

# Clearwater Fly Casters

March, 2003

# The Tippet

## From the President's Desk

March brings the opening of fishing season on our lakes and the return of the sun to its spring position, whether or not Spring actually follows is another question. March for the Club means it is auction time, time to raise some funds for the Bill Alspach Memorial scholarship. Check your storage areas for tying materials, rods, rod cases, feathers and hides you acquired as a result of hunting season or road-kill, whatever may be useful to a fly fisher and bring it to the meeting for the auction. If you don't find anything you want to give up, just bring your wallet so you can take some stuff home with you.

March brings some other events, as well. I note the Seattle Sportsmen's Show at Seahawks Stadium Exhibition Center, March 13-16. Also on March 15 is the North Idaho Fly Show and Banquet at the Best Western-Coeur D'Alene Inn. If you wish to go up and tie with them they ask that you fill out a 'Demonstration Fly Tyer Data Form' describing one fly that you will tie. I have a copy of the form. Banquet tickets are \$30 and will be in limited supply by the day of the event. The last Saturday of March is reserved for the Kelly Creek Fly Casters annual banquet and tying event at The Helm in Lewiston.

I have a request from a fifth grade teacher in Deer Park who wants to teach fly tying to his students. This is disguised

as teaching the life cycle of insects; however, he has no equipment or materials. Donations of the simple tools and tying materials are needed if he is to introduce these youngsters to fly tying. The Science unit on insects begins the second week of April. I will have this letter at our March 12 meeting if you are interested in reading it.

I received an interesting email from The Dry Fly Angling Co., Snohomish, WA, which was an invitation to investigate their web site <http://www.dryflyangling.com/> and read their newsletter 'Wild 'bows and Crippled Duns'. The article of interest concerns the *Skwala americana* hatch on the Yakima River. I then learned that this is a small yellow to black Stonefly that starts to become active around 39F, with peak emergence at 47F. Typically, this happens in March on the upper Yakima. Right now the temperature is 19F according to the weather data on Channel 11. Hopefully the sun will correct this dip into winter temperatures so the Skwala hatch can get underway! I am involved in a faculty retreat during the first week of April. The place of choice is near Ellensburg on the Yakima River. A Skwala hatch could be the best thing that ever happen to a faculty retreat!

*Bruce Frazier*



Year of the Steelhead. Rick Markley (top) lands a 34" steelhead while Tony McDonnell (bottom) poses with his 40" buck. Way to go guys!



## March 2003 Auction!

The club's biennial auction will be held at this month's meeting to raise money for the Bill Alspach Fund and general club expenses. Bring your items and your wallets! Here are just a few of the items that will be available:

- ✓ Bob Clark - landing net.
- ✓ Bill Hendrix - long handle wooden C&R landing net.
- ✓ Don Shearer - a 7wt St Croix fly rod, orange overalls.
- ✓ John Read - a dozen flies.
- ✓ Jim Palmersheim - flies.
- ✓ Bruce Frazier - golf course bird house.
- ✓ Dave Engerbretson - three matted black & white photographs, 2 fly rods.
- ✓ Bob Harwood - framed copy of a fish print, framed rendition of a steelhead fly.
- ✓ Donation from The Traditional Sportsman.
- ✓ Donation from TriState.

## Book Reviews - Tim Cavileer

**Tight Lines:** A Brady Coyne Mystery by William G. Tapply  
11<sup>th</sup> in the Brady Coyne Mystery Series

This mystery series, although not directly related to fly-fishing, features a fly-fishing addicted attorney who practices law in the greater Boston/New England area. Brady Coyne's clients are rich, affluent and more often than not, in need of a good sleuth more than an attorney. Like many of us fellow fly-fishers, Brady Coyne has to balance his fly-fishing addiction with the more mundane things in life, like working for a living.

Written in the same vein as Lillian Jackson Braun's 'The Cat who ...' series, Tapply's mysteries will keep you captivated. The first in the series, 'Death at Charity's Point' started the series back in 1984, while his latest 'A Fine Line' was released in 2002. This is a fun series that will help pass the dreary winter evenings till the streams and lakes are open again.

*Tight Lines*, the 11<sup>th</sup> in the series, features an aging heiress who is dying and desperately wants to make amends with her estranged daughter. Going beyond the call of a lawyer, Coyne slips into his detective mode when the daughter's body turns up (the first of several) and is classified as an accidental drowning.

Some of you will no doubt recognize the name of the author, and rightly so, since this is the son of H. G. "Tap" Tapply of Tap's Tip in *Field & Stream*. An excellent author in his own right, William G. Tapply, has authored a number of articles in *Field & Stream*, *American Angler* and the *Shooting Sportsman*.



**Mayflies "Top to Bottom"** by Shane Stalcup  
ISBN: 1-57188-242-1

I liked this book. You can see the love Shane Stalcup has for fly tying and fly-fishing in his attention to details. It's that attention to details that is really brought out in the clear and sharp photographs. In fact, the best part of the book is the stunning photography. The editing, however, leaves a lot to be desired, and the tying instructions are a little hard to follow at times. Fortunately, they are accompanied by lots of photographs.

Included in the book is the usual treatment of tools and hooks. Where it goes beyond the ordinary is in describing newer materials and their use for tying mayflies (e.g. tying trailing shucks, making extended bodies, and working with various materials). Shane even includes a color chart for nymph and adult mayfly color matching.

Shane's techniques really shine as he gets to the heart of the book - tying nymphs, emergers and adult mayflies. Partridge feather legs, tubing and biot bodies, Medallion sheeting wings (and of course, CDC), all figure into some of the near life-like variations that threaten to crawl off the pages from their realism.

Despite some obvious shortcomings, this book is worth adding to your collection. I certainly did to mine.



## Fly Tier's Disease - (anonymous)

### Scientific Study Reveals Hypnotizing Feather Effect

A recent study has indicated that chicken feathers give off certain pheromones, that can actually hypnotize men and women, causing them to purchase ungodly amounts at outrageous prices.

When stored in large quantities in enclosed spaces, the pheromones (from the feathers) cause memory loss and induce the nesting syndrome (similar to the one squirrels have before the onset of winter, i.e. storing food), therefore perpetuating their species. This "nesting" leads to very large agglomerations of feathers. It is posited that the pheromones may come from a symbiotic bacteria and these agglomerations serve to gather large quantities of bacteria together where they breed and further affect the afflicted with memory loss.

Additionally, anechoic chamber tests have also revealed that these feathers emit a very high-pitched sound, heard only by a select few of breed of men and women known as 'fly tyers.' One researcher commented "It's like some ungodly siren song. I was almost lured in myself until I saw the price tag."

When played backwards on an LP, the sounds are heard as chants 'buy me, cut me, whip me, tie me!' In order to overcome the so-called 'feeding frenzy effect' that these feathers cause, one must wear a face mask when entering a storage facility and use ear plugs to avoid being pulled into their grip.

Studies have also indicated that aliens have inhabited the earth, helping to spread the effect that these feathers have on the human population. They are called FISHING SHOP CLERKS. They can sometimes be heard babbling in their own language, using words like *Isonychia* and *meniscus*.

One surprising find in this study is the affect on the integrity of those affected. It was found that these same pheromones cause a pathological need to secret these feather purchases away when taken home (or at least blend them into the existing stash), and when asked by a significant other if the feathers are new, the reply is "I've had them for a while."

## Backcast

**Fishing Reports.** Glen Murray, leak tester extraordinaire, and John Read fished 4th of July Lake without much success. However, John now knows that his repaired Watermaster isn't quite ready for his wife to use - Glen needed a pump-up half way down the lake and again on the return trip. John was heard to say, "I'd rather lose Glen than my wife!" Glen also fished Omak Lake with Debbie Bell and had an outstanding day. Both caught some big fish! Glen also lost his vest but had it returned a few weeks later by an angler from the west-side. Kudos to the honest fisher! That begs the question: Is your stuff labeled? Joe McGurkin topped the evening with his tale of ice fishing Elk Creek reservoir with his son and daughter. There must be some big fish in that place - fishing through a 9" hole Joe's son caught one so large only the eyeball was visible. That was one that surely got away!

**Raffle.** Congratulations to Tom Weber on winning the Four Doctors Fly Plate.

**Conservation.** A motion was passed to move the conservation meeting to the Daily Grind instead of Rico's.

## Tips for Fly Tiers

When tying with deer hair (spinning it or packing it for deer hair bodies) use a tooth brush to brush the hair after the first trimming (You can also use a moustache comb). This pulls any hair you have missed up and cleans all the trimmed hair off the body.

Keep a fairly large (about 3/8th inch wide), fine bristled artists brush on the bench for cleaning flies after trimming stuff like hackle. For example, trimming the hackle on the body of an elk hair caddis. Trimmed stuff is easily removed this way.

Disposable cigarette lighters - 101 uses for in fly tying. Here's a couple:

- 1) I tie a lot of fur hackle flies but can never snip close enough to leave the eye perfectly clean - slash and then burn. Protect the good bits with your fingers and burn back the bad bits
- 2) Cleaning material off hooks to be recycled - burn back is often quicker than slash
- 3) Cleaning up any fibers of feather or fur trapped in the head windings - protect the good and burn the bad - a little dab will do it.

## Upcoming Events

<b>March 4, 2003</b>	6-8pm Fly tying night at TriState, Moscow, Idaho
<b>March 12, 2003</b>	6pm Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at the Best Western - University Inn, Moscow, ID
<b>March 18, 2003</b>	Fly tying night at TriState, Moscow, Idaho
<b>March 19, 2003</b>	5:30pm Conservation/Executive meeting at Rico's in Pullman, WA
<b>March 29, 2003</b>	Kelly Creek Flycasters Spring Banquet. Guest speaker: Jack Dennis - "A River Somewhere." For more information contact: Zach Funkhouser (758-1379) or Bob Clark (743-1034).
<b>April 26, 2003</b>	Amber Lake Fishout
<b>July 10-14, 2003</b>	St Joe Fishout

## Clearwater Fly Casters 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.

## The Guaranteed (submitted by Don Shearer)

I found this fly in the 1974 edition of *Flies of the Northwest*, published by the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club. I do not believe this fly is in any of the subsequent editions.

Data: Created by Karl Paulson, Spokane, in 1964. Excellent nymph for Northwest lakes. Attracts all species, including steelhead.

Don's changes:

- Hooks: I like a size 10 through 14 3x long wet fly hook.
- Weight: Dependent upon personal choice. I like a little weight.
- Tail: I use flank feather fibers from any waterfowl available
- Egg sac: I do not like to use solvents unless necessary so instead I use orange/copper flashabou for the egg sac.
- Rib: Orange/copper wire through the peacock herl for a little flash and increased durability.

**Notes:** I have had success with this fly when nothing else seemed to be working. With the two different types of peacock feathers it really has a nice iridescent look. I believe the fly's effectiveness is due to the long breast feathers pulsing when the fly is stripped, adding life like movement. I like to fish this fly lightly weighted on a full sink line and cast to any structure and stripped back.

In *Flies of the Northwest*, it is written that this pattern "attracts all species, including steelhead." Never the less I have never caught a steelhead with this pattern. That doesn't really mean anything, you could fill a number of pattern books on the flies I have not caught steelhead on. As a matter of fact several people have! But I do find this fly very effective in lakes.



(Recipe as found in the book)

**Hook:** #12-14, 8s and 10s best (I found this quite amusing.)

**Tail:** Widgeon fibers; Wood duck and teal substitutes.

**Egg sac:** Orange floss, rounded. Dip in acetone 15 seconds, turns to plastic.

**Body:** Peacock herl.

**Hackle:** Purplish breast feather or neck of peacock, two turns. (These feathers always look more blue/green to me than purplish.)

### Clearwater Fly Casters

PO Box 2149 CS

Pullman, WA 99165

Our Next Meeting is ...

Wednesday, March 12th, 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!