



Clearwater *Fly Casters* The *Tippet* February, 2004

From The President's Desk

Hello,

I hope somebody has been out fishing since the last meeting. I have yet to venture out this year, but, with bird season having been laid to rest, I have every intention to wet a line very soon.

A big thank you to Bob Clark and Bill Hendrix for donating their handmade landing nets to the Membership Incentive Drawing. I would also like to thank the Traditional Sportsman for donating the fly boxes for the drawing and club members who filled them with their flies. Lastly, thank you to everyone who brought something for the monthly raffle. It was very nice to see the revival of the raffle.

I need to apologize for the miscommunication of the location of the last Executive/Conservation meeting. For those of you who chose to attend and were not at the same location as the rest of us, I apologize. With that said, we are once again moving the location of this meeting. We have been attempting to find a venue that has ample table room, is somewhat quiet, smoke free, and serves beverages derived from hops and barley. At the suggestion of a club member, the February 18th meeting will be at 5:30 p.m., at the Old Post Office Wine Cellar and Gallery in Pullman (located in the Old Post Office Building at 245 SE Paradise). Once again, I would like to stress that

everyone is invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.

Bob Harwood has made a very generous offer to the club: Bob is willing to produce some nice coffee mugs for club members to purchase. The club will keep all the proceeds from the sale of the mugs. At the February meeting, we plan to have a sample set of the mugs, along with prices and ordering information. I am really excited about these mugs. I have been trying in vain to win something Bob produced for the raffle for a long time. Now we unlucky folks can have some of his beautiful work.

The speaker for this month is Jake Guhlke from Orofino. Jake is one of the individuals that our past president, John Toker, fished with on his annual steelhead trip to British Columbia. Jake has wet lines in the rivers of British Columbia to the flats of Christmas Island, and a host of other places across the globe. His presentation next month will focus on the fishing and recreational activities that Belize has to offer.

After last month's meeting, several members contacted me to comment on the history of the club. One member has asked for a couple of minutes at the next meeting to speak about Steve Allured and Benton Collins ([check out the feature article by George Hinman on pages 2 and 3](#)). The response has me thinking that a pro-

gram on the Clearwater Flycasters history and past members might be a topic of great interest. If you would like to be involved with a program or would like to write something for the web page about past years or past members of the club, please contact me.

During Tri-State's remodeling process, Dale Coryell has agreed to host the fly tying nights at his fly shop, Wilderness Access. The fly shop is located at 1320 S Mountain View Road in Moscow. Further details with nights and times will be forthcoming at the next meeting.

I was encouraged by the turnout we had for the January meeting. I hope we can continue with these kinds of numbers. If you know any fly fishers in the area who are not members of the club, please invite them to drop by and visit a meeting. Remember the next meeting is the Valentine's meeting, so bring your special someone.

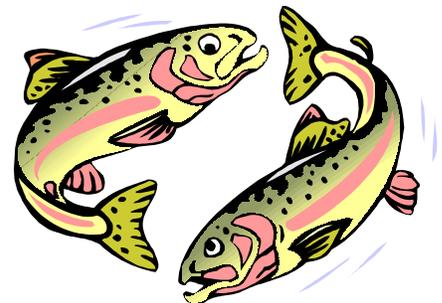
As always, I encourage everyone to join the Federation of Fly Fishers. For more information see their web page at <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/>.

My best,

Don Shearer

Upcoming Events

- February 11, 2004** Clearwater Fly Casters monthly meeting at the Best Western-University Inn in Moscow, ID. 6:00 pm.
- February 18, 2004** Conservation? Executive meeting at the Old Post Office Wine Cellar and Gallery, 245 SE Paradise, Pullman, WA. 5:30 pm.
- February 28, 2004** Burgers and Flies. 2900 S. Mtn View Rd. 3:30-9:30 pm., auction , 7:30 pm See backcast for more details.



Treasurer's Notes

It appears that our Membership Incentive accomplished what we had hoped it would. Nearly 70% of last year's members have renewed their memberships for 2004. This is far better than a year ago, although I don't have statistics on how much better. I remember being concerned that dues weren't being paid. Thank you one and all, and congratulations! We are still taking dues from anyone who has not yet renewed their membership for 2004. See me at the meeting on February 11, or mail it in to CFC, P.O. Box 2149 CS, Pullman, WA 99165. The incentives for the rest of the year will be to be counted among a fine group of people and to enjoy lots of fun times at meetings and outings.

Now for the treasury: we have slightly more than \$1,800 in the checking account and \$5,130 in savings, \$2,000 of which is reserved for the Alspach Scholarship Fund. We have 50 paid members as of this writing.

~~~~~

**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**, Treasurer

### Backcast (Continued)

**Fish Reports.** AJ reluctantly reported catching a carp...on the swing...in the mouth. Brian Oelke and Yasushi Nomura had a great day at Rocky Ford hooking 10 and landing four fish while Seth fished Round Lake through the ice. Warmer days must be still a ways off!

#### Burger & Flies 2004:

Directions: 1st right past Tidyman's going east on the Troy highway. Mtn View Extension. Go to the end of the road look for the Lewis residence. We will be in the shop out back.

What to Bring: Fly tying gear, money for the auction and a great attitude.

What's provided: Fly tying gear, dinner, beer, pop, and a great atmosphere.

Who to call: Joe McGurkin  
208-882-7798  
mcgurkin@moscow.com

**New Editor Comments:** Many thanks to Tim for helping me with this issue of the tippet. He has done a quality-timely job as editor....a hard act to follow.

Glen Murray

### Backcast

**Retiring Editor:** I wanted to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve the club as Tippet Editor. Soliciting articles (also known as 'herding cats'), editing, layout, and printing the Tippet have been great experiences but the time has come to serve in the vice-president position. I'm looking forward to doing that and all that it entails. My thanks to Glen Murray for stepping up and taking over the Tippet!

Tim

I suppose it's official that Don Shearer, the new president, is firmly in control of the club. After all, he did receive an official Mt St Helens mug with his name embossed on it, courtesy of Dave Tharp. I understand the mug comes with an extended 10 yr term as president.

**Guests.** Welcome to Brain Oelke's guest Yasushi Nomura and to Seth and Jason from Schweitzer Engineering Labs.

**The Membership raffle** was a great success with Dave Pryor, Don Johnstone, AJ Morris, Jim Palmersheim and Cliff Swanson winning nets or flies. Congratulations!

#### 2004 Speaker Schedule (Tentative)

|               |                                                           |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Feb. 11, 2004 | Don Guhlke, Fishing for Bonefish                          |
| Mar. 10, 2004 | Jim McLennan, Alberta Trout Streams                       |
| Apr. 14, 2004 | Kajsa Stomberg, Palouse Environmental Institute           |
| May 12, 2004  | Leland Miyawaki, Fishing the Saltwater of the Puget Sound |

#### Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2004

|                     |                      |                       |          |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| President           | Don Shearer          | don@mail.wsu.edu      | 432-6906 |
| Vice President      | Tim Cavileer         | greencat@turbonet.com | 883-4572 |
| 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 Editor   | Glen Murray          | glenmurray@moscow.com | 882-7020 |
| Webmaster           | 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, \$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 6:00 pm, dinner at 7:00 pm and program at 8:00 pm.

### Who Were Ben Collins and Steve Allured?

#### George Hinman, January 2004

Clearwater Flycasters awards the Steve Allured - Benton Collins Memorial Award annually to a club member "in recognition of outstanding contributions to the activities of the Clearwater Fly Casters, conservation, and the sport of fly fishing." But who were Ben Collins and Steve Allured? Enough time has now passed so that most current members did not know them and do not know what role they played in the history of the club. Ben and Steve were charter members of the club, present at its formation in 1970. They were active members for the rest of their lives, and both would have deserved the award themselves for the generous contributions

(Continued on page 3)

**Who Were Ben Collins and Steve Allured? (cont from p 2)**

that they made to club projects and activities.

**Ben Collins'** business was farming; his ranch was near Kamiak Butte, but when he wasn't farming, he was fishing. He fished the local streams and lakes with many club members, especially with his close friend Andy Tidrick. He also was a regular traveler to more distant waters like the streams in British Columbia and the rivers of western Oregon and Washington.

Ben was a strong supporter of the club from its beginning. When Sherman Lowell felt somewhat burned out after three terms as the first president, Ben took over as president in 1973 and brought a strong spirit of leadership during his year and afterwards. He was an organizer, promoter and supporter of club activities. He helped teach the flytying classes and once enrolled in a WSU flytying class as a student so that Dave Engerbretson would have enough students to teach the class. He helped organize the community clinics that we had for the public in those days.

Ben was involved in setting up the famous club trip to Lake Hi Hume in 1972 where 20 club members, including one member with his wife and a dog, occupied one cabin. He was the cook (the early predecessor of Bill Hendrix) at the annual club spring outings at Loren Schroder's place on Badger Lake. We all spent the mornings fishing the lake to provide the fish for Ben and Andy Tidrick to cook as the main course for the evening dinner. Ben organized the auctions where Dave Engerbretson and George Johnson were auctioneers before the arrival of Dave Tharp. He helped organize the hybrid fish experiments at Lake Lenice and built two prams for club members to use at the lake. Overall he was a vital force in the club through the 1970s and was very highly regarded by all. Ben suffered from heart trouble. I remember fishing with him on the Grande Ronde when he had to stop fishing and lie down to recover from a painful episode. He died from a heart attack in October, 1980.

**Steve Allured** worked as an artist in the Publications Department at WSU. His principal responsibility was to create illustrations for university publications, but he did some special projects with a wider audience. He had some part in rendering the WSU cougar logo although he apparently did not originate it. He painted the Ferdinand scenes on the walls of the old sales room at Ferdinand's Dairy in Troy Hall.

Steve contributed generously of his talents to the club. He was a superb flytyer and often taught the local class. He had his own version of the Carey Special, a popular fly of the day. His version was made with moosehair and bore no resemblance to the Carey Special that the rest of us tied, but he insisted that his was the real Carey Special.

Steve offered his artistic talent to the club on many occasions. He created the masthead for the Tippet that was used from March 1973, when the name was still Creel Notes, until December 1999, when it was finally replaced. He designed the first membership card, the first club patch, the first club stationery, and the first club membership pin. He created the certificate that we still give to our speakers, signed by the Prevaricator Supreme and the Second Biggest Liar. He created the ivory bolo tie that passes to successive club presidents for their year in office. He and Dave Engerbretson, created the display of members' sample flies that was for many years available at every club meeting but that seems to have disappeared. Steve was an expert at scrimshaw in the days when ivory was still acceptable, and at auctions in the 1970s a scrimshaw bolo or other creation by Steve was one of the star attractions. I have a beautiful carving that he did and that I finally won after a spirited bidding contest with Fran Lowell. I felt bad about it later.

Each summer in the late 1970s Steve invited club members to come to his cabin in northern Idaho near Bonner's Ferry to fish on the Moyie River that flowed through his property. Sherm Lowell and I regularly participated along

with several others. We used to sleep on the front porch of his cabin and fish for two days. I remember one day I was fishing and glanced across the river, which was only about as wide as Marble Creek. There was a bear getting a drink and watching me. I have never forgotten that moment although the bear made no aggressive movement, and I moved to another spot. Steve died in December, 1979.

In December 1980, President Walter Becker appointed a committee of Sherm Lowell, Ivan Sayles, Mark Kuipers, George Johnson, and Chuck Fredericksen to suggest ways that the club could commemorate long time members such as Ben Collins and Steve Allured. After a considerable hiatus, Sherm Lowell received the first Steve Allured – Benton Collins Memorial Award in March, 1989, and the award has been given each year since except for the year 2000. The club history lists the recipients:

- 1989 Sherman Lowell
- 1990 Dave Engerbretson and Chuck Fredericksen
- 1991 George Johnson
- 1992 Marv Slind
- 1993 Andy Kleinhofs
- 1994 Bill Hoge
- 1995 George Hinman
- 1996 Denny Cartwright
- 1997 Leroy Hyatt
- 1998 Gene and Natalie Clark
- 1999 Dave Tharp
- 2000 Bill Hendrix
- 2001 not given
- 2002 Joe McGurkin

We now have apparently missed making an award in 2003 as well, and memory of this way to recognize service to the club is fading away. I believe that it is a worthwhile club tradition and hope that it can be continued with the annual recipient noted in the Tippet. The club needs to establish a regular procedure for making the award and record it in the Tippet as well as the club history.

### Oligochaete (ol-i-go-keet) Worms By Fox Statler

#### Tying Steps:

**Step #1:** Place the hook in the vise. Wrap the amount and size of lead desired in the middle of the shank of the hook. Start the thread at the eye of the hook. Wrap toward the bend of the hook, tie down the lead (if used). End at the beginning of the hook bend. Cover the thread wrappings with a light coat of glue.

**Step #2:** Cut the desired length of Ultra Chenille for the body. Color the last ¼-inch of each end lightly with a red pen. Tie in the Ultra Chenille at the beginning of the hook bend leaving a ½- to ¾-inch tail. Wrap the thread forward to the middle of the lead. Loosely wrap the Ultra Chenille to this point and tie down with two wraps of thread. To help make the wraps loose and uniform, wrap Ultra Chenille over a small knitting needle or toothpick.

**Step #3:** Wrap the thread to the eye of the hook. Loosely wrap the remainder of the Ultra Chenille to the eye of the hook. Tie down the Ultra Chenille. Whip finish and glue the threads of the head.

We should all look at the worms in our lakes and rivers. The looseness of the Ultra Chenille lets the worm move a little making it look alive. If your worms are smaller, just use smaller hooks and Micro Ultra Chenille. The full article is on Statler's website: <http://www.fishinwhattheysee.com/Page 16.html> He also has a couple of tying steps pictured. (Bob Bates, FOM Editor)

Courtesy of FFF: [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org)



**Hook:** 2170 series Daiichi Bent Shank hook, sizes #12 - #4.

**Thread:** Red or Fluorescent Red 8/0 Uni-Thread.

**Weight:** None to 8 -10 wraps of .035 lead wire depending upon the amount of lead wire needed to get the worm down.

**Body:** Ultra Chenille, small to medium, length 3 to 4 inches. In colors of Fluorescent **Shell Pink**, Fluorescent Pink, Fluorescent Red, Shrimp Pink and Wine.

**Marker:** Red Prismacolor Pen or Red Permanent Marker Pen.

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

Our next meeting is

**Wednesday, February 11th, 2004**  
**At the University Inn Best Western,**  
**1560 West Pullman Road in Moscow, ID**  
**Wet Fly Hour: 6:00 PM**  
**Dinner: 7:00 PM**



Please join us!