

# Clearwater Fly Casters

May, 2003

# The Tippet

## From the President's Desk

The LORD that said 'Let there be light' must also have said, though I have not read this, 'I will prepare a cloud for the Amber Lake Fishout'. Every year, no matter the date that we pick, The Cloud appears with a ferocious attempt to dampen our spirits and blow us off the water. This year The Cloud was carefully sandwiched between two nice days, timed perfectly to coincide with our arrival at Amber. You could even watch its progress on the weather channel as it came up from the south. However, The Cloud failed in its attempt to disrupt our activities. We still ate over 8 lbs of ground sirloin and associated buns, condiments, and cookies. We are a social club after all. Around 14 members took part in the under-tarp activity and half of those actually fished a good part of the day. The fishing results were less than stellar at lunch time. The catch could probably be counted on the protruding appendages of two mitten-covered hands.

We have a request from Ken Gebhardt, Fishery Biologist on the St. Joe Ranger District. He would like to get 2-3 members to construct and erect a bull trout information sign sometime in June on the upper St. Joe. I will have more information on this at our meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May.

Remember, the May meeting is on the 7<sup>th</sup>, a week earlier than usual. This is to accommodate our speaker and the Kelly Creek Club. Our speaker is Carl Wolf, a semi-retired guide from Montana.

Watch your Tippet for details on the following events: The next club outing is scheduled for July 10-13 at Fly Flat Camp Ground on the St. Joe. We will need to do some coordinating at the May meeting so we know when food will be prepared and for how many, who will save camp sites, etc. Planning for a September BBQ meeting at Sunnyside Park is also underway. I have reserved the shelter for September 10. By the way, paper copies of the Tippet will not appear in the mail boxes of those who have not paid dues by the May meeting. You will still get an electronic copy, but paper copies cost real money. Let's get this problem taken care of.

Other items to note: Dave Tharp is in possession the plaques that were lost from the walls of Shermer's and I have been negotiating with Dave to take our book and video collection back to his place of business, Import Car Service. They would be more available to circulation from his location than from bringing them to meetings each month.

Come to the May meeting so we can talk about some of these business items and listen to Carl Wolf.

*Bruce Frazier*

"Soon after I embraced the sport of angling I became convinced that I should never be able to enjoy it if I had to rely on the cooperation of the fish."

*from Fishless Days, Angling Nights, -Sparse Grey Hackle*

## Upcoming Events

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>May 7, 2003</b>      | 6pm Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at the Best Western - University Inn, Moscow, ID |
| <b>May 16, 2003</b>     | 5:30pm Conservation/Executive meeting at the Daily Grind in Pullman                 |
| <b>July 10-14, 2003</b> | St Joe Fishout  |

## AMBER LAKE OUTING



Give me your huddled masses ...

While the morning proved inclement, the afternoon picked up with less wind and even a bit of sunshine for those willing to stick it out. Catching picked up as well for some!

## Angler Definition: Rod

A flexible, tapered stick that is the basic tool of angling. A rod of even medium length is awkward to carry, but anglers have found through long experience that it can be easily shortened with an ordinary car door, station wagon tailgate, or trunk lid.

## Teaching Children to Fly Fish

I've found the following understandings to be useful when teaching children to fly fish.

- Catching fish, and lots of them, is very important.
- Children prefer to do it themselves.
- Fly casting for its own sake is a waste of time.

Understanding that children want **to begin fly fishing right** away, I endeavor to teach only the basic elements of fly casting that will enable them to cast just far enough to get the fly to the fish and eliminate frustrations in doing so. Most children can learn to cast well enough to catch fish with about thirty minutes of instruction. Following is the procedure I have found to be most successful in teaching youngsters to fly cast.

1. Use a light fly rod, 5-weight or less and cast small flies with dull hooks and the barbs pinched down.
2. The fly rod is gripped with the thumb on top, not as if it's a club. (Learning time; about 5 minutes).
3. Hold the fly line between the thumb and first finger of the line hand. (Learning time; about 5 minutes).
4. The casting stroke is a straight sliding motion of the casting hand, back and forth with little or no wrist action. The point here is to teach the child how to form a loop in the fly line with a straight slide-stop motion of the casting hand rather than waving the tip of the fly rod in a half-circle to no avail. Since children seldom have sufficient strength to hold the fly rod in proper position with one hand alone, they are most successful if they grip the butt of the fly rod against their casting forearm with their line hand. (Learning time to form a casting loop; about 15 minutes).
5. To cast, the fly line is released when the forward casting stroke stops. (Learning time; about 10 minutes).
6. Always wear eye protection whether casting with or without a fly. (Learning time; zero, either the child wears glasses or doesn't fly fish).

Outfit the fly rod with a short, thick leader. Tie on a foam ant pattern or some sort of a damsel fly nymph. Go to a spot with lots of panfish. When fishing, don't cast for your students, help them learn to do it themselves. Beautiful casts might be important to you, but are seldom so for children. Be satisfied that they can get the fly on the water reasonably well without hurting themselves. Let the kid have fun.



(by Dan Lagace of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club,  
courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire)

## Book Review

### Patent Patterns

by Jim Schollmeyer  
Frank Amato Publications, Inc.  
Portland, OR, 2002  
195 pages, hardbound & softbound  
illustrated, color

Jim Schollmeyer has edited a very interesting fly pattern book. There are fifteen hundred patterns and images of the flies submitted by the tiers who sent them in to the "Fly Fishing and Tying Journal" for the magazine's Patent Patterns contest. The editor has photographed each one of the submitted flies. And has presented each of them with the recipe and where appropriate, additional notes. What makes this book so interesting is that most of the patterns are adaptations of standard patterns, or new patterns, by fly fishermen all over the world to solve their own specific problems on their own waters. What this has done is provide the fly tier with a series of unique perspectives into solving the age old fly fishing problem of, "what fly should I use".

You will find beautiful flies, ugly flies, neat and tidy flies, as well as rumbled and bedraggled looking flies. But each and everyone presents the reader with an insight into different ways to solve the problem of representing a live food item in an artificial fly. Here you can find a wonderful collection of ideas on how to utilize color, form, and texture to represent or imitate food items, or simply to aggravate a fish into striking. You will also be presented with a huge tool box of fly tying materials from which to shape your own fly tying palette. Materials that range from the common place to the absolutely "out in left field". But every one of them presents an opportunity for the fly tier to tie better flies.

The book is organized into thirteen chapters with each chapter directed to a single type of fly. Mayflies, Caddisflies, Stoneflies, and Midges of course, but also Attractor Patterns, Soft Hackles and Wet Flies, Damselflies and Dragonflies, Terrestrials, Streamers, Scud and related bugs as well. And, to include most of the fly fishing opportunities there are also chapters on Bass and Bluegill flies, Atlantic Salmon, Steelhead and Sea Trout flies, and Inshore Saltwater Flies. The book finishes with a very good fly pattern index and fly tier index. The photographs are all very good to excellent and the editing is superb. There are at least three images that do not match the recipe associated with them, and most interestingly also don't match any other recipe in the book either. Otherwise the book is truly well edited. The printing and layout are also exceptionally well done. A first rate book that will help inspire every fly tier no matter his level of expertise.

This is a fly tying inspiration book that needs to be on every fly tier's tying bench.

(reviewed © 2001 by Bruce E. Harang of the Smoky Mountain Fly Fishers of North Carolina, courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire)

### RIDDLE

What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps?

(ANSWER: A FLY)

## The Rock

There's a rock near the middle of the river where I fish for steelhead. It isn't visible from shore but it causes a surface wave followed by turbulent flow as the water rushes over it. After too many days of not catching a thing, which I've read somewhere was typical for steelhead fishing, I stopped long enough to realize that the guy nearest the rock was always hooking fish.

Mainly fly fisherman fish here opposed to across the river where the spin fisherman congregate and sometimes cast all the way across the river tangling lines with the fly fisherman. Fly fisherman seem to have a special code of conduct because even though every one of them here must secretly covet the rock, they do not overtly rush to it when a lucky fisherman vacates it to chase his hooked fish downstream. If the guy takes too long landing the fish however, the rock usually has a new occupant who may or may not give it up without words being exchanged.

One day I was able to get to the rock. It's only about 8 inches high, with a flat surface just large enough to stand on. Most of the surrounding rocks are lower. Rounded and slippery and about like greased bowling balls.

Wow! What anew outlook from on top the rock. I could actually see fish from this elevation and it was easy now to drift my fly perfectly across previously unreachable fish. I finally began catching steelhead. Not just one, but one after another! The guys next to me began inching closer, ready to pounce on my rock at any opportunity. I was catching steelhead so often that it seemed strange that no one else was. It wasn't that I was the best fisherman there, because he was next to me. It wasn't the fly either, although I pretended it was.

The rock had made all of the difference.

Could it be that being successful in other aspects of life has a lot to do with discovering the right rock?

*(by Vic Wright of the Las Vegas Fly Fishing Club courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire)*

"Izaak Walton said about fly fishing - "Study to be Quiet". The "quietude" is a major draw to fly fishing for me. I like that it takes you a little time to notice it. That, suddenly, you are aware of it and the little noises that you have missed are back. The breeze, the birds, the little rustles of the small creatures earning their livings and even the hum of insects. Your awareness expands and you find you are living and not merely existing. I like to pause then and reflect on how fortunate I am (and those with me, physically and spiritually). I often have little recollections of absent friends, now gone to the great fishing pond on the other side of creation. These are the moments when they are with me again and I remember."

- Sheldon Seale

### Clearwater Fly Casters' Officers 2003

President	Bruce Frazier	(bfrazier@pullman.com)	332-7346
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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.

## Fly Fishing Quiz

- In general floating lines designed for saltwater use are:
  - Greater in diameter than freshwater lines
  - Smaller in diameter than freshwater lines
  - More dense than freshwater lines
  - Both b and c
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is a change of direction cast, which is an alternative to the double spey cast and is useful with a left hand obstruction.
  - Single spey
  - Reverse loop
  - Double haul
  - Snake roll
- When changing from a stiff rod to a soft rod, you would make the following adjustments in your cast:
  - Lengthen the casting stroke
  - Shorten the casting stroke
  - Decrease the drift time
  - No change is necessary
- You typically cast a weight forward line, but find yourself at a great fishing spot with only a level line in your arsenal. How might you change your cast to lessen the turn over effect or 'kick' of a level line?
  - Speed up the casting tempo
  - Form a narrower loop
  - Form a wider loop
  - Both a and b

Answers:

1. (d); 2. (d); 3. (a); 4.(c)

*(by Liz Watson of Northwest Women Flyfishers and International Women Flyfishers)*



### The Anatomy of a Club

The anatomy of a club is made up of several kinds of bones. The "Wish Bones" are those who wish someone else would do the work. The "Jaw Bones" are those who talk a lot but do nothing. The "Knuckle Bones" knock everything everyone else does.

And the "Back Bones" are those who really get behind the wheel and get things done.

Which bone would you rather be?

-- Author unknown

## Kirkham's Cray by Ruth J. Zinck and Bob Bates

**Hook:** Daiichi 2220 or 1720  
**Thread:** Black or brown Monocord  
**Back:** Red fox squirrel (use long hair from middle area on top side of tail)  
**Head and Body:** Medium size, brown/black, variegated chenille  
**Rib:** 6-lb test clear monofilament  
**Claws:** Red fox squirrel (as above)



The Kirkham's Cray by Ruth Zinck caught my eye as I flipped through the 1990 Patterns of the Masters. I asked Ruth if I could use the information for a Fly of the Month. She said yes and sent me a fly to photograph. Step by step pictures are given on pages 159-161.

"Joan Kirkham lives in Cambridge, Ontario and is one of the best and most creative tiers I know. She is also a dear friend and when I get east, spending hours talking tying with her is always a highlight of the trip. She showed me her crayfish pattern in June of 1989 and gave me permission to 'tell the world' at Conclave. It was too late to include the fly in last year's book but that is remedied now. I have made no changes in her pattern ... yet, especially since a lunker smallmouth grabbed it on my first cast." (I asked Ruth about the size of the "lunker." She replied that in her mind it was 8 pounds, but more likely it was 3.)

### FISHING SUGGESTIONS

We know that bass like to eat crayfish. "Kirkham's Cray should be crawled over the rocky bottom of a lake or river and occasionally retrieved in short spurts. Depending on water depth, use a sink tip, full-sink line or weighted leader. However, I once got a good strike on the fly just as it hit the water."

One crayfish angler in Washington fishes rocky shorelines and catches trout. He says: cast toward shore from your boat or float tube, and let the fly bounce down the rocks. Use a slow hand twist retrieve to imitate a crayfish's walking movements, and a 2- to 3-inch strip retrieve with a pause to simulate their quick movements. (The same instructions that Ruth gave above for bass.)

Last month we found crayfish and crayfish parts in rainbow stomach samples. (It was during catch and release fishing sessions with stomach sampling by our state fish biologist.)

*Tying instructions available in the Fly of the Month archives at <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/>*

*Clearwater Fly Casters*

*PO Box 2149 CS*

*Pullman, WA 99165*

*Last Tippet If you haven't paid your 2003 dues!*

*Our Next Meeting is ...*

Wednesday, May 7th, 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!*