

# Clearwater Fly Casters

October, 2003

# The Tippet

## From the President's Desk

The President's desk is full and cluttered this month, so this will be short. We had a very nice meeting in September at Sunnyside Park with a bbq and lots of story trading. Future plans include Mawdsley Lake for some of us, while others are talking strongly about inspecting John Toker's new digs in the Bahama's.

Our meeting for October is on the 8<sup>th</sup> at University Inn Best Western in Moscow. Chicken parmesan and roast sirloin are on the menu. The meal will be followed immediately by a program conducted by Bob Harwood. He will present 'Fishing the Agua Boa in northern Brazil'. Slides and fish prints will enhance his discussion. Plan on joining us for the Wet Fly Hour (6:00), and dinner (7:00), but if you can not make it for dinner, come to the program. It will begin around 7:30, or whenever people are finished eating. Our business meeting will be held after the program.

I am off now to gather some information for our 'fishing reports' section of the business meeting.

*Bruce Frazier*

## Fly Tying Kits for Clubs

Through the generosity of a private donor, the FFF is pleased to announce a new program to help our member clubs expand their youth education efforts. Interested clubs can receive four free fly tying sets for club education purposes. These kits include a vise and all tools as well as a variety of fine materials. In addition four Boy Scout merit badge manuals are included to help clubs get involved with this program. These kits are being made available for youth education only. They are not for raffles, fundraisers or other uses. Kits are offered on a first come first served basis until they are gone.

## Treasurer's Note

Thanks to all of you who came to the Barbeque. We had all we could eat and made a profit of \$10.83 after the food bill was paid. And, we all had a good time!

The 2004 Angler's calendars are in and I will have them at the October meeting. They will be sold for \$12 each.

Club dues are from January to December, so I will begin collecting them in November. The dues 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.

There will be a special incentive to pay your dues by January, 2004. At our January meeting, a special item will be raffled with only those who have paid their 2004 dues eligible to win. More information will be forthcoming.

*Shirley Engerbretson*

## Upcoming Events

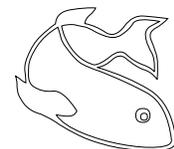
- October 8, 2003** Clearwater Fly Casters monthly meeting at the Best Western - University Inn in Moscow, Idaho. 6pm. Bob Harwood guest speaker: 'Fishing the Agua Boa in northern Brazil.'
- October 15, 2003** 5:30pm Conservation/Executive meeting at the Daily Grind in Pullman, WA.
- November 12, 2003** Clearwater Fly Casters monthly meeting at the Best Western - University Inn in Moscow, Idaho. Reid Miller guest speaker: 'Fly fishing the salt water off Australia's west coast.'
- November 19, 2003** 5:30pm Conservation/Executive meeting at the Daily Grind in Pullman, WA.
- December 10, 2003** Clearwater Fly Casters monthly meeting at the Best Western - University Inn in Moscow, Idaho. Alspach Memorial Scholarship Award Winner will be the guest speaker. Topic: TBA.
- December 17, 2003** 5:30pm Conservation/Executive meeting at the Daily Grind in Pullman, WA.

"If indeed you be an angler, join us and welcome, for then it is known to you that no man is in perfect condition to enjoy scenery unless he have a flyrod in his hand and a fly-book in his pocket."

- Wm. C. Prime

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him to fly fish and you sell him rods, reels, and equipment for a lifetime."

- Sandee Middleton



## Conservation Report - Bulltrout Sign

On July 7, Jim Palmersheim and John Read utilized their carpentry skills to assist the U.S. Forest Service St. Joe Ranger District with constructing and placing a bull trout information sign on the upper St. Joe River at the Spruce Tree Campground. These individuals dedicated an entire day and each over 9 hours of volunteer time to complete the project. Construction of the sign occurred at the U.S. Forest Service Avery Ranger Station. Ken Gebhardt, District Fishery Biologist for the St. Joe Ranger District, provided materials, plans, and tools to complete the project. After completion, the sign was dismantled, painted, and transported upriver 50 miles to the Spruce Tree Campground. Within a few hours after arriving at the campground, sign materials were assembled in the parking lot, footer holes were excavated by hand, cement and rocks were placed in the post holes, and the sign was placed at a location visible to anglers and campers near the trailhead. Thanks to the contribution of the Fly Casters, this entire project was completed in one day. The sign is now used for educational purposes to promote protection of bull trout in the upper St. Joe River.



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*~ Word has it that next summer Ken will be looking for volunteers to help with surveying the West Fork of the St. Maries River. This will be an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with a stream in our own backyard!*

### Fishing Strategies: The Way of the Trout

By Roger Maler FFF Southern Council President for *On the Fly* newsletter of the Acadiana Flyrodders of Lafayette (via FFF ClubWire)

Trout and other species are habitual and predictable in their behavior. Spending untold hours just watching them and thousands of days trying to outwit them, brings me to this conclusion. Trying to put myself in the trout's head (I call it the Homer Simpson theory). I look for the holding places before I even enter the water so as to minimize my efforts. I often wonder if the trout is Homer or is it me, probably a little of both! If you take anything to streamside from this article put this in caps. In all waters there are finite numbers of holding places and your memory is the blueprint for hook-ups. Wherever a fish is taken or a bump is telegraphed to your fingers, a fish will be holding there from now on! That is why guides make a living on almost every trout venue in the world.

Consider these spots as the queue line at McDonalds drive through. A fish will return to, or be replaced by, another one every time. It has also been learned over the years that 75% of hook-ups are from fish I never saw. Therefore look for holding water not the trout. Guides know this but wish you to believe they can see all the fish thus contributing to their mystique.

Are you interested in speaking for the Methow Valley Fly Fishers? They would like to exchange speakers so that we might get to know their area a little better; and vise versa. See Bruce Frazier or Don Shearer at the next meeting!

#### 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
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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.

## Book Report

### Trout Stream Fly-Fishing

by Harry Murray  
 Frank Amato Publications, Inc.  
 Portland, OR, 2003  
 103 pages, softbound  
 illustrated, color

This is a book small in size but big in its being able to get a fly fishing beginner catching fish. Physically the book is 4 by 6 inches so that the beginner can take his text book with him on stream. It is also very inexpensive to purchase so there is no need to fear getting it wet or losing it. That is where smallness stops however. Within this small framework the author has assembled a tremendously large and excellent body of fly fishing know-how to get the beginner up, out, and catching trout.

The book is directed to teaching a beginner how to fish small and medium sized trout streams. In order to make sense of this the author first clearly defines the types of trout water he is going to talk about and then discusses the trout he is going to teach the reader to catch. The book then moves to general topic chapters on fly tackle, fly casting, trout foods, reading water, and spotting trout. Along the way Harry provides the reader with some clear insights to fly fishing truths that don't seem to be taught anymore. For example the author reminds us all of the simple fact that fly size governs the line size and the line size governs the rod weight. And the clear logic of Charlie Brooks in teaching that presentation is everything and the fly fisherman's job is to find that one spot in the stream that allows for the best presentation of the fly to the trout. Casting is covered in two and one half pages of text and two illustrations. The few knots needed to start fly fishing successfully are clearly described and illustrated. The basic gear and its relevance are also well described in just a couple of pages. In other words, the beginner is given what is needed without the catalog of bells and whistles that only confuses.

The final three chapters teach specific strategies for fishing in the early season, the late spring/summer season, and the fall season. With detailed text and great color illustrations showing excellent methods of dry fly, nymph, and streamer fishing for each of these times of the trout fishing year.

The production in full color and the excellent layout is simply amazing for a book, which will cost you less than ten dollars.

If you or someone you know wants to learn to successfully fly fish for trout this little jewel will do the job. This book presents a well defined goal and then provides a clear concise plan that allows for reaching that goal. It will get the beginner started, be a good companion, and allow the beginner to succeed in catching some trout. That is its purpose and it does that well. For the beginner, this book is worth far more than its cost.

(© 2003 Bruce E. Harang of the Smoky Mountain Fly Fishers of North Carolina for the ClubWire Email Newswire)

(The 'Fly Fisher's Classification Scheme' originally appeared in the September, 1983 Fly Fisherman and is reprinted here with permission via the FFF ClubWire.)

## The Fly Fisher's Classification Scheme

As you have probably realized by now, fly fishing can be a rather technical sport and the majority of fly fishers are of an intellectual nature. But they have a sense of humor, too. Nowhere is that more obvious than in the following classification scheme devised by expert fly fisherman and renaissance gentleman, John Hannah. I first saw his classification scheme posted on the wall of the Nature Conservancy office at Silver Creek near Picabo, Idaho. It brought me a much-needed smile after a day of fruitless fishing on that difficult stream. I have since had the pleasure of catching some of Silver Creek's inhabitants, and have gotten to know John, as well. He has set a fine example for the rest of us to strive for, and although he insists he is struck in Class 4, I know for a fact he is at least a Class 9.

**Class 1:** Has some fly equipment in his (or her, and that is the last time I'll say or her) and has fished with it.

**Class 2:** Usually fishes with flies; has taken fish with two of these: poppers, streamers, nymphs, dry flies. Belongs to a fly fishing organization. Is on the mailing lists of lots of tackle mail-order houses.

**Class 3:** Has taken fish on flies he tied. Can tie a nail knot on the first try. Can tell species of fish from one another and can identify a mayfly from a caddisfly from a stonefly. Has fallen in a river or a lake.

**Class 4:** Fishes with fly only wherever possible and is pretty snobbish about it. Most of the flies he uses are ones he tied. Has fishing library of 20 books. Has given advice (helpful) to other fly fisherman. Owns a split cane rod. Has had a hook in him.

**Class 5:** Can double haul. Has built a fly rod from a blank. Can tie most salt- and freshwater patterns. Dyes feathers. Has fishing library of 40 books and has read them. Usually fishes barbless. Hones his hook points. Knows Lefty Kreh and Ernie Schwiebert on sight.

**Class 6:** Can identify 10 species of fish and 10 aquatic insects by their Latin names. Has caught a five-pound fish on a 5X tippet. Has tied a thousand flies and released a thousand fish. Has been a director of a fly fishing club. Can cast 100 feet with a 5-weight line. Can spot a rise in white water.

**Class 7:** Has lost most of his snobbery. Can roll cast 35 feet. Has caught most of these fish on flies: tarpon, bonefish, Arctic char, steelhead, smallmouth bass, Chinook, grayling. Owns a Jim Payne rod or equal. Uses a line dryer.

**Class 8:** Has built a bamboo rod from the cane culm. Has published articles or given lectures on fly fishing. Can tie classic feather wing Atlantic salmon patterns. Can tie flies without a vise and cast without a rod.

**Class 9:** (World): Has fished most of these rivers: Tongariro, Gacka, Chimehuin, Test, Laxa I Aldadal, Kulik, Alta, Restigouche, Spey. Has written, or edited, or done an introduction for a book about fly fishing. Has caught a 20-pound fish on a #20 hook. A fly pattern that he originated is in general use.

**Class 10:** Ernie Schwiebert and Lefty Kreh know him on sight.

(from "Introduction to Fly Fishing" by Judy Lehmborg)

## Bitch Creek Nymph by Bob Bates

The Bitch Creek Nymph is an old standby pattern for many anglers. Most say that it is a stonefly nymph imitation, but others use it as a searching or attractor pattern. The real history behind this pattern is unknown according to the my books. George F. Grant in *Montana Trout Flies*, 1981, wrote that he couldn't find a reference to it "...but there is little doubt but that the pattern is of Montana origin." He also commented: "It is difficult to establish whether or not the 'Bitch Creek' was the first of the large Montana nymph patterns to employ rubber appendages, but it is a trend that is becoming increasingly evident."

Fishing the Bitch Creek Nymph calls for letting it sink to or near the bottom. In fast moving streams, make a short cast upstream and let the fly sink as it comes downstream. Keep control of the line so you can feel the strike. During high water times look for backwater and side channels where the visibility for fish might be a little better than in the main flow. Also it will be a bit easier to put the fly near the bottom slower water.

Some fly anglers will throw a Bitch Creek Nymph when other lake flies aren't performing. Generally, a full sinking line is used, but in shallow water use a floating line so the fly doesn't sink too deeply. Whether it is color or wiggling legs is unknown, but fish like it and will strike.

Tying instructions can be found at <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/>

*(by Bob Bates of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club of Spokane WA, courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire)*



**Hook:** Mustad 9672 or 79580, 2-12

**Thread:** Black 3/0

**Antenna & tail:** White rubber

**Weight:** Lead-free wire, about the same diameter as wire in hook (optional)

**Rib:** Yellow monocord (optional)

**Back (overlay):** Black chenille

**Body:** Orange or yellow chenille

**Hackle:** Brown

**Gills:** White ostrich herl (optional)

**Thorax:** Black chenille

*Clearwater Fly Casters*

*PO Box 2149 CS*

*Pullman, WA 99165*

*Our Next Meeting is ...*

Wednesday, October 8th, 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!*