



# The *Tippet* December, 2008

**Clearwater Fly Casters**  
[www.clearwaterflycasters.com](http://www.clearwaterflycasters.com)  
A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



## December Speaker

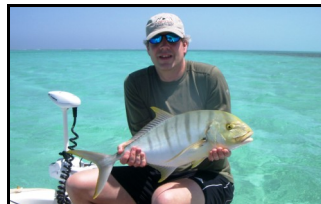
**“Fly Fishing and Travels in Australia” – Reid Miller**

**Clearwater Fly Casters Meeting – December 10, 2008 – Best Western University Inn, Moscow, ID – Presentation to Start 7:30 PM**

Reid has been a member of Clearwater Fly Casters for over 20 years, since moving to The Palouse from Laramie, Wyoming, in the mid-1980s. He served as CFC president in 1993, and has made several presentations on his fly fishing adventures in Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Chile. The current presentation will be about the trip he and Nancy made to Australia from September, 2007, to January, 2008. They traveled in Queensland and Western Australia. The primary focus will be on a fly fishing trip to Exmouth made by Reid and his son Craig. This is the same area that Reid fished in 2002, and was the focus of a CFC presentation in November, 2003, but the fishing was quite different this time. An introduction to this fishing on the Ningaloo Reef is given below. Come to the meeting to hear the rest of the story.

### Newsletter Introduction

“There’s a snake up there,” Craig said rather nonchalantly. “Up where?” I exclaimed, as I jumped. And I wanted an answer before I came down. Now, let me put this in a bit of context. It was dark. This was the end of our first day in Exmouth, at the far northwest tip of Australia. We were walking downtown on a sidewalk along the biggest and



best lit street in town, which meant there were a few, rather dim streetlights on a wide spacing. We were the only people in sight. Australia is famous for its many species of deadly poisonous snakes. Up here, there are king browns, death adders, etc. It is so hot and dry in the summer on the Exmouth peninsula that snakes come out only at night.

“Up ahead on the sidewalk, past the streetlight,” Craig calmly replied. I strained my eyes and could finally make out in the dim glow of the streetlight a rather vague wiggly object scooting off onto the grass, heading toward the community swimming pool. It was too dark to identify it. My son Craig has good eyes, much better than mine. I am afraid to think how many snakes I might have seen on our several trips to Australia, if I had his eyes! On the way back to our hotel, he spotted the same snake in nearly the same spot. We gave it a wide berth. I think it was trying to cross the street to the high school, even though school was not in session in January, late summer in the Southern Hemisphere. (continued on page 2)

## Calendar

**Dec 10: Reid Miller, Flyfishing and Travels in Australia**

**Jan 14: Kent Bowersox, Steelhead Restoration in North Central Idaho**

## Information

The *Tippet* is available as a PDF file on our web site. Please submit short articles, recipes for favorite flies (with pictures), or other materials you would suggest included in *The Tippet* to the Newsletter Editor.

**Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 PM**

**Dinner: 6:30 PM**  
(buffet, \$16 per person)

**Program: 7:30 PM**

We had been on our own this day, after arriving at Learmonth Airport about noon on a Skywest jet from Perth. Since Learmonth is also an RAAF base, it is the only commercial airport I remember where photographs are “Not Allowed”. Budget had a rental car waiting for us, which we drove north 30 km to Exmouth, stopping to glass some raptors on the way. Exmouth is on the east or gulf side of a long peninsula separating the Gulf of Exmouth from the Indian Ocean to the west.

My mate Rohan at the Bluewater Morley fishing store in Perth had given me detailed directions on where we could drive to fish from shore on the ocean side of the peninsula, inside the Ningaloo Reef. The guide I had arranged a couple days fishing with had agreed to loan us a 9 wt outfit for Craig, which we were to pick up at Bluewater Exmouth. We had a map from the Budget lady and found the store with no difficulty. There we met Ben, who worked for our guide-service owner on his days off from Bluewater. He would be our actual guide the following two days. He said it might be a bit windy to fish the reef side today, suggesting instead an area north of town on the gulf side. Ben also indicated that our timing was excellent, the weather finally coming good for the next few days – starting tomorrow.

We checked into the Potshot Hotel, dropped some of our stuff and drove 40 km around the North Cape to investigate the Ningaloo Reef and Cape Range National Park. It was indeed too windy for fishing, but we had some good birding at the hide on Mangrove Bay, as well as nice swimming in the warm, blue, protected waters of Turquoise Bay. These are both sanctuary zones, explaining why we weren't trying to fish in these relatively calm spots. We did see a five foot shark swimming near the submerged mangroves just outside Mangrove Bay.

On the return, we checked out the fishing spot Ben had recommended at Bundegi. It was relatively calm, so I rigged my 10 wt outfit. Craig used the borrowed 9 wt rod, which had been completely rigged, ready for a fly to be tied on. The tide was still high and the sun too low in the late afternoon for good spotting, not optimum timing. However, we saw an occasional swirl, and there were turtles and small sharks plying the flats, so we waded out to give it a try. You could wade a long way, as there were sandy flats, interspersed with slightly submerged coral reefs. Craig ventured out further than I did and hooked up briefly with two fish, but they got off. He had no idea what they were. Two other fishermen arrived and waded out from the rocky point just south of us, which defines the northern boundary of a big sanctuary zone. They threw big poppers on spinning gear for a few minutes, obviously targeting Trevally or other big predator fish, but with no success. “Very quiet,” they told us as they packed up to leave.

It was getting late, and we didn't want to miss dinner, so we headed for the hotel. We got showers, drinks and dinner, before our night walk to check out the town. There were few other people around, summer not being the tourist season. Exmouth is a winter getaway spot for Perth-siders. In fact, we were quite lucky that it was cooler than in Perth the days we were up there, but it could have been really hot. The water temperature was perfect for wading wet.

## President's Message

As I look at the Calendar I see two things fast approaching. As you read this, it will be December already! Trout fishing on the rivers in Idaho closes on November 30th. If I hurry, I might get a few more casts in before that happens. The second is the Christmas Dinner for the club. We are going to have the Gift Exchange again this year, so please plan to bring a gift along to the meeting, and we will have fun unwrapping and exchanging those items. At the Christmas Dinner we are also going to be raffling the Christmas Rod with all the raffle tickets collected throughout the year. John Reed has graciously agreed to build a fly rod for the winner. Everyone will be able to purchase more raffle tickets at the meeting. Another winner will be drawn to receive a years membership in the Indelible Tidbits Fly of the Month Club. Shauna Hillman, from Wallace, Idaho, was a speaker at one of meetings last year and provided The Club with a membership in the Fly of the Month Club, which she promotes. Calendars will be available at the meeting as well.

I hope everyone had a successful year, getting out to fish as often as possible. I know that my family had a couple of good weekends, including the fishout on the St. Joe in July. I would encourage everyone in The Club to make plans to attend the club events in 2009. I believe everyone who attended The Conclave in Ellensburg, WA, felt the time was well spent. This next spring the event will be a two-day affair. We are presently looking for a Vice-President and Secretary for The Club. Anyone interested in filling either of those positions would be very welcome. I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve as President of the Clearwater Fly Casters Club this past year. I've gotten to know more club members and enjoyed working with The Board. We have a strong Board and dedicated Officers. Anyone interested in taking a

position with the Club will be well supported, and I know that Fred Muehlbauer will do an outstanding job leading us the next twelve months. Good Fishing!

*Steve Bush, President, CFC*

## Backcast—November Meeting

### Fishing Reports

Here are a few samples. Dave and Marion Yonge went to Costa Rica. He fished with a guide one day, in a boat with complete canopy, so no fly casting and no fish. He got directions to a quiet bay, on bad roads through villages and jungle, where he had to drag his kayak two miles to the water. Marion carried all the gear. He caught one baby tarpon. Bob Harwood caught a cut-bow in Priest, followed by a bull trout trying to eat it. John Read fished Amber just after the last meeting and caught many fish in the shallows. He floated a lower section of The Joe and caught one fish. Tim Cavilleer learned how to dismount a drift boat. Gary Evers has been catching fish on Clark's Stonefly. Gerry Vidergar caught Chinook on The Clearwater from Spaulding to Cherry Lane. One was 41" long, landed after 20 min on a 7 wt. rod.

### November Speaker: Terry Nab – “Flyfishing for Atlantic Salmon in Russia”

Terry talked about fishing two rivers in Russia with Craig Lanigan, The Ponoï and The Kola. They flew from Spokane to Helsinki (not a direct flight!) and rested several days to get over jet lag. Getting a visa to visit Russia is quite an ordeal, with long forms that require your entire life history, and a \$200 fee as well. You leave your passport in Murmansk and get it back when you leave. You have no rights while in Russia. A charter flight took them on to Murmansk on the coast. A 2.5 hour helicopter ride brought them to the lodge on The Ponoï. The lodge is new, with cabins that can accommodate 10 fishers at a time. There is a well-stocked bar but no flies or other useful fishing equipment. This is north of the Arctic Circle, so there was no darkness while they were there. After they arrived, the river rose several feet, and the temperature was about 67 F. The mosquitoes were pretty terrible. It was difficult to tell where to fish, as there was little structure visible under high water conditions. In spite of all this, they caught some big fish there. They seemed to be the experts on how to catch them. The guides spoke little English and were not very helpful. Terry and Craig found you had to swing the fly on the water. The fish stay in the river all winter and spawn in the spring.

After fishing The Ponoï, Terry and Craig switched venues to The Kola, south of Murmansk. Here, there are armed guards on the river to prevent poaching. The poachers are local people who are very poor and not allowed to fish. The river seems to be controlled by former KGB turned “mafia”. The locals burned out the former KGB office in a nearby village. The river is divided up into three mile sections, with 2 rods allowed at a time on each section. There is one guide and a raft for each fisherman. The oars are hand carved from two by six lumbers. Some portaging is required. The water is very deep, and wading is not possible. It is like lake fishing. The fish are big, with 30 pound fish rather common, 40 pounders caught periodically, and the record 57 pounds. Terry caught fish in the 18 to 25 pound range.

## Turck's Cinnamon Power Ant

Designed by Guy Turck

[http://www.flyfishingjacksonhole.com/fly\\_tying/recipe-power\\_ant.htm](http://www.flyfishingjacksonhole.com/fly_tying/recipe-power_ant.htm)

Hook: Tiemco 103BL, sizes 9-15 (or any standard dry fly hook)

Thread: 8/0 Uni-Thread, Rust Brown

Abdomen: Rabbit fur, rust blended w/some rust goat hair

Wing: White Calf tail

Hackle: two furnace or brown saddle feathers, slightly oversized

Legs: Brown rubber, medium

Head: same as abdomen

(See the web site for tying and fishing tips.)



## **Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2008**

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**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 Hour 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM and Program at 7:30 PM.**

Clearwater Fly Casters  
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