

Clearwater Fly Casters

September, 2002

Prez's Message

Well, here we are again, ready for another year of meetings after a whirlwind summer. I hope that all of you had some quality time on the water this past few months. By the reports I have received, a good number have. This month's column will be substantially longer than usual, given the volume of club news.

The most exciting news has to do with our own Dave Engerbretson being awarded the Federation of Fly Fisher's prestigious Charles E. Brooks Memorial Lifetime Award. Dave was recognized for his larger than life talent, personality and contributions to the sport we all love. As a master fly fisherman, writer, public speaker, fly tying innovator, former guide, professor, casting instructor and well recognized celebrity on the national fly fishing scene, it was a natural fit. As John Randolph, the publisher of Fly Fisherman magazine (for whom Dave has served as Western Editor and contributed many articles) wrote in his letter of support, Dave is "one of fly fishing's Tenth Legion the men and women who contribute the most to our sport through their expertise in fly fishing and fly tying and through their stellar example as humans who possess the values that best represent our sport."

The award was presented at the annual FFF Conclave in Livingston this last month. Unfortunately, Dave's health was such that he was unable to attend; Bob Clark graciously stood in for him and accepted the award on his behalf. Many thanks to Shirley Engerbretson for pulling contact addresses and phone numbers for us to use in nominating Dave for the award; Jim Palmersheim contacted numerous individuals and obtained letters of support, and I put together the letter of nomination. Many others assisted by writing letters of support. Thanks, Jim, and congratulations Dave!

Most of you probably remember Jerry McBride coming to one of our meetings last

St Joe fishout

This annual club outing has over the last few years taken on a bit of legend status with the club members. This year we topped 30 at Friday night's dutch oven dinner. Bill Hendrix put on a superb dinner of three meat BBQ and brownies. Since it's inception, the dutch oven dinner has grown to epic proportions culminating in a smorgish board of salads, sides, meats, breads and desserts - but always the main event is the dutch oven BBQ. Bill added the fourth Dutch oven this year - and it looked to hold 50 quarts. No joke.

Another tradition has been the morning breakfasts cooked on an industrial sized 2x4' griddle. It looks like the hood from a studibaker (sp?) car. Out comes the griddle and suddenly pounds of hash browns, bacon, sausages, omelets appear. Dave Tharp (the keeper of the griddle) got married in late June and didn't show till latter in the trip. The question on everyone's lips when Dave and Sharon finally showed was, 'where's the griddle'... not 'congratulations, how was the wedding'. Only in the Clearwater Fly Casters G>!

Not to be out done, Saturday's dinner (an on-your-own event) ended up as another pot luck as we congregated at the Yonge's and Johnston's site. Again, steaks, chicken, sausage, pork roast, salads, and libations flowed freely. Fortunately, Stacey Dean hasn't shut us down for cholesterol overloading. Hey, if he can't a joke.

Friday night's dinner was follow by what only could be described as the 'quintessential' after dinner music show. Dan (Jim Palmersheim's son) and Nat (James Foster's son) put on a dazzling display of Jimmi Hendrix-like licks and kicks with their electric guitar and bongo duo. And who said you can't take it with you.

Oh yes, we did fish.

Backcast

Typical cutt flies were the ticket with chernobyls and EHCs being standard fare. My best was a 17" cutt the first day out on a tan EHC with a florescent red tag added. Others that produced well were the bear paw and the 'Hendrix'ville caddis.

All-in-all a great three days!

Quote

I really enjoyed my first fishout. The people were friendly and the food excellent, Hats of to Bill, Dave, and all of the others that provided community salads, etc. When I pulled into Fly Flats campground, I saw the Clearwater Fly Casters sign on John's shower. Some people I hadn't met before were in an adjacent camp site. I asked them if they were Clearwater Fly Casters folks. They indeed were and introduced themselves, invited me sit with them, and shared a beer or two with stories of course. The fishing was good but the people and the activities were even better; Great time.

Glen Muray.

Kudos to ...

A special thanks to **Glen Murray** who took over responsibility for collecting and mailing flies for the Casting Expo held by WSC-FFF. Well done to Glen, Debbie Bell, Bill Hendrix, John Read, Don Shearer, John Toker and Tim Cavileer for tying flies!

"A total of 86 flies were tied by our group of seven. Two boxes with 43 flies each were sent. I took pictures of the boxes of flies to share at our September meeting. P.S. I almost took the flies and went fishing!! Glen."

Raffle

"Watch for a new and fun way to win the fly raffle!" Find out how at the September meeting."

spring to pitch the Northwest Council of the FFF's Fly Casting Exposition at Trophy Lake near Port Orchard this coming September 21, 2002, from (9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. While here, he asked us to fill two fly boxes of flies for auction. Glen Murray volunteered to marshal the fly tying resources of the club and to send in the finished product, which was outstanding. John Toker, John Read, Tim Cavileer, Bill Hendrix, Don Shearer, Debbie Bell and Glen tied 86 presentation quality flies. Thanks to all of you!

Tim Cavileer has graciously reassumed the position of Tippet Editor, *on a temporary basis* (that is for several months, until we can obtain a replacement). His generosity is very much appreciated on this end, particularly since he now has a new and more demanding job, as well as a family that must find it sometimes frustrating to vie for his time. Boy, do I appreciate you, Tim! Word has it that the club fish-out on the St. Joe in July was a spectacular success; the fishing was good despite unseasonably high water, the company was better and the food great. A specific report on the event appears elsewhere in this newsletter. Dave and Sharon tied the knot in another major social event, attended by a number of club members. Best of luck to the two of you in your new phase of life!

Our next meeting will be the picnic on September 11, 2002 at Sunnyside Park. Porky's of Pullman will be providing their excellent catered choices of food. We will not have a formal program, but will have a variety of activities and anticipate a large number of fishing reports. I would appreciate some type of head count as this has historically been a difficult event to plan for, as Porky's wants

numbers and we don't want to run short of food. Please email or call me if you plan on attending. My email address is jsiebe@moscow.com and my office phone number is 208-883-0622.

Beginning October 9, 2002, we will meet at the University Inn, Best Western in Moscow, with Wet Fly Hour remaining at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00, with program to follow. Our October Tippet will publish the menu choices. We think you'll find the accommodations larger, the service faster, the surrounding atmosphere quieter, and believe it or not, the food less expensive. Please mark your calendars and tell anyone you know who is a past, current or prospective member about the change of venue. See you at Sunnyside Park on September 11th!

Jim Siebe

What I Know About Fishing

Fishing, what do I know about fishing? Someone once said that catching fish is the least important thing about fishing. I know this to be true. Fishing is really about knowing that your best friend, or perhaps your mate is just a few yards upstream, enjoying the river with you. It's about stopping at a gas station on your way to the river to pick up candy bars for an afternoon snack. It's about early mornings and mist, and late evenings and clouds of mayflies. It's about water so cold you have to get out of the stream to warm your feet in the sun.

Fishing is about poetry, the poetry of the cast. The line may have been made in a factory, the cast made by a flyfisher, but the poetry is eternal. The arc of the line goes to the river like a lover to his mate. The two are made one and there is perfection in the union. I once saw a woman play a new cello for the first time. There was palpable sensuousness as she held the instrument to her and together they created music that nourished my soul. She and the cello were lovers. It is this way with the cast. Perhaps though, the lover isn't the line but the angler, reaching home to the river.

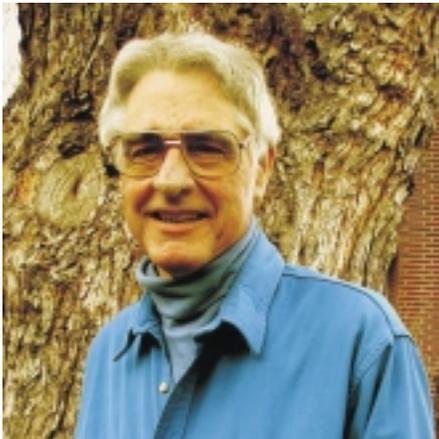
If you really try, you can feel eternity there in the river. As you stand there, the water flows around you. Soon, if you wait, it flows through you and becomes your lifeblood for that time. And then time is no more. Day passes into evening and on into night. There is only the river and the darkness and you. Water no longer dries from your wet hand. It's cold, icy cold and pure. But there is also unbelievable warmth to be had in the gloaming. People have called it the velvet darkness. It feels like that. You feel it more than you see it: soft, warm, secure. There are mayflies everywhere, in the air, on the water. They become the light. Somewhere a fish rises. You are home in the river, in the darkness, in the light, in the cold, in the warmth.

That's what I know about fishing.

(By Ed Estlow of the Minnesota Fly Fishers for the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire)

"The Green Drake nearly spoiled me rotten. During its hectic presence I became careless about my casting, about my position, about whether or not the trout took me for a cow or thought they were making huge plump herons this year - and mostly it did not matter. If a trout had the sweet tooth for a drake, if it seemed so determined to risk its skin to get one, I could understand: I feel that way about duck-liver pate, country style."

-- Nick Lyons



Dave Engerbretson FFF 2002 Charles E. Brooks Memorial Life Award Winner

Charles E. Brooks Memorial Life Award

Charles E. Brooks was a unique individual. He wrote books, invented new fly patterns, spoke at banquets and seminars and was a true student of nature. He loved the Madison River and what is sometimes referred to as "Yellowstone Country". Accordingly, the individual who receives the Charles E. Brooks memorial award each year should have a history of being similar to Charlie in two or more of the following areas:

1. Demonstrate a deep affection for the out of doors, fly fishing and perhaps one particular area that received the individual's special attention over a period of time.
2. Be an innovative fly tier. This doesn't necessarily mean that the individual be well known for inventing new patterns, although that would apply. Rather, the winner should have a history of being non- conventional in his approach in fly tying.
3. Have some background in writing, books, magazines articles or pamphlets. Like the other criteria, this is not mandatory, merely something Charlie did. Hopefully, some of the winners will too.
4. Be a member of the FFF and have some history of serving at banquets, seminars, regional conclaves, etc. Winners need not demonstrate the speaking skills of Charlie, just his enthusiasm to help the cause of fly-fishing.
5. Be a character. This is strictly a bonus. It would be nice if each year's winner had a unique, spicy personality. That would be in keeping with the man being memorialized. Again, this is not mandatory, simply something extra if it's available in the list of yearly nominees.

Upcoming Events

September 11, 2002 6:30pm Clearwater Fly Casters BBQ meeting at Sunnyside Park in Pullman. Dinner to be catered by Porky's. Bring your own fish stories and beverages.

September 21, 2002 NW Fly Casting Exposition will be held at Trophy Lake near Port Orchard, Washington, on Saturday, September 21, 2002 from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. For more information, go to <http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/> or call Vernon Young at (253) 265-6162.

Clearwater Fly Casters 2002

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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.

X-CADDIS

By Wayne Luallen and Bob Bates

The X-Caddis was originally tied about 1980 by Craig Mathews and company at Blue Ribbon Flies, West Yellowstone, Montana. Early patterns were tied with dubbed beaver bodies, but now most tiers use Antron because it is "buggier." It is a fly for spring, summer and fall, and will take fish during the day when there is no hatch, during a hatch and during the "evening rise." Most of the time fish it drag free using a floating line. Some anglers put floatant on the whole fly, but there is an advantage to putting floatant only on the wing. This makes it float low like a crippled caddis that hasn't freed itself from the shuck.

Tying the X-Caddis is simple: Zelon shuck, dubbed body and deer- or elk-hair wing. However, how these materials are handled can make a difference.

The shuck is made of Zelon if it came from Blue Ribbon Flies and Z-lon if it came from John Betts, Colorado Springs, Colorado. It represents the sheath that protected the insect (pharate adult) as it moved upward to hatch. As the adult caddis hatches it leaves behind a shuck that is nearly transparent so the tail on our flies should be pretty thin. With too much Zelon the shuck is stiff and opaque rather than ethereal, translucent, and natural as it should be.

Many tiers have been frustrated with their elk or deer hair caddis wings. After only a few fish, the wing comes loose and twists around the hook shank. The problem is that thread mounted simply over the hair butts is not adequate to hold the wing in place. There is a solution, but it is not placing 49 more wraps of thread around the hair! The solution is the proper placement of thread to apply the most force.



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