



# The Tippet

November 2001

## President's Message

It was a disappointing surprise at the border on my trip back from the Skeena river system. They let me back into the U.S.!! I hoped and prayed that I would be told I had to stay, a month just was not enough time in steelhead heaven. So now that I am back I figured I should stop skipping out on my duties as President and finish out my term in office.

I hope everyone was having a grand time chasing the steelhead that have filled up our local rivers. The reports I have gotten have been mixed, seems like that common theme of right place at the right time has dictated who has been doing a little catching with their fishing. Hopefully the crowds will continue to thin as the weather cools and if we are lucky the water conditions will be a little more consistent than the past few weeks.

Our speaker for this month will be one of the Vermilion brothers from Sweetwater Travel over in Livingston, Montana. They will be doing a show that highlights the fishing and travel they do throughout the world. It promises to be a very exciting show! Speaking of good shows, I am sorry I missed the show by Dave Corcoran, the reviews I received were all outstanding. We may want to have him back for his saltwater show sometime.

Finally, I would like to thank Tim Cavileer for the wonderful job he has done on the our newsletter and web site. He has without question been the hardest working member of our club and deserves a great deal of thanks from all of us. I just hope who ever takes over will be as patient as he was

with a certain president getting his message in late every month.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Your Prez,

*John D. Toker*

## Backcast

### Fishing Reports

Sporadic reports from various members indicated some were catching steelhead while others were wishing they were catching. When the catching was good, most folks were in the range of landing one out every six hooked. Discussion centered around the record number of boats and wading fishers on the rivers. Etiquette seemed to be lacking and has generated several articles in the local area newspapers.

### Conservation

Jim Palmersheim gave an update on the Clay Pit mining situation in the Deary/Bovill area. Alchemy Kaolin, Inc. petitioned the Latah County Zoning Commission to approve a conditional use permit to operate a clay processing plant one mile south of Deary on Hwy 3. Jim passed a handout to members that detailed the request. Of particular concern to some club members is the 10,000 gallons of water per day for processing and the disposal of that water after its use. The Zoning Commission was to make a final recommendation to the Commissioners on October 16, 2001.

### Old Business

Summer BBQ casting results. Remember those new casting rings Dave Engerbretson picked up for the club? Well, here are the results, straight from Dave Tharp (*maybe we can get an explanation from Dave at the meeting on how the competition was conducted*). Congratulations to winner Dave Yonge with high score of 91!

Bruce	2/1	0/1	1/2	1/1	2/1	87
John	1/1	2/1	0/1	0/2	1/1	90
Dave	1/0	0/2	1/1	0/2	2/1	90
Andy	1/0	2/1	2/2	1/1	1/1	88
Tom	1/1	1/0	2/0	2/2	2/0	89
<b>Dave</b>	<b>1/0</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>1/0</b>	<b>2/1</b>	<b>91</b>
Jack	2/1	2/2	0/0	1/0	1/1	90
Don	1/1	2/1	1/1	1/2	1/2	87
Sharon	1/1	2/0	1/0	2/1	2/2	87

### New Business

Dave Engerbretson reported that PBS KWSU (Channel 10) is now airing the new episodes of Fly Tying: The Angler's Art on Wednesday (10:00pm) and Saturday evenings (6:00pm).

Monte Elder has taken over as club librarian and brought up for discussion the state of the library (or the lack of one). Several members recanted the demise of the previous library books by the local Pullman Library. Monte also gave a book review on *Fly Fishing: Simple to Sophisticated* by Al Kyte. He was so impressed with the book he checked out the copy himself. The video library is now

*(Continued on next page)*

### 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

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

Meetings on 2nd Wednesday, Sept - May, at Lakey's Grill, 300 S Grand, Pullman, WA

Wet Fly time at 6:00pm, dinner at 6:30pm and program at 8:00pm



## Backcast (cont.)

in Monte's possession and tapes will be available for check out at the monthly meetings. Several tapes have been checked out for ages and a list of over dues will be announced at the next meeting. Monte also asked for club input on organizing, lending policy and building up the library (books and videos) as a club resource. Monte can be reached at (509) 878-1493 or elder@completebbs.com for suggestions.

*(Since the last meeting, a new member, Zac Sexton, has stepped forward to take over the reins of editing the Tippet. Zac will be at the next meeting for members to meet. Ed.)*

*Tim Cavileer*

## Common Sense

Sometimes we need a little reminder. Here's yours and it won't cost you anything.

A short time ago I had my truck ransacked and the thieves stole a lot of my fishing gear, among other items that were part of my usual fishing trip experience (cameras, etc.). This happened while the truck was parked at my house.

The items most important that were stolen was a fly box that was handed down from my father with flies he used when he taught me to fish. I never fished with them, but I kept the box sealed in the vest for good luck. The actual working fly gear used that was stolen can be replaced, but the memories cannot.

**Fail not:** Take stock of your own personal property now, especially your fishing gear.

Without delay copy down all serial numbers of your valuable rods and reels, and register them with the appropriate organizations. Use camera or video to inventory your gear and keep this in a safe place. Record time of purchase, place of purchase, price, and make/model numbers of all your valuable gear (that would probably include anything from a fly box and bigger). I still have my rods, waders, boots and some steelhead gear, but my entire trout gear, vest, license, etc. is gone. Don't let it happen to you. I will tie more flies and fish with my dad again, so there is nothing to be permanently upset about. My license has been renewed and insurance will try to cover the loss. Everything will be O.K.

Use common sense and protect your property. I learned the hard way.

*(by Jeff Wandling of the Overlake Fly Fishing Club of Bellevue, Washington)*

## Book Excerpt - via the FFF ClubWire

I don't know why I need to fish so much. For the good of my soul? The question makes me skittish. I prefer to think of fishing as a restorative to some vital thing -- maybe soul, maybe heart, maybe vitality itself -- that dwindles when we spend too much time working, attending to family and fiscal emergencies, driving in traffic, and watching television. I don't know much about the soul, but I know that the twin benefits of fishing -- the combination of physical activity with cerebral engagement -- serve to flush impurities from my system. When I haven't been out for a few days I suffer from a buildup of hideous poisons. My joints ache. My muscles cramp. My fingernails get brittle. If I sleep, I dream of forest fires and exploding trains. Tears stream down my cheeks, leaving trails of toxic salts. I pace the floor and sigh until Gail kicks me out of the house, which is all I needed in the first place.

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

## FROM THE TYERS NOTEBOOK

**ECONOMICAL FLY FLOATANT** As an alternative to expensive fly floatant, try RAIN-X. It's much more affordable. Soak your flies ahead of time and let them dry overnight or longer and you will find they stay hi and dry just as well as fly floatant.

**MORE FREE LEGS!** If you cut open a bungee cord you will find a great source for rubber leg material.. An added bonus is that sometimes there will be varied colors in the cord.

**TYING DESK MAGNETS** An indispensable item to have at your tying desk is a magnet. With it you can easily "fish" a dropped hook out of a trash container or from a thick carpet or use it to hold a few hooks.

*(by Dick Eppinger of the South Jersey Fly Lines for the FFF ClubWire Email NewsWire.)*

## Announcements

✔ **2002 Dues.** It's that time again and Shirley will start collecting dues at the December meeting. Remember, \$20/individual, \$10/student, \$25/family, \$50/sustaining and \$300/lifetime.

✔ **Calendars.** Shirley has some leftover 2001 calendars to give away. Great pictures and the price is right - free! 2002 calendars will be ordered very soon.

✔ **Alspach Scholarship Fund.** The club is taking applications for the scholarship to be awarded in December. Guidelines can be downloaded from the club website.

## Upcoming Events

**November 14, 2001** 6:00 pm. Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at Lakey's Grill in Pullman

**November 21, 2001** CFC Board/Conservation meeting, 5:30 pm at Rico's in Pullman

President	John Toker (johntoker@hotmail.com) 332-6603
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## *Caring for your fly rod*

Your rod is undoubtedly the single-most important tool when fighting any fish and it is also the easiest piece of equipment to break. Follow this advice and you'll decrease the chance of ruining or damaging your fly rod.

**A**lways store your rods in a rod sock inside a metal tube. This will ensure your rod is not crushed or damaged while traveling.

**A**lways place the butt section of the rod in the rod sock with the handle toward the open end. The tip section should be placed in the rod sock with the tip toward the opening. By placing it in this way the large handle will help protect the delicate tip section of the rod. If you put the tip down it could jam against the bottom of the case and break. For those who like to use rod and reel storage cases, use the same method of rod section insertion as for the metal tube.

**B**efore assembling your rod's sections, wipe any water or debris from the tip and butt sections. These impurities can cause the sections to stick together and may create scratches or cracking when attempting to disassemble them.

**T**he correct way to join graphite rods is to put the tip on the butt and slide it down until it stops easily. Line up the guides and push the sections together firmly. The ferrules should fit together snugly.

**W**hen stringing a rod, place it on a diagonal with the butt and reel on the ground. You should also try to have something you can place on the ground first to protect your reel and reel seat from dirt and damage. Carefully feed the fly line through the guides. Always avoid bending the tip section over to put the line through the final 2 or 3 guides. Many rods are broken while being bent in this manner.

**W**hen fly casting, use extra care when using weighted-eye flies or split shot. Although a hit on your rod may not break it at that time, it could cause micro-fractures which will cause the rod to weaken and break later.

**P**eriodically check your rod during the course of a day's fishing to ensure the ferrules are mated and haven't worked loose. A strike on a rod with loose ferrules could easily result in the breakage of the ferrules making the rod a total loss.

**A**fter the day's fishing, be it in fresh or saltwater, rinse your rod carefully in a solution of mild soapy water to remove any residues or odors. Make sure you thoroughly dry your rods before storing. This will prevent any damage to the rod's finish from water standing on the rod and prevent mildew on the rod sock, which will also lead to all kinds of damage. You can also wipe down the rod with a liquid furniture polish to enhance the look and finish.

**L**ubricate reel seats and touch up guide feet with a cotton swab dipped in WD40 or other similar corrosion inhibitors.

**I**f tree limbs or bushes are hooked from a boat or while wading, point the rod tip directly at the snag area and pull back along the axis of the rod, putting the stress on the reel instead of the rod. This will either dislodge the snag or break your line, but your rod will be saved. NEVER rear back on the rod to try to pull the fly loose. Flies and tippets are far cheaper to replace than a prized rod.

**L**ubricate reel seats and touch up guide feet with a cotton swab dipped in WD40 or other similar corrosion inhibitors.

**I**f an electrical storm occurs while fishing, put your rod away immediately. Graphite is an excellent conductor of electricity, as are your hands, arms, torso, legs, etc.

**I**f you're playing a fish and it makes a run under the boat, you must act quickly. Dip the rod tip into the water alongside the boat, protecting the line and rod from breakage. In shallow areas be careful not to spear the bottom.

**W**hen fighting a fish, never hold your rod above the handle. If you do this will cause the load to be transferred to a smaller diameter section of the rod dramatically increasing stress to the rod.

**N**ever over-stress your rod in one spot. Bending the tip at a severe angle transfers all the stress to a single area, potentially causing the blank to fail. Rods are designed to handle stress over the entire length of the blank and should be flexed with this in mind.

**W**hen bringing a fish in do not over-retrieve the line. A general rule of thumb calls for leaving as much line out as the length of the rod: If you have a nine-foot rod, leave at least nine feet of line from rod tip to hook. Steadily raise the rod to guide the fish toward you. Be careful not to raise the rod tip behind your head. Do not dead lift the fish into the boat as this will over-stress your rod.

**N**ever reel flies all the way to the rod tip. This may damage the ceramic insert or fracture the tip of the blank.

**A**lways follow the line rating for your rod. Exceeding the line rating may cause the rod to fail.

**W**hen changing fishing locations, it is best to disassemble your rod completely until you reach your destination; anything else could easily lead to disaster. The tip can easily be snapped by snags, overhangs, door jambs, oar locks, you name it. One-piece rods should always be carried with the handle facing forward.

**U**se the rod only for its intended purpose and know its limitations. Light line weight rods are engineered for use with light leaders. Using heavy leaders on light rods can stress them beyond their design and function.

**R**emember that any time a rod is out of its tube, it is in danger. Setting up your rod should be the last thing you do before fishing and taking it down should be the first thing you do when quitting.

*(by John Jaillet of the Penticton Flyfishers)*

## Spawning Purple - by John Shewey

**Thread:** fluorescent flame-orange single-strand floss and then orange or black 6/0 or smaller thread  
**Hook:** 3/0-6, salmon/steelhead wet fly  
**Tag:** silver tinsel  
**Body:** flame orange single-strand floss (used as tying thread)  
**Wing:** four or five separate "spikes" of purple marabou tied in at intervals along the tip of the hook, beginning at about mid-shank; the last of these is tied in after the purple hackle is wrapped.  
**Collar:** purple hackle  
**Cheeks:** jungle cock (optional)  
**Second collar:** dyed-orange guinea



- Step 1.** Secure a length of fine flat silver tinsel just ahead of mid-shank. Wrap this tinsel backward and then forward again forming both the tag and a silver underbody.
- Step 2.** Wrap backward with the single-strand floss, forming a thin butt. Leaving a turn or two of silver tinsel showing for a tag, reverse direction with the floss and wrap back to mid-shank. At this point, secure a wing of purple marabou fibers (use the entire tip section from a marabou 'blood plume'). This 'spike of marabou', when pulled to the rear, should extend to the back of the hook bend.
- Step 3.** Tie in three more of these marabou spikes, leaving a gap between the respective tie-down points. Each successive spike must be cut slightly longer than the previous ones so that the ends are even at the rear.
- Step 4.** After securing the fourth spike of marabou, switch to the fine thread and secure a purple hackle. Make five or six turns of hackle for a collar.
- Step 5.** Now add a fifth spike of purple marabou and then, if desired, add a jungle cock eye to each side of the wing. Then finish the fly by making two or three turns of orange-dyed guinea (use the long-fibered rump feathers for large flies).

*(Recipe and tying instructions from 'Flyfishing for Summer Steelhead' by Shewey and Maxwell - used by permission)*

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