

Clearwater Fly Casters

December, 2003

The Tippet

From the President's Desk

Wow! This global warming is really something! November 2003 must have several record cold nights in Pullman. I don't doubt that world-wide temperatures are increasing, but it looks like hard water fishing should be getting started early this year in spite of any world-wide increase in temperature.

Regarding proposed changes in fishing regulations, club members at our last meeting suggested we respond to the WDFW proposals. The main concern is with a change in use of bait on the Grande Ronde. Currently, bait may be used after November 1. The proposal is to allow use of bait in September and October, as well. By the time you read this and we meet again, the action will be over, as the Commission meets on Dec. 5. Our position, made known to the Commission, included the following points:

1. Members observe that wild fish arrive ahead of hatchery steelhead, therefore more wild fish will be hooked if bait is used before November.
2. Increase hooking mortality of released wild fish. Fish hooked with bait typically take the bait deeper increasing chances of mortality.
3. Significantly increase angling pressure on the Grande Ronde.

Our December meeting will feature Alspach Scholarship winner Robert Drew. Robert is working on a PhD with Gary Thorgaard. He is trying to understand the genetics of domestication, which is significant to aquaculture, supplementation hatcheries and captive-rearing programs. He will test for the effects of domestication on anti-predator behavior and stress hormone levels in rainbow trout clonal lines. He will quantify behaviors associated with predator avoidance, e.g., use of cover and surface feeding. This should be an interesting discussion.

Let's again have a fly exchange at our December meeting. Anyone who wishes to participate, bring some of your handiwork packaged for exchange with someone else's handiwork. If you are not into tying, commercial flies will also trade.

It appears that this is my final letter to you club members. The time has gone by quickly. It's amazing how fast you get a year older. Thanks to all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve you. Thanks also to the members of the Executive/Conservation Committee who were very supportive all year. I will continue to serve as a Past President, but we need a new Tippet editor. Thanks to Tim Cavileer, our current editor, for a huge job well done. He will move to vice president duties supporting Don Shearer, our new president. By the way, Past Presidents are supposed to fish and tie flies.

Bruce Frazier

Upcoming Events

December 10, 2003	Clearwater Fly Casters monthly meeting at the Best Western - University Inn in Moscow, Idaho. Alspach Memorial Scholarship Award Winner Robert Drew will be the guest speaker.
December 17, 2003	5:30pm Conservation/Executive meeting at the Daily Grind in Pullman, WA.
January 14, 2004	Clearwater Fly Casters monthly meeting at the Best Western - University Inn in Moscow, Idaho..
January 21, 2004	5:30pm Conservation/Executive meeting at the Daily Grind in Pullman, WA.

Treasurer's Notes

Don't forget to pay your dues! You have until January 14 to pay your dues and be eligible to win a fabulous prize just for paying your dues early! The incentives include a net made by Bill Hendrix, a net made by Bob Clark, and a fly box filled with flies donated by club members. When you pay your dues, you will receive a coupon to fill out and place in the *Membership Incentive Jar*. At the meeting on January 14, there will be a drawing for these three great incentive gifts. If you would like to donate flies for this great collection, contact Jim Palmersheim at jamesp@turbonet.com, or, he's in the phone book.

Club dues are for the calendar year from January December. The dues amounts and categories are \$10 for students, \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families, \$50 for sustaining membership (basically, this is one year's dues plus a \$30 contribution for club operations), and \$300 Lifetime membership. One coupon for each of the above categories will be allowed.

Be sure to fill out an information coupon when you pay your dues so that you will be eligible to win one of these fabulous prizes. If you are not able to attend the January meeting, you will still be eligible to win. Just be sure to fill out the coupon and return it to Clearwater Fly Casters, P.O. Box 2149 C.S., Pullman, WA 99165, before the January meeting.

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*2004 Angler's Calendars* are still available. Purchase yours at the December meeting, or contact me at sengerbr@moscow.com. The calendars are being sold for \$12 each.

*Shirley Engerbretson*



## Backcast

**Guests.** Welcome to AJ and Lisa Morris and to Dale Coryell who were guests at the November meeting.

**Fishing Reports.** It seems several members reported fishing on the Clearwater during the month of October. There were several reports of chinook in and around the Cherry Lane area. The best report (if we were giving awards, this one would win) goes to Dave Yonge and his hooking, landing and subsequent release of himself. Dave had everyone in stitches as he related his prowess in spey casting, his acquisition and testing of breathable waders and his expert catch and release techniques. Fishing mate Don Johnstone surely must have a time trying to fish in Dave's shadow. Well, at least we know he is suitably entertained! Dave Tharp related fishing Elk Creek Reservoir with nice success for brookies and having a great time fishing the Clark's Fork from a driftboat. Dave also wondered if other's in the club might want to schedule a trip this spring to catch the skwala hatch. Get a hold of Dave at the December meeting if you're interested. Dale Coryell told us of his late summer trip up into the Little North Fork of the Clearwater. Dale missed the bugs and found lots of cutts and rainbows. Dale also just opened a new flyshop in Moscow.

**New Business.** The club website is back up again after a short down time while the club found new hosting. A **Christmas Fly Exchange** has been proposed for the December meeting. Bring your half-dozen flies to exchange for flies tied by someone else in the club.

**Conservation.** Andy Kleinhofs suggested that the club write a letter to WDFW asking that the use of bait on the Grande Ronde not be rolled back to September 1 as proposed in the 2003-2004 rules package. See the president's message for the letter's content. Ken Gebhardt has asked the club to participate in a project involving the west fork of the St Maries River. He would like club members to help in placing large woody debris in-stream, survey for cutthroat reds and planting trees along the stream bank. A draft proposal is online under the Clearwater Fly Casters conservation page.

*Congratulations to Don and Kate Shearer on the arrival of James Duncan Shearer born on Thanksgiving Day, November 27th, 2003!*

### 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.

## Richard Wallace, 70, Moscow

Richard L. Wallace, 70, of Moscow, a retired professor emeritus of zoology at the University of Idaho, died Thursday, Nov. 13, at Gritman Medical Center.

Richard was born in Tacoma, Wash., on Aug. 22, 1933, to Richard and Ruth (Shearer) Wallace. He graduated from Clover Park High School in Tacoma in 1951, and attended Washington State College, where he graduated in 1956.

After spending two years in the Signal Corps, U.S. Army, Richard began graduate studies in fisheries science at Oregon State College in 1958. He received graduate degrees in 1960 and 1969.

Richard came to Moscow in 1967 and took a job in the Department of Biological Sciences in the fall of that year, where he taught ichthyology, general zoology, herpetology and other biological science courses. He enjoyed working with graduate students in biological sciences and fisheries science.

He retired in August 1991 and enjoyed his free time fishing, hunting and teaching fly tying for Moscow Parks and Recreation Department. Richard also enjoyed traveling.

He is survived by his wife Margaret at the Moscow home; his son John Wallace and his wife Carol of Kentfield, Calif.; his two daughters and their husbands Kate and Don Mecham of Moscow and Liz and Curtis Branter of Idaho Falls, Idaho; his four grandchildren Meredith Wallace, Megan Mecham, Zachary and Nicholas Branter.

At Richard's request no public services will be held. Arrangements are under the direction of Short's Funeral Chapel.

Memorials are suggested to the Palouse Discovery Science Center, 2371 N.E. Hopkins Ct., Pullman, WA 99163.

### 2004 Speaker Schedule (tentative)

|                |                                                             |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan. 14, 2004  | Michelle Hazen, Friends of the Clearwater                   |
| Feb. 11, 2004  | Don Gohlke, Fishing for Bonefish                            |
| March 10, 2004 | Jim McLennan, Alberta Trout Streams                         |
| April 14, 2004 | Kajsa Stromberg, Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute |
| May 12, 2004   | Leland Miyawaki, Fishing the saltwater of Puget Sound       |

### YOU MIGHT BE A FLY FISHER IF . . .

- 1) You trade your wife's van for a smaller vehicle so your pontoon boat and drift boat will fit in the garage.
- 2) Your wedding party had to tie tin cans to your drift boat.
- 3) You keep your wading staff by your favorite chair to change the TV channels.
- 4) You name your black lab "Scott" and your cat "Sage".
- 5) You have a photo of your 10 lb. rainbow on your desk at work instead of your family.

*By Jimmy D. Moore, Woodway, Texas*

## U.S. Forest Service Seeking Help to Complete Stream Habitat Improvement Project in the West Fork St. Maries River

Ken Gebhardt, District Fishery Biologist for the St. Joe Ranger District is seeking interested people to assist with the West Fork St. Maries River Stream Habitat Improvement Project in July and August next year. The project will involve placing large woody debris logs in the stream channel and planting conifers along stream banks to improve fish habitat.

The West Fork St. Maries River Stream Habitat Improvement Project site is located in Shoshone County near Clarkia, Idaho. Currently, fish habitat in the West Fork lacks abundant cover and habitat diversity that is normally associated with high quality fisheries streams. Recent stream inventories indicate that beaver created pools account for as much as 74 percent of the total habitat. Cover in the form of large logs and trees is limited to stream channels with forested stream banks. Much of the existing stream channel in the project area is exposed with little mature timber.

The West Fork provides spawning and rearing habitat for westslope cutthroat trout. Rainbow trout, stocked in the St. Maries River by Idaho Fish and Game, occasionally stray up the West Fork and into other tributaries. Historically, bull trout occurred in the St. Maries drainage; however, today their distribution is primarily limited to the St. Joe River

The Forest Service is proposing to place 211 large woody debris logs in the West Fork to improve fish habitat and stream channel conditions. A large equipment operator, contracted by the USFS, will utilize a spider hoe or excavator to place cover logs at 21 sites. Additional sites may be established in stream reaches managed by the State of Idaho and Potlatch Corporation. Riparian conifer plantings are also proposed for the project area. The Forest Service will cooperate with project partners to plant 1000-2000 conifers in riparian areas along stream banks in 2004 or 2005.

The USFS St. Joe Ranger District is currently seeking interested partners to assist in completing the West Fork St. Maries River Stream Habitat Improvement Project. In addition to available USFS funding, a project proposal will be submitted to the Idaho Panhandle Resource Advisory Committee (IPNF RAC) in December 2003. Other anticipated project partners include Potlatch Corporation, Idaho Department of Lands, and the Clearwater Fly Casters.

Ken Gebhardt will be presenting a presentation regarding the proposed project at a future Clearwater Fly Caster meeting. If you are interested in assisting with the project, he can be contacted at (208) 245-6242.



Existing stream conditions in the West Fork St. Maries River. Additional cover in the form of large woody debris is necessary to improve stream habitat.



Use of a spider-hoe to place large woody debris cover logs in a stream channel.



An example of naturally occurring large woody debris in the West Fork St. Maries River

## Draper Dragon by Bob Bates

There are many dragonfly nymph patterns in existence. Some are so simple that one wonders how they can be called a "dragonfly nymph." Others are so realistic that it might be better to let them crawl back into the water. This pattern solves one of the problems with tying good dragonfly nymph patterns: Making the body flat and wide without smashing down something like a lead wire body. The two shank welded construction of the Partridge Draper hook, model H3ST, makes the flat, wide dragonfly body easy to tie. The current cost for this hook (2003) is about \$9.75 for a package of ten hooks, but if you look around the fly shops as I did recently you might find some with the 1994 price of \$7.50 for a package of ten hooks. John Newbury introduced the Draper hook to Northwest Washington many years ago when he began tying this pattern. Newbury is a demonstration tier at FFF conclaves. Several local tiers copied the pattern, and as expected added their own touches to it. The late John Propp tied the fly above.



Dragonfly nymphs live two or three years, making them an important year-round food source. Some species are less than an inch long and others are up to 2-1/2 inches long. They make a good mouthful for any fish. Dragonfly nymphs are real bullies and will eat anything smaller than they are. According to Ernest Schwiebert in *Nymphs*, 1973, "The nymphs catch other subaquatic organisms by lying motionless like a muskellunge in the weeds. Although they are capable of rapid movements, they usually trap their victims with a lower labium that snaps out like the tongue of a frog, its hooks pinioning them securely." So when you fish a dragonfly nymph, use a full sink or sink tip fly line. Let the fly sink into or near weeds, and then start working it with a hand twist and an occasional "jet propelled" strip. Vary the retrieve until you find one that fish like. Years ago Propp said: "This pattern is the most effective one around. I catch fish with it all the time."

**Hook:** Partridge Draper H3ST, 6-8  
**Thread:** Olive, 6/0  
**Eyes:** Black Mono, medium  
**Tail:** Pheasant tail, dyed yellow-olive, optional  
**Body:** Seal or seal substitute, dark olive  
**Wingcase:** Church window pheasant back feather, dyed yellow-olive  
**Legs:** Pheasant tail fibers, dyed yellow-olive

*See the full pattern online at  
[www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org)*

*Clearwater Fly Casters  
PO Box 2149 CS  
Pullman, WA 99165*

*Our Next Meeting is ...*

Wednesday, December 10th, 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!*