. Proof is in the picture, as they say (see the photo elsewhere in this issue). Mark Cleven reported having a slow day on Lenice with wetflies in the morning but good fishing midday on dries. Sometimes you just have to wait them out.

### Old Business

Shirley reported on our recent auction and someone else speculated on the still absent fishing tree.

### New Business

The club received a letter concerning club insurance through the FFF. Jim Siebe will investigate. The summer BBQ was discussed and several asked about having

salmon and key lime pie on the menu. Especially the key lime pie. Dave Engerbretson agreed to investigate purchasing new casting hoops for the casting games.

### New Raffle

The club is raffling off a set of 'Four Doctors', a framed set of beautiful salmon flies tied by Chuck Moxley. Raffle tickets are \$10/square.

*Tim Cavileer*

## Conservation Report

The CFC's conservation meeting was well attended. Items discussed were: finding new accommodations for the CFC monthly meeting, the Amber Lake and St Joe fishout, and to investigate Alchemy Ventures Ltd. (A Canadian company) plan to dig 10,000 acres (15.625 miles sq.) of clay in the Helmer and Moose Creek drainage area.

*Jim Palmersheim*

### 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*

[www.clearwaterflycasters.com](http://www.clearwaterflycasters.com)

CFC membership dues are now \$20/year for individuals, \$25/year for families, \$10/year for students, \$50/sustaining and \$300/lifetime.

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



## Sherm Lowel

Dr. Sherman Cabot Lowell, age 82, a resident of Florence, OR, the past 6 years, died Wednesday, February 28th at Peace Harbor Hospital. He was born August 15, 1918, at Olean, NY, to MR. and Mrs. Francis R. Lowell. He spent most of his childhood in Detroit, MI. After graduating from Redford High School in 1936, he attended the Naval Academy. He obtained his Bachelors from the University of Chicago in 1940, and married Mary Francis Snively in 1941. During the war he taught meteorology for the Navy in Chicago, and later in Annapolis. In 1949, Sherman obtained his Doctorate of Mathematics at New York University. He served as the Scientific Liaison Officer at the American Embassy in London for several years before returning to post doctorate work at the Courant Institute at New York University. He was chairman of the Graduate Mathematics and Physics Departments at Adelphi University. In 1961, the Lowell's moved to Pullman, WA, where he taught computer sciences at Washington State University and later served as chairman of both the Mathematics and Physics Departments.

He was a charter member of the Federation of Fly Fisherman and co-founded the Clearwater Flycasters. In 1994, Sherm and Fran moved to Florentine Estates in Florence, OR. They traveled widely, loved all the fine arts and supported many organizations. He and Fran were active with the Florence Food Share and the Events Center. He taught fly casting and fly tying. His beloved wife of 59 years passed away on November 15, 2000. He succumbed after a second abdominal surgery at Peace Harbor Hospital. He is survived by sons Francis Lowell of Huntington, NY, his wife Linda and their sons, Matthew and his wife Rebecca and their son Ethan, and Robert and his wife Kim. Daughter Holly Lowell of Evanston, IL, and her son Justin. Sisters Joan Hensen and Eleanor Lowell of Grants Pass, OR. A memorial service was held in Florentine Estates. Memorial contributions can be made in his name to Florence Food Share or Florence Performance and Events Center.

## Book Review - by Don Shearer

*The Longest Silence: A Life in Fishing*

By Thomas McGuane

Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, NY

280 pages, hardbound, ISBN: 0679454853

Wow! I mean wow! Every so often I read a book that really speaks to me. The kind of book which you want to share with everyone while at the same time clutching it close to your chest and not wanting to share it with anyone. For the fear they will not cherish it in the way you do. As if their inability to recognize how great the book is will somehow diminish it for you. *The Longest Silence* is such a book.

The book contains thirty-three essays, which cover a wide range of angling subjects. These include fishing the fly in various spots across the globe for different species. In addition to the various species and spots McGuane writes of he gives them to you from different points in his life. He neatly ties in how perspectives on angling may change during a lifetime, but at the core angling is no different for an eight year old or an eighty year old.

I wish I were just a fraction of the writer McGuane is. If I were I would be able to come up with a better way of saying that his writing is beautiful. But I am not and I cannot. It is just that though. It is truly a great pleasure to read something from one who is a master at their craft.

Fishing even though it is enhanced by sharing time a stream with friends is at its essence a personal experience. How many times have you tried to explain to a non-angler why it is you fish? Only to read the incomprehension on their face on why you are so dedicated to such an utterly pointless endeavor. With this McGuane may be able to get the point across to the non-angler where you and I have failed time and time again.

This glimpse of what the book offers kind of sums up fishing in general. "At the end of a fishing trip you're inclined to summarize things in your mind. A tally is needed for the quick description you will be asked for: so many fish at such-and-such weights and the method employed. Inevitably, what actually happened is indescribable."

## Announcements

**Northwest Fly Casting Exposition. September 29th, 2001. Port Orchard, WA.**

Information on the Northwest Fly Casting Exposition, September 29, 2001 at Trophy Lake Golf and Casting, near Port Orchard, WA is available on the WSCFFF web site at:

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/wcfff/index.html> or  
<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/wcfff/fly-fishing-expo.htm>

## Upcoming Events

**May 9, 2001** 6:00 pm. Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at Shermer's in Pullman

**May 16, 2001** CFC Board/Conservation meeting, 5:30 pm at Rico's in Pullman

**July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001** BBQ at Sunnyside Park, Pullman

**July 12-15<sup>th</sup>, 2001** Fishout on the St Joe

*President* John Toker (johntoker@hotmail.com) 332-6603

*Vice-President* Jim Siebe (jsiebe@moscow.com) 883-0622

*Sec/Treasurer* Shirley Engerbretson (sengerbr@moscow.com)  
882-1687

*FFF Representative* George Johnson (gjohnson@pullman.com) 334-3135

*Conservation Chair* Jim Palmersheim (jamesp@turbonet.com) 882-4502

*Newsletter Editor* Tim Cavileer (tcavileer@uidaho.edu) 883-4572

## *Posting Wings*

This month we'll be covering the posting of wings and parachute hackles. In the dark ages when I started, very little was written about such exotic practices. As a consequence I thought that my wings were good enough without posting and parachute hackling was just an exotic fad. With the passing of years, the gaining of wisdom and the desire to become a more proficient tier I have done a 180 on both of these items. Posted wings are better than those not posted and parachute hackled flies certainly add to one's fishing pleasure.

Let us cover wing posting first. For those who may not be familiar with the term, "posting" it is simply a technique of wrapping the base of a wing, usually hair or a synthetic, to make it stiffer or post like. For starters it is not as difficult as many would have you believe. You do not need three or more hands and you certainly do not need any of the fancy spring-loaded gadgets that so many shops and catalogs would love to sell you.

I recommend that you practice posting wings without tying a complete fly until you become comfortable with the technique. That way you will waste a minimum of time and materials and won't end up with as many "learner flies" in your box. Learner flies will catch fish -- they just aren't as pretty as your better flies. Let me walk you through the process the way I do it. There may be other ways but this works for me.

We'll start with synthetic wing material as we can use a longer piece and it is easier to control. Take a piece of wing material about 1-1/2 inches long (this is more than you actually need and you will be able to deal with shorter pieces later) and divide it into half of what you will need for a completed wing. Tie the material down on top of the hook at its midpoint, take both ends of the material and pull straight up as you tighten the thread, then take one wrap of thread around the hook shank in front of the wing. You will find this a much stronger and neater method of tying in synthetic material than to tie in a full wing and then trim the butts. The posting of the wing is now done by wrapping the thread around just the base of the wing. Start at the bottom and wrap up and then back down in close wraps of the thread and immediately take a wrap around the hook shank. The actual distance up the wing you need to cover will depend on the fly design and its size. If, for example, you are tying a parachute pattern with a dubbed thorax around the wing base, you will need to allow for that with a little extra posting.

At this point many of you sharp-eyed readers may be asking, why this extra wrap around the hook shank? The extra wrap tends to lock in the thread and firmly terminates the prior operation. Let me give a couple of examples. Often when tying in stiff hair it will want to move around the hook shank as you wrap it. Adding more wraps on top of it doesn't solve the problem and just adds bulk. The culprit here is thread

torque. The solution is to first firmly hold the material in position while you bind it down with the needed wraps, then take one wrap off of the hair and around just the hook shank. A second example: if you try to tighten up on your thread after posting the wing without the wrap around the hook, the wing will often bend down and all of your posting wraps will slip off the top.

Back to the posting and the little details that will make it easier for you. I generally wrap the post counter-clockwise as viewed from the top but this is not a hard and fast rule. Try both and do whatever is easiest for you. Now for the actual wrapping, first shorten up on your thread so only a inch or so is outside the bobbin, then grasp the top of the wing with your left thumb and forefinger and pull up slightly keeping it taut during the posting. With your right hand, start the bobbin around the wing base until you are just past center on the far side. Next, transfer the bobbin to the remaining fingers of your left hand and use them to bring it across the back of the vise to the near side where your right hand picks it up and continues the motion. With just a little practice this becomes almost second nature. This is one of the few times where all the fingers get into the action. Forget about all those spring mounted clips and gallows tools, you'll never need them.

One other tip about posting concerns the proper selection of thread. I know that many of you tie most of your flies with thread that is too fine. If you use 8/0 thread when tying size 16 and larger flies you will have difficulty wrapping a good post as it will take an undue number of wraps to do it properly. Switch to 6/0 thread and the task will be much easier. Most novices take far too many wraps in the tying of their flies; 6/0 thread allows them to complete their flies without too much bulk, but it doesn't make for speedy tying or better flies.

Looks like I ran out of space so I'll cover parachute hackling another time.

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



*Great catch!*

Tony McDonnell on Coffeepot Lake

## Fly of the Month--2 for 1

*Submitted by Nadeer Youssef*

### 2 for 1 Scud

*Fly #1; male*

**Hook:** none; 40 pound test monofilament with a melted end to keep fly from 'slipping off'

**Tail:** none

**Body:** hares ear dubbing to match naturals; olive in this case

**Overback:** strip of plastic bag

**Ribbing:** medium brass wire

**Eyes:** melted monofilament; painted black

**Head/thread:** to match body; olive in this case

*Fly #2, female*

**Hook:** scud hook; #12

**Tail:** fly #1

**Body:** hares ear dubbing to match naturals (olive in this case) mixed with some orange crystal dubbing

**Eyes:** melted monofilament; painted black

**Head/thread:** to match body; olive in this case

This fly was designed after noticing mating pairs of scuds drifting down the Green River in Utah. They appeared to be unable to swim against the current and were helpless. The orange fly represents the gravid female.

Tie the 1st fly by clamping the monofilament in the vice as if it were a hook, leaving a tag on the end for attachment to the second fly. Once the flies are finished and connected, gently compress the brass ribbing vertically. This will allow the fly to move through the water in a natural manner.



*(Photo by Jim Palmersheim)*

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

Visit our new website at [www.clearwaterflycasters.com](http://www.clearwaterflycasters.com)



Get your Tippet online at [www.clearwaterflycasters.com](http://www.clearwaterflycasters.com)