

# Clearwater Fly Casters

November, 2002

## President's Message

At the risk of sounding trite, I still cannot believe how quickly we ran through the month of October. The beautiful weather and large steelhead run has made for the finest fishing in recent memory. I look forward to all of the fishing reports at our meeting this coming November 13, 2002, at 6:00 p.m. at the University Inn-Best Western in Moscow.

Our speaker for the event will be Mike Lawson of Henry's Fork Anglers at Last Chance, Idaho. He also manages the new South Fork Lodge. Interestingly enough, he is also one of the guides referenced in my book review (in another part of this issue). Mike has fished the trout streams in eastern Idaho all of his life, especially the Henry's Fork, and has led fly fishing trips to Alaska, New Zealand, Australia, Tasmania, Christmas Island, Mexico, Belize, and the Florida Keys.

His first book Flyfishing the Henry's Fork was published in June of 2000, co-authored with Gary LaFontaine. It is the most comprehensive work on how and when to fish this great trout stream. Mike has written articles on flyfishing for Flyfisherman, Flyfishing for Trout, The Flyfisher, The Trout Magazine, and the American Angler. His photographs have also appeared in those publications. He is currently writing his second book entitled Spring

Creeks. He has contributed to several books on fly tying, fly fishing, wild turkey hunting, and upland bird shooting. Mike is featured in several flyfishing videos, including Tying Western Dry Flies with Jack Dennis, Tying and Fishing Caddisflies with Gary LaFontaine and Jack Dennis, and Fishing the Golden Ring with Gordon Eastman. The latest video, Tying Flies for Spring Creeks and Tailwaters was released in 1998.

Mike has also been featured on cover photos of several fly fishing's top publications. In the off-season, he conducts slide programs and fly fishing seminars throughout the country. At the time of this writing, he is in southern California making a number of presentations. He is a member of the Sage Advisory Team, Rio Products Pro Staff, and Action Optics Pro Staff. He has been a contract fly tyer for Umpqua Feather Merchants since 1979, and his flies are featured in almost every specialty fly shop and fly fishing mail order catalog.

Mike is going to give us a multimedia presentation entitled Proven Techniques for Larger Trout. We hope you will join us for this exciting program.

Tight Lines,

*Jim Siebe*

## Wanted: Editor

The Clearwater Fly Casters is looking for a new editor. Design, layout, content, you be in control . . . If you have a desire to contribute to the club in a real and tangible way, then this job is for you! Contact Jim Siebe or Tim Cavileer for more information.

Greetings,

Tri-State has finally turned over fly-tying materials to someone in the sporting goods dept. who actually fly fishes. I'm requesting any suggestions for any materials you would like to see the store stock, ie. hooks, thread, synthetics, fur, feathers, tools, etc.

We don't have access to all brands and materials, but will try to carry what we can. Please e-mail me with your suggestions at [jread@moscow.com](mailto:jread@moscow.com).

I'm also planning on restarting the Tuesday night fly-tying at the store. If your interested, let me know.

Thanks,

*John Read*

## **Book Review**

*Wisdom of the Guides* by Paul Arnold  
(Frank Amato Publications, Inc. 1998)

I picked this little gem up at Frontier Anglers in Dillon last month, and once I started reading, I was unable to put it down until I was finished.

The cover best summarizes the content by declaring: "Rocky Mountain Trout Guides Talk Fly Fishing". Arnold interviewed eleven well known guides, including Gary LaFontaine, Craig Mathews, Jennifer Olsson, Mike Lawson and Al Troth in an interesting format that covers pet peeves, pet topics and suggestions for just about everything. This includes spotting fish, casting for the same, wading tips, fly line advice and discussions of leaders, flies and equipment. Colorful individual philosophies about other fishers, etiquette and conservation issues permeate the work as well. Arnold shows his journalistic roots in his fine writing style and shows a savvy for keeping the reader's attention throughout this 150 page publication. There are no dead spots and every interview made me ache to be streamside. I felt as if this was the excitement of reading or watching Curt Gowdy, Ted Williams and Ted Trueblood all rolled into one relevant, manageable volume.

The format is segmented into self-contained sections to accommodate readers' busy schedules (you can stop and start reading this book without having to worry about catching up to where you were when you last touched it). I can see this as a valuable personal research resource as well. Beginners and experts, alike, will find much that is meaningful in this book.

Jim Siebe

## **THE ALSPACH SCHOLARSHIP**

The Clearwater Fly Casters Club is proud to offer each year the Alspach Scholarship. The Alspach Scholarship, in the amount of \$300-\$500, is made available to deserving scholars who are involved in fisheries research and management or natural resource management at the University of Idaho or Washington State University. An endowment is necessary for maintaining the scholarship fund, which was initially endowed by the family of the late Bill Alspach. For you newcomers, Bill Alspach was a well-liked, avid fly fisherman, who was a long-time member of the Club. He died suddenly at a young age several years ago.

The Clearwater Fly Casters holds a fund-raising auction in odd-numbered years during the March meeting. Proceeds from the auction are used to endow the Alspach Scholarship Fund, for Club conservation projects, and other activities. Club members provide articles for the auction. In past auctions, donated items have included fly tying materials of all kinds; flies which are particularly interesting or artistic; objects of art; home-made baked goods; gourmet dinners for two, prepared and served by club members; outdoor clothing; guided fishing trips; and anything else you can imagine which might be useful as a money-raiser. The Club has also purchased, at a reduced or wholesale cost, other articles to sell at the auction.

The next Club auction will be held during the March, 2003, meeting. Now is the time for you to begin thinking about items you might wish to donate to be sold at the auction. You might also know of business or individuals who might wish to contribute goods or services to raise money for a cause such as this. We would be happy to provide anyone who donates something a letter of receipt to use for income tax purposes.

## Conservation Committee Meeting 10/16/02

Present were Jim Siebe, John Read, George Hinman, Bruce Frazier, Dave Tharp and Sharon Tharp. Jim Palmersheim was steelheading in B.C. and Shirley Engerbretson was unable to attend.

Per delegation from the club, we discussed dues. We decided to keep dues at the rate of \$20.00 for individuals, to create a student category for \$10 and to raise the family membership from \$25 to \$30. We voted to encourage sustaining memberships at \$50 and to give credit in the Tippet for sustaining and life members (\$300 for the latter). We agreed that sustaining memberships for families will be the same as for individuals.

We agreed to a resolution of the issues concerning the lost grid and to a timetable for the raffle for the Four Doctors. Members who know that they filled out blanks on the misplaced grid will be allowed to fill in the same number of blanks on the new grid at the November meeting (utilizing the honor system, of course). The remaining spaces will be sold through February (Valentine's meeting). The drawing will be held in March 2003, immediately preceding the bi-annual auction, whether all the spaces have been sold or not.

We discussed means of obtaining new members. We decided to make it a monthly event to issue press releases for community calendars in the Daily News, Argonaut and Evergreen. We will also place ads like we did last month, since we obtain a reduced rate for being a non-profit organization. We are going to solicit Harry Missildine and Charlie Powell for articles, as well. Further, we will write the local paper asking for free advertising before the end of the year.

We agreed to solicit local businesses for our auction. We also agreed to advertise the Alspach scholarship in the student papers, this year. We discussed the Collins-Allured Award, although no decision was reached. We also engaged in a lengthy discussion concerning future speakers and agreed upon a number of topics we would like to have addressed. We also further agreed to target 50 members in attendance for every meeting in accordance with general requirements by the University Inn when we moved our meeting venue.

## Upcoming Events

**November 13, 2002** 6:30pm Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at the Best Western - University Inn in Moscow, ID.

**November 20, 2002** 5:30pm Conservation/Executive meeting at Rico's in Pullman, WA.

**Kudos...** To Jim Siebe for contributing not just the President's message but also the Conservation report and a book review in this issue!

## Clearwater Fly Casters 2002

President	Jim Siebe	(jsiebe@moscow.com)	883-0622
Vice President	Bruce Fraizer	(bfrazier@pullman.com)	
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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, \$25/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 6:30pm and program at 8pm.

## Tips for Fly Tiers

1. For dry flies avoid all unnecessary wraps of thread. Don't wrap three times when two will do. Use the lightest weight and the least absorbent materials. Choose the best quality hackle you can afford.
2. Wet flies or nymphs should be constructed with materials as water-absorbent as possible.
3. Get a broken computer hard drive - tear it open and 'scavenge' the magnet. Excellent for finding hooks dropped on the floor. *Allan Fish*
4. Always use water to wet the fingertips for dubbing with natural furs, such as beaver or possum or squirrel or what-have-you, instead of saliva. One can get mighty sick from using saliva and then double dipping to get fingers wet again for the next dubbing spot. *Marguerite*
5. When tying deer hair on for wings, tie the tips onto the hook having the blunt ends of the hair sticking out to form the wing. It makes it a little easier to keep the hair on the hook shank and brings more wing thickness to the fly. *Debbie Bell*
6. Get a cheap coffee grinder for blending dubbing. Use this only for fly tying; resist the temptation to occasionally borrow the grinder actually used for coffee, unless you live alone (or want to)! One of the best uses for the coffee grinder? Get various spools of "Antron body wool", chop it into little pieces, and run it through the grinder. Makes a great translucent spikey dubbing for salmon and steelhead flies. Cut the stuff into short lengths (1/2 inch for most applications, a bit longer of extreme shagginess is needed on a big fly). You can also blend in bits of actual seal fur, black bear underfur, angora, other yarns, other furs, various natural and synthetic dubbings, flash, etc. *Tom Fry*
7. Instead of the applicator that seems to always be plugged up and useless for Loon Water-based Head Cement, I use a small (1cc) medical syringe. I store it needle down in a film container of water (about 1/2" full). I'm careful to exclude all air from the syringe when filling it as that tends to allow room temp changes to flush cement in and out, diluting it to the point of being unusable. See a diabetic friend or your local dentist for these small one-use syringes. Lets you put the cement exactly where you want it on the fly too! *John Ceriese*
8. Ever take 6 hooks out of a box to tie one pattern, but then get called away after only 4 flies have been tied? Grab one of those business card fridge magnets that the pizza places keep sending out and screw it or double sided tape it (magnetic side out) to a vertical surface at your bench. Use it to keep the odd hooks, needles, and other bits from disappearing amidst the general clutter on the desktop. *Ian Martin*
9. I have a magnet under my desk that I use to 'find' hooks that fall on the floor or into my desk waste bag. *Harry Mason*
10. When you add dubbing to waxed thread bring the thread above the fly rather than below it. Its a hell of a lot easier. *Harrison Steeves*
13. Go to a scrap booking supply store and buy a trash bag holder that clamps to the table with a built in cup holder. *Clyde Watson*
14. 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*

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