



January 2002

President's Message

As I sit here struggling to get over writer's block, I am struck by how quickly the deadlines between columns, as well as monthly meetings have flown, yet how slowly this winter has dragged on. It's like part of lifework and responsibility, exists in a time warp and the other part spring and good weather, are stuck on a slow train to China. I haven't heard of many individuals venturing out to chase the wily salmonids; but I am hopeful some brave souls will have fishing reports this month.

This month's will be our annual Valentine's affair. Bring someone special and enjoy our program on Stillwater fishing, featuring Brant Oswald, fishing expert and noted author. Brant also happens to manage and guide for George Anderson's Yellowstone Angler in Livingston, Montana.

Brant became director of the Orvis West Coast Fly Fishing Schools in 1983, and left in 1985 to join Mel Krieger as co-director of his school program. Brant has been with the Yellowstone Angler since 1989. He ties flies, writes and is active in conservation activities throughout Mont. when not managing the shop or on the water. Brant has been published in The Angler's Journal, Wild Trout Journal, Big Sky Journal, Fly Fishing Retailer, Tight Loop (a Japanese fly fishing magazine) and

just recently, his first online article for the Virtual Flyshop (www.flyshop.com). This presentation will be special and just in time to tune us up for the imminent float tubing season. Brant will also conduct a fly tying demonstration during Wet Fly hour.

On a final note, many thanks to all of you for the excellent turnout at last month's dinner, as well as the Conservation Committee meeting the following week. This year promises to be loads of fun. Please join us for an evening of wine, women (men), trout, and song this coming Wednesday.

.Jim Siebe

Backcast

Fishing Reports

Fly rodders are not reporting to catch many fish, lately. The Clearwater is rising. The Snake and Ronde may be better bets. Zac Sexton has been on the Middle Fork of the Clearwater, after whitefish. He has not caught one in three trips. Zac does not want to talk about it. He did see gas or oil residue near Kamiah, along the shore and covering some rocks

and his waders. The residue covered about five square feet.

Conservation

Dave Engerbretson has published an article for the Virtual Flyshop (www.virtualflyshop.com) on the diesel spill in the Clearwater River. Engerbretson gave a quick summary at the January meeting. Not much is known about the potential effects. No immediate fish kills have been observed. Biologists are waiting to see what happens.

Those who attended the last conservation meeting discussed "nailing down" the club by-laws. Some progress was made - Jim Siebe and conservation crew have details

Old Business

Bruce Frazier was elected as Vice President. Trevor Chowen, Alspach

Clearwater Fly Casters 2002 Officers

President Jim Siebe
Vice-President Bruce Fraizer
Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Engerbretson
Conservation Chair Jim Palmersheim
FFF Representative George Johnson
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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



Backcast (cont.)

scholarship recipient will speak to the club in March.

New Business

Monte Elder has several books available to check out from the club's library. He is looking to expand the book choices; donations are greatly appreciated.

The annual Burgers and Flies fundraiser for Moscow Special Olympians will be Saturday, Feb. 16th, from 4pm to 9:30pm at Craig Lewis' house. There will be a fly tying demonstration, a fund raising auction and free BEER, burgers and pop. Last year the event raised about \$2,000 to help send the Olympians to Sandpoint.

To get to Lewis' house: Drive east on Highway 8 from Moscow and take the first right after Tidyman's. Go to the road's end. There will be a sign with Lewis' name to indicate his house. The event will be in the shop.

Jim Palmersheim is showing his artwork at the 3rd Street Gallery in the old community center, in Moscow. The gallery is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm. The show ends Feb 27. Palmersheim's work includes photo-realistic landscapes, many include famed trout waters.



Upcoming Events

February 12, 19 and 26th 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Fly Tying at Tri-State in Moscow.
February 13 6 p.m., Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at Lakey's Grill in Pullman.
February 16 4-9:30pm Burgers and Flies fundraiser at Craig Lewis' shop.

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Cooking

Dutch oven biscuits and gravy

A great way to start a day on the North Fork of the Clearwater or the St. Joe.

Biscuit ingredients

2 cups flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon sugar
1 tablespoons olive oil
¾ cup milk (approx.)

Directions

Pre-heat 10-inch Dutch oven. Mix all ingredients. Roll dough on a floured board of cutting sheet. Pat to about ¾ inch thick. Cut with a baking powder can or biscuit cutter. Place dough into oiled Dutch. Bake 15-20 minutes with four or five charcoals below and about 20 on top.

This makes 8-10 biscuits. If you are trying to impress somebody, mix in an egg and a little less milk. WOW!

Gravy ingredients

½ pound sausage or a couple handfuls of bacon ends and pieces
¼ cup olive oil
½ cup flour
2 cans evaporated milk
2 cans water
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Fry sausage or bacon in 12-inch dutch over stove or 12-14 charcoals. Scoop out when done, pour out the pork grease (too high in cholesterol) and wipe Dutch oven out with a paper towel. Pour olive oil. Add flour and stir. Mabe add a little more oil. Lightly brown the flour. Mix evaporated milk withwater and stir slowly into flour. Leave the mixture a little thick. Add sausage or bacon and enough milk mixture to get desired thickness. Salt and pepper to taste.

Fry some eggs o the 12-inch dutch lid and this breakfast is fare for a king. What more can you wish for?

The D.O. Camp Cook

QUOTES

"When the Earth is whole, it is forgiving, resilient, covering burned-over land with blankets of fireweed, then alder thickets, then cold pine forests; filtering water through wetlands bright with sky; in every sun-washed cell, creating oxygen; again and again transforming death into life. But once it is damaged, profaned, the power of the Earth to heal itself seeps away, and with it goes its power to nurture us."

-- Kathleen Dean Moore

"I think I fish, in part, because it's an antisocial, bohemian business that, when gone about properly, puts you forever outside the mainstream culture without actually landing you in an institution. It's a nice position. No one considers you to be dangerous, but very little is expected of you."

-- John Gierach

KNOWLEDGE

The Magic Number 42 -- Where Science and Fishing Meet

Forty-two is a magic number to stillwater fishermen (the magic metric number is four). Forty-two degrees is the temperature where water is at its densest. Density is the ratio of mass to volume. Fluids, gasses and liquids form layers based on density; less dense fluids float on top of denser fluids. The same thing happens in a lake, with temperature determining the density of water. So in the summer, the water is the warmest at the top and decreases in water temperature as you progress deeper until the temperature reaches 42 degrees Fahrenheit. Moving waters tend to get mixed up and unless they are very big, do not form the layers of varying temperature/density.

As the water surface cools in the fall, cooler water sinks, filling the lake from the bottom up with water at 42 degrees, until the entire lake is at 42 degrees. This is called the fall turnover of a lake. At turnover the bottom water tends to mix with surface water, the process mixes nutrients and oxygen.

We all know that fish are cold blooded and seek out a comfort zone (Temperature). But reading a lake is much more than knowing the temperature changes with depth. Water's viscosity also changes with temperature and has its lowest viscosity at 42 degrees. High viscosity fluids are slow moving, like honey. Lower viscosity fluids are faster moving; for example, air has a lower viscosity than water. When the wind blows over a lake, the wind will move the water just a little, pushing the water from one end to the other. The process forms an oval current along the upper layers of a lake, adding oxygen to the water. Under the water's surface a similar event is occurring at the thermocline. The thermocline is the point where the viscosity changes enough to prevent the free exchange of current. Just like the lake surface and the wind, the water above the thermocline moves across the surface, at a slow pace but faster than the water below the thermocline. This process adds and mixes oxygen above the thermocline and the water below the thermocline has much less oxygen. Since fish need oxygen, they tend to stay above the thermocline regardless of their preferred temperature range.

In the winter a slightly different sequence occurs. Water is at its densest at 42 degrees, so water colder than 42 degrees floats. This is why ice floats. If this did not happen lakes would freeze from the bottom up and many of our lakes would be fishless.

During ice out the thermocline is very close to the surface, making fishing fabulous after ice out. The fish are restricted to a small portion of the lake near the surface and they are usually hungry.

(by Dave Spiller of the South Sound Fly Fishers of Olympia, WA)

Black tungsten bead head, flash half-back

Hook: 3xlheavy wire nymph #10 to #6
Tail: Dyed black pheasant tail
Back: Large pearl flat tinsel
Body: Four to five strands peacock herl
Hackle: Black saddle
Head: 1/8 inch black tungsten bead

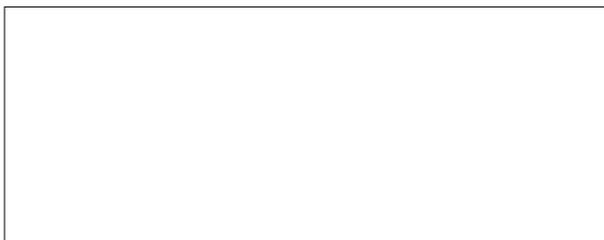


- 1) Secure thread at hook bend and tie in pheasant tail. The tail should be about half the hook shank length.
- 2) Tie in pearl tinsel, hackle and peacock at bend.
- 3) Wrap herl half way up shank, secure and clip excess. Palmer hackle over peacock. Build thread head, whip-finish and cement.

I picked this fly as a memorial to Edward Joseph Patik I, a friend and grandpa-figure who passed away January 10th. Ed was a best friend's grandpa who survived two ships being sunk from under him in the Pacific, during WWII. Every time I saw Ed, he asked me to tie him some more "of those black flies you tied me last time." Apparently my black, tungsten, bead head, flash - halfbacks worked well on the reservoirs and streams he fished in Wyoming.

I never got a chance to fish with him. My flies did. However, I have many fond memories of elk hunting with him and listening to his dirty jokes, stories and songs. I'll always regret never making time to fish with him, but I'll remember his favorite fly and fish with it, instead.

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Get your Tippet online at www.clearwaterflycasters.com