

Clearwater Bait Casters

Under the

April Fool's Edition, 2003

Bobber

From the Head Bobber Lobber's Desk

Major changes in club established

In a bold and daring move to modernize and meet changing membership interest, Vice-President Don Shearer introduced and adopted sweeping changes in the scope, organization and focus of the formerly Clearwater Fly Casters club at the recently scant attended executive meeting.

"Yes, I felt the time was right to move ahead with refocusing the club to better meet the membership's interest. Besides, both the President and Conservation Committee Chairman were out of town and unable to offer resistance," Don exclaimed. "Once the changes were made, I knew it would take at least another three months to undo them," "not to mention that once they were printed in the Tippet, they would in fact become permanent."

"In keeping with the spirit of change, we also decided to change the name of the club newsletter. It will better reflect the interests and practices of everyone," Don added. "Really, when you think about it, who hasn't in some time during their childhood used worms and a bobber?" "I just felt that getting back to our roots was best all around." "No more expensive equipment, no more fish-less trips."

When questioned further on who was in on the coup, Don was reluctant to name names, "Right now I can't give exact numbers or names, those folks are just now recovering from the shock and euphoria of coming into power." "Certainly, at a later date that information may become available."

News of this change has excited several members. One anonymous member was heard to say, "I sure hope this means that the fish-outs will now be more fun... and can you imagine, now I can trade in my expensive water craft, rods, and reels for a lawn chair and cooler." "Shoot, I can even bring out that old Zebco and use it with fear of being ostracized!"

Bobbers, Bobbers, Bobbers - by Dunkin A. Worm

Sure, it can be overwhelming. Foam float bobbers, plastic bobbers, slip bobbers, popping bobbers, rattle bobbers, red, white, clear and yellow bobbers. Even bobbers made to look like soda and beer cans. Selection isn't what your grandfather had to deal with. Back then, it was just wood, or balsa to be more exact. A few coats of varnish or paint and that bobber was ready for the back pond. But today's discerning fisher is more sophisticated and relies on stealth, craft and intelligence to catch his quarry. Hence, the explosion in both the technology and market for bobbers. Increases in buoyancy, sensitivity, shape and materials now allows nearly anyone to finely hone their catch rate with minimal input to skills.

With all these advances, you might be asking yourself, "why worry about it?" Surely, all one needs to do is bait the hook, attach a red and white bobber and start fishing. And that can be done. And you might catch fish. But maybe, just maybe, you're after that big one. You know, the one with the 9" eyeball that spooked the ...

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Worm of the Month

Helodrilus caliginosus



Hook: #10 bait hook
Hackle: garden variety worm

Fact: The common garden earthworm is used by more fishers to catch more kinds of fish than all other baits combined!



In this issue...

- *Bobbers.* Big, tall, short and fat!
- *Baits.* It's not just worms anymore!
- *Techniques.* How to rig that hook and foil those pesky bait stealers!
- Demystifying worm taxonomy



Upcoming articles...

- Lawn Chair Outings
- Getting the most from your old fly-fishing equipment on eBay
- Junk Food Review
- Bait to bobber ratio calculators

Clearwater Fly Casters

April, 2003

The Tippet

The front page of the April Tippet is made up and purely meant as a joke. No slander, demeaning or other negative connotations are intended. It really is okay to fish with worms! And Don Shearer really is a nice guy!

From the President's Desk

April approaches and I hope that means fishing excursions for most of you. Our April meeting will be held on Wednesday the ninth. Our guest is Ken Gebhardt, Fishery Biologist, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, St. Joe Ranger District, Avery Office. He will talk about rehab projects on tributaries of the St. Joe. Following is his description of a project that he needs help with on Bird Cree:

'The primary limiting factors believed to be affecting fish production in Bird Creek are overwintering pool habitat and large woody debris. Stream habitat improvement structures including j-hook veins, rock vortex weirs, boulder and log barbs, cover logs, log revetments, and pool enhancement are proposed for the lower 2.6 miles of Bird Creek. The proposed structures will increase pool frequency, total pool area, and large woody debris abundance. Additionally, j-hook veins, boulder and log barbs, and log revetment structures will aid in protecting and maintaining stream banks and an important recreational and management access road.'

'Structure materials, including boulders and logs, will need to be transported to selected locations on Bird Creek. A large equipment operator, contracted by the U.S. Forest Service, will construct all proposed structures. The project is proposed to begin in June or July and will be completed by August 15, 2003.'

Bring your questions and discussion points to the meeting.

I note with some interest, the article in the Daily News on March 24 in which fly fishers are encouraged to catch and keep rainbow trout in the South Fork of the Snake River in southern Idaho. Apparently there are equal numbers of cutthroat and rainbows in the river and thinking is that this will gradually eliminate the less competitive cutthroat. Is this relationship true of other streams where cutthroat and bows coexist? Should we be keeping all the bows that we catch?

Idaho Fish and Game is currently seeking advice on regulation changes for 2004-05 seasons. "We would like to hear from anglers about what they like, dislike and their ideas for changes related to fishing in the Clearwater Region," said Ed Schriever, Regional Fisheries Manager. If I can get on his schedule, we will have Mr. Schriever come to our April meeting to hear your comments.

The FFF Fly Fishers International Fly Fishing Show and Conclave will be held August 4-9, 2003 in Idaho Falls. Their 2003 Super Sweepstakes is a ClackaCraft Drift Boat/Trailer/Oars. I have tickets for \$10 each or a book of 11 for \$100. Our Club keeps \$3 of each ticket sold. Purchase must be made by July 15. I will have this announcement at the April meeting.

See you at the meeting! Dinner is baked steelhead and roast pork.

Bruce Frazier

AMBER LAKE OUTING

Don't forget the upcoming fish-out to Amber Lake! Burgers and chips will be provided by the club and cooked to perfection by the president. Bring your own beverage.

After consulting weather data for the last 20 years and reading tea leaves, Bruce has determined that April 26th will be prime-time fishing at Amber Lake. I hope to see everyone there!

Driving directions. Travel north out of Pullman on US Route 195 until you come to the Steptoe exit (State Route 23). Turn left (west) and continue heading west about 20 miles. You'll pass through St John at 12 miles. Just outside of the little community of Ewan, turn right (north) onto Rock Lake Road. Follow Rock Lake Road past the south end of Rock Lake and the boat launch. About 9 miles there will be a gravel road off your left side called Belsby Rd. It's marked and has a couple of small fuel tanks to mark the intersection. Turn left there and go about 1/2 mile to Mulinix Rd. Turn left and follow Mulinix. About 2 miles the road will meet Martin and become blacktop again. Go right at this intersection (you're still on Mulinix). Another 2 miles down the road you will come to Wood Rd. You can turn left here and come into Amber lake from the south or you can continue on Mulinix another 2.5 miles to hit Pine Spring Rd and approach Amber lake from the north end. Either way the access road is clearly marked about half way down on the west side of the lake. (Bring your WA Atlas and Gazetteer!)

Don't forget you'll need a Washington fishing licence and a Washington vehicle use permit at Amber Lake (it comes with the fishing licence).

Flies. It's a good bet to have #14-16 blood worm patterns, #8 olive or brown woolly buggers, #18-20 raccoons, and #16-18 chironomids in black or red.

Upcoming Events

April 1, 2003	6-8pm Fly tying night at TriState, Moscow, Idaho
April 9, 2003	6pm Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at the Best Western - University Inn, Moscow, ID
April 15, 2003	6-8pm Fly tying night at TriState, Moscow, Idaho
April 22, 2003	5:30pm Conservation/Executive meeting at Rico's
April 26, 2003	Amber Lake Fishout
July 10-14, 2003	St Joe Fishout

Gearing Up for Spring

It is time to check out your fly lines, clean them, and replace the old, rough, and cracked ones. Check your backing on your rods - no use losing the trout of a lifetime to old backing! Oil and lube your reels (yeah, you should have done it last fall, but you ought to do it again, even if you did oil them last fall).

Clean out your fly vests or packs. Reorganize! Throw away and replace old tippet under 3X - it will almost certainly be brittle and weak. Restock your vest and pack with missing items or those you are running short of. Get rid of rusty flies. Reorganize your fly boxes. Consider putting together a bass box, a panfish box, a coastal box, and a trout box or boxes (for the coming month and next year I personally prefer chest packs and fanny packs over a vest, so I have different packs for different purposes. Consider putting together a coastal pack and a fresh water pack. The coastal pack should have heavier leaders and tippet (say 8 lb to 12 lb.), room for a fly box that will hold ten to twenty flies - some of which may be fairly large - (I carry a larger assortment of flies on the boat and only carry the flies I think I will need/want in the pack), and a water bottle for long sessions wading the flats. The freshwater pack should have moderate to heavy weight tippet (5X to 1X), room for two fly boxes (one for bass and one for panfish, or one for dry flies and one for wet flies when fishing for trout). Both packs should have nippers, hook sharpener, lip balm, a bandana, and possibly spare sunglasses. The freshwater pack may include fly floatant, indicator yarn, and lead shot.

I also pack a small, but larger, boat bag with my fishing license, additional flies, line cleaner, sun screen, hats, spare sunglasses, a knife, paper towels in plastic bags and or lens cleaners, a towel in a plastic bag, line cleaner, fly floatant, small binoculars, GPS, etc.

This creates a system that allows me to be ready to fish any time. All I have to do is pick up the appropriate pack, the larger bag, and the appropriate rod tube (I keep my most used rods in cases with the reels attached) and I am set to go fishing.

Getting this done before our great spring fishing hits will have you ready for the coming season and maximize your fishing time!

(by Jay Forrest of the Alamo Fly Fishers of San Antonio Texas, courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire)

Book Review

Trout at Ten Thousand Feet

by John Bailey
Stackpole Books
Mechanicsburg, PA, 2001
175pages, hardbound
illustrated, Black&White

This book has a subtitle of "Reflections of a Passionate Fisherman" and the author is clearly that, a passionate fisherman. As you read the tales and yarns in the book you will realize John Bailey is more than passionate, he is consumed by fishing. And his book reflects his passion with great clarity and insight.

The book is about a passion for fishing but it is not about fishing as written by most modern authors. There is no I caught this fish with this gear at this spot with this fly or bait. Instead you are pulled into his passion thorough his tales of the journeys to the fish more than by the fishing. The reader is sucked down into a vortex of sensory images of tigers in tall grass, derelict helicopters, crime bosses, poachers, and interesting characters traveled with over most of the globe.

This book is a most interesting and refreshing collection of short stories about fishing. And most importantly, this book reminds us all that it is the journey not the goal that makes up living. In reading these stories every fisherman will nod and smile and remember his personal lifetime of journeys to fish. And what better thoughts can any book evoke in a reader?

Fantastic read, well written and edited. No one who fishes should be without this book.

(Reviewed © 2003 by Bruce E. Harang of the Smoky Mountain Fly Fishers of North Carolina, courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire)

The March Auction raised \$1912!

Thanks to all who donated goods and to all who successfully bid! For those who donated, the club will provide a letter of receipt. See Don Shearer if you would like a record of your donation.

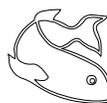
Clearwater Fly Casters' Officers 2003

President	Bruce Frazier	(bfrazier@pullman.com)	332-7346
Vice President	Don Shearer	(don@mail.wsu.edu)	432-6906
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.

"No life so happy and so pleasant as the life of a well-governed angler; for when the lawyer is swallowed up with business and the statesman is preventing or contriving plots, then we sit on cowslip banks, hear the birds sing, and possess ourselves in as much quietness as these silver streams, which we now see glide so quietly by us. Indeed my good Scholar, we may say of angling, as Dr. Boteler said of strawberries, 'Doubtless God could have made a better berry, but doubtless, God never did.' And so, if I might be judge, God never did make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than angling."

*Izaak Walton's "The Compleat Angler," 1676 Edition.
(Via FFF ClubWire)*



Please welcome our newest members ...

Andy Johansen

Stephen Schriber

Steve Taylor

"My biggest worry is that my wife (when I die) will sell my fly fishing gear for what I said I paid for it."

-- Koos Brandt

Atomic Worm - Tim Cavileer

This is a chironomid pattern that I got from John Read. I had heard of it and have even tied a similar variation, but alas, didn't have much luck using it. Until recently. I scouted Amber Lake in late March and dodging rain and wind managed to hook and land only one fish - on this fly. Improvements, such as the incorporation of the red maribou and using a holographic tinsel underbody really makes this old pattern shine. You would do well to have a few of these in your box for the up coming outing.

Typing Instructions

1. Crimp the barb down and slide on the bead. Place the hook in the vise and lay down a thread base.
2. Tie in a few strands of red maribou just behind the bead near the front of the hook. Wrap the thread back to the rear of the hook trapping the maribou on top to create a smooth underbody. Return the thread to behind the bead.
3. Tie in the v-rib at the front and wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook. Return the thread to the front.
4. Tie in the gold tinsel at the front of the hook. Wrap the tinsel down the shank covering the maribou and v-rib. Wrap back to the bend and then back to the front. I like to wrap the tinsel behind the maribou creating a gold tag. Tie the tinsel off at the front of the hook.
5. Carefully wrap the v-rib up to behind the bead and tie off. Keep tension on the v-rib as you wrap forward to create a smooth body. When finished add a drop of glue to the tie-off wraps.



Hook: #12-16, Tiemco 1270
Tail: red maribou
Underbody: gold holographic tinsel.
Body: red V-rib
Weight: gold/brass bead head

Clearwater Fly Casters
PO Box 2149 CS
Pullman, WA 99165

Our Next Meeting is ...

Wednesday, April 9th, 2003

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!

If you haven't already, please pay your 2003 dues!