

Clearwater Fly Casters

December, 2002

President's Message

Tippet

Well, here we are at the completion of my term as president of Clearwater Fly Casters. I have to say that the opportunity for on-the-job training at my age and given the years I've spent in my chosen career was quite unexpected. I now have a profound respect for the excellent work of many of my predecessors!

I also appreciate (and hereby wholeheartedly acknowledge) the commitment of the handful of people that make the organization run. Shirley Engerbretson who lugs around the books, writes the checks, and always has refreshing and innovative ideas at Conservation Committee meetings; Jim Palmersheim's tireless leadership of the Conservation Committee; and Vice President Bruce Frazier who, as an understudy, assumed a lot more responsibility than I would ever have expected. Tim Cavileer the devoted editor of this publication; I cannot express how much I appreciate him.

My tenure saw a number of changes in the organization. We moved meetings to the University Best Western, solidified some policies concerning speaker retention, agreed on principle to Amended By-Laws (which I am polishing, believe it or not). We are

essentially at a crossroads where members need to discuss and resolve the ageless query: are we a drinking club or a service organization (or both). New leadership and more aggressive fundraising look to raise the level of this debate.

This month, we will give the Collins-Allured award for the first time in at least two years. We also plan on a gift exchange, wherein participants bring six flies to exchange with others (chosen by lot) who also brought six flies. This should be fun! Our Speaker will be Bill Hendrix, who will give a short presentation on making those beautiful custom nets that he produces.

Please join us at the University Inn for Wet Fly Hour at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00 on Wednesday, December 11th. The menu will be choice of Steelhead or Chicken Parmesan, for \$15.00 (including tax and tip). Please support our goal of having at least 50 members per meeting in accordance with the arrangement we made with the University Inn, especially since they also comp rooms for our speakers!

Jim Siele

Missing:

35mm Projector

We are still looking for the club's 35 mm film projector; does anyone have a clue as to where it is?

Editor Needed

The Tippet still needs an editor! Did we mention perks? That's right, your dinner at the monthly club meeting is paid for by the club! Contact Tim Cavileer for more details!

Fly Tying Night.

Tuesday's 6-8pm on the mezzanine deck at TriState
Check with John Read for details

Christmas Fly Exchange

Bring 6 flies and go home with 6 different flies

Flyfishing - the Quiet, Contemplative Pastime

Some people never learn to shut up. They go through life incessantly chattering a lot of tripe. I, for one, have never been accused of being quiet. However, there are times and places for voice and there are times and places for quiet.

Flyfishing is one of the latter. There is a specialness that comes when you're with a good fishing buddy and you're working a flow. You don't need words. You know what the next steps are. You take turns or you hunt for another location. You nod or exchange a quiet word or two. You hear the rushing water, the breezes in the trees, the birds singing, the insects chirping or humming and even the frogs have a lilt to add. This is quietude.

Have you ever just sat down and listened. The tap-tap-tapping of a woodpecker. The whirring of the wings of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird as it passes over your head. The haunting cry of a Loon in the twilight. That wondrous sound heard from an eagle. I can't call that a cry or scream.

The scurry of a mouse at your feet and that startled look when it discovers your presence. Water dripping from the nose of a deer as it looks up from a drink. The bouncing through the bush as it mistakenly flees in fear with its white tail flashing. But you're not there to hunt deer now.

The whine of a mosquito in your ear. Pesky things but food for fish. The far off rise of a fish. The buzzing sound that bees make as they move from flower to flower. Have you ever heard the funny little mewling or purring sounds of a contented beaver feeding next to you, totally unaware of your presence because you're quiet for a change.

Have you ever just sat there absorbing your surroundings? Have you ever noticed how acute your senses become. Hearing, eyesight, smell and taste all improve substantially, if you give them a chance. Your mind clears and your thinking gets deeper. Your thoughts broaden and you are much more forgiving of others. Communication occurs on a different frequency. Speech is unnecessary.

Don't you wish you could bring that back with you when you return to our "modern" world?

Sheldon Seale - Past president of the Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club in Ontario, Canada and Fly Tying editor of Canadian Fly Fisher magazine

Tying steps for the H&L Variant: (continued from the back page ...)

1. I always smash the barb first. Start the thread at mid-shank and make a thread base rearward. Lory starts with white thread, and Ed uses black from start to finish.

2. Cut a bundle of calf body hair or straight calf tail a little bigger in diameter than the hook's eye. Clean out the fuzz and short hair and stack it. Tie on a shank length tail, trim butts and wind a thread base forward to near the eye before bringing it back to the 1/3rd point.

3. Cut another bundle of calf hair about twice the size of the first. Clean out fuzz and short hair and stack it. Tie in bundle with tips forward one shank length. Hold the hair toward you (assuming that you wind away from you over top of hook) to it on top of the shank. Trim butts to match butts from tail, taper the body a little and make a smooth thread base for the body.

4. In tying flies to catch fish there is usually more than one way to accomplish the task. Ed and Lory tie the wings differently. Try both ways and see which you like.

5. A. Ed's method: Divide hair and use a figure eight to put wings into almost a spinner position. Post each wing by winding up the wing bundle and then down again. If the thread slips off the wing, then use a little less thread tension, more calf hair or both. Do a figure eight on top of wings and drop the bobbin. Now just pull up wings to position them instead of pulling the thread. Put one or two thread wraps behind the wings.

B. Lory's method: Pull up tips and wind thread in front of wings to stand them up. Divide hair and wind thread in a figure eight to keep hair divided. Post each wing. Put a drop of cement on the base of each wing and body. At this point Lory ties off the white thread and attaches the 6/0 black thread.

6. Strip about 2 inches of the fuzz off the butt part of a peacock herl using your thumb and first finger. If you have never used this method of stripping herls, you will probably break a few before you get the pressure right. (I find that a newly trimmed thumb nail helps.) Attach the quill under the shank and pull down on quill as you wind thread rearward to the bend. Return thread to mid-shank. Wrap the stripped quill forward. If the quill splits or breaks as it is wrapped, soak it in water first.

7. With a little practice the quill will run out and the herl start at the point 3/4ths back along the shank from the eye. If there is a little too much stripped quill, wrap a little forward of the 3/4th point and then back to the 3/4th point so the herl starts there. Then wrap the peacock herl forward to the mid-point, secure and trim. (If all else fails, wrap on the quill and tie it off. Then tie on herl and wrap it forward to the mid-point.) Some recipes call for counter wrapping the quill and herl with fine gold wire.

8. Tie on a hackle and secure shaft under hook to in front of wing or put shaft between the wings and tie down. Pull hackle forward before starting to wrap. Put three wraps behind wings and three in front. Stop wrapping on top of hook and secure. If you clip off a few fibers on top when trimming it is OK.

9. Finish the head and put on a little cement.

Dues are Due!

It's that time of year again! Please pay your dues for 2003. Yearly dues are \$20 for an individual membership, \$30 for family membership, \$10 (with student ID) for students.

We also have a sustaining membership for \$50 annually, and a life membership for \$300. Dues may be paid to the Club Treasurer, Shirley Engerbretson, at the monthly meetings, or mail directly to the Clearwater Fly Casters, P.O. Box 2149CS, Pullman, WA 99165.

More Tips for Fly Tiers

I use film canisters as dispensers for rubber legs and wire. It is especially useful for fine wire since it unwraps so easily of the spool. I poke a hole in the lids and feed the rubber leg material or wire through it. *Dave Ting*

Another tip that I can't remember where I learned is to use chapstick on my tying thread before dubbing, I guess it works as well as dubbing wax but don't know since I've only used chapstick! *Dave Ting*

I slip a short section of thin plastic straw (swizzle stick, coffee stirrer, etc.) over the nozzle of my bobbin before I pull the thread out. Then when I go to tie the head on a dry fly, I slide the straw up the thread and over the wings and hackle to hold them right out of the way until the head has been cemented. Cheaper and more effective than any hackle guard. *Donald Rumrill*

Learn to tie without putting your scissors down. I keep mine looped around the ring finger of my right hand. You'll be amazed at how much time this saves and how you begin to discover uses for them other than cutting stuff. *Harrison Steeves*

Conservation Committee

Jim Palmersheim

Items discussed at the November 20th Conservation committee meeting at Rico's :

1. Menu for December's meeting will include a choice of steelhead or chicken.
2. Award the Collins Allured award at the December meeting.
3. Purchase a newspaper ad to announce the Clearwater Fly Caster's monthly meeting.
4. Christmas fly exchange. Bring six flies and go home with six different flies.

Upcoming Events

December 11, 2002 6:00pm Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at the Best Western - University Inn in Moscow, ID.

December 18, 2002 5:30pm Conservation/Executive meeting at Rico's in Pullman, WA.

Kudos ... to Shirley Engerbretson for folding, sealing, stamping and mailing the Tippet! ... to John Read for setting up Tuesday Fly Tying Night at TriState's in Moscow! ... Bruce Frazier for taking over the club video library and making them available at the meetings!

Clearwater Fly Casters 2002

President	Jim Siebe	(jsiebe@moscow.com)	883-0622
Vice President	Bruce Fraizer	(bfrazier@pullman.com)	
Secretary/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	Tim Cavileer	(greencat@turbonet.com)	883-4572

CFC membership dues are \$20/yr for individuals, \$30/yr for families, \$10/yr for students, \$50/yr sustaining and \$300/lifetime.

Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday, September through May at the Best Western - University Inn, 1516 Pullman Rd, Moscow, Idaho. Wet Fly time 6pm, dinner at 7pm and program at 8pm.

H & L VARIANT (a.k.a. HOUSE AND LOT)

Bob Bates - pattern courtesy of the FFF Website at <http://fedflyfishers.org>
You can direct any questions or comments to Bob at flyofthemoth@fedflyfishers.org

In 1991 my son Hilary and I were fishing Millionaire's pool on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River, near Last Chance, Idaho with his friend, Lorie Ann Murphy. He knew her in Seattle before she became a well-known guide. She told us that President Eisenhower used the H & L Variant when he fished Millionaire's Pool as a guest of the Harriman family. Many people and several books also tell us that the H & L Variant was President Eisenhower's favorite fly. It is so easy to see that it should be everybody's favorite.

My references back to 1960 talk about the H & L Variant or House and Lot, but the tying instructions were a little confusing. One book had a picture of it, and the hackles were extremely long - three to four times the gap width - which does fit one definition of variant. Most tiers and other references said that it should have normal size hackle. Certainly Ed Thomas from Montana who tied it at the 1993 FFF Show and Lory Watkins from Washington who tied the pictured fly at the 2002 FFF Show use a normal hackle length.

Fish it in a stream is like any dry fly using a floating line and drag free float. At one time I thought that "drag free float" was just something magazine writers made up to fill space. However in the 50's, Yellowstone National Park browns and rainbows convinced me that it is important.

For a real thrill on stillwater, cast it in the path of a big chain feeding fish and watch the fly disappear. The trick is to judge where that fish will come up next.



Hook: dry #10-18
Thread: White 3/0 and Black 6/0
Tail: White calf body or calf tail hair
Body: Rear half stripped peacock quill, front half peacock herl
Wing: White calf body or calf tail hair, upright and divided
Hackle: Furnace

(See page 2 for tying instructions)

Clearwater Fly Casters

PO Box 2149 CS

Pullman, WA 99165

Our Next Meeting is ...

Wednesday, December 11, 2002

Wet Fly Hour 6:00 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

At the University Inn Best Western

1560 West Pullman Road in Moscow, ID

Please Join us!