



The *Tippet* April, 2009

Clearwater Fly Casters
www.clearwaterflycasters.com
A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



Auction***Auction*****Auction**

Well, the biennial Clearwater Fly Casters Auction is upon us. You can't put off any longer gathering up your donation items or planning to attend. It will be at our regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, at the University Inn, Moscow. Please help our club continue its support of scholarships (for university students doing fisheries research), conservation projects, speakers, and events. Listed below are a few of the many items that will be on display and auctioned off by one of the finest auctioneers in the area. It will be great fun, as always!

Bring with you:

"Spare" gear or anything related to fly fishing you might wish to donate.

Your check book to successfully bid on some really fine stuff and help our club be a force for the future of our fisheries and our sport.

Sample items for auction:

- Bamboo for rod building – courtesy of Dan Landeen
- Book *Paddling Washington* donated by Rich Landers
- Box of flies tied for Atlantic Salmon from Terry Nab
- Travel fly tying bag from Edgewater Designs
- Winston rod and reel from Dave at the Fly Shop in Pullman
- Gift Certificate from Charles at Sure Shot
- Gift Certificate from Tri-State
- Flies tied by Rick Welle for Madison River trout

President's Message

The April 8th meeting will feature our main fund raising event, the biennial spring auction. To help make the auction a success, please bring your excess fishing equipment or related paraphernalia. Anything you are not using or planning to use is welcome. So, look for things that you can donate to this worthy cause. There will be some excellent things available to the highest bidder (see the article on the auction in this issue of *The Tippet* for details) and surely you will find things that you cannot possibly live (or fish) without. Proceeds go toward club activities such as support for invited speakers, the Alspach-Engerbretsen Scholarship, and outdoor events. So, come and bring a friend for an interesting and fun night.

The club has purchased the *Red Gold* video, and the plan is to show it at either the October or November fall meeting. A few of the members have already seen the video. They attest that it tells the story of plans for copper and gold mining near Bristol Bay and the likely damage that would cause to that pristine area of Alaska and its outstanding fishery. As a club we need to support the opposition to this plan.

Calendar

- Apr 8: CFC Auction — Gather Donation Items**
- Apr 18: Burgers and Flies, Craig Lewis Home, Moscow**
- May 1-2: WA FFF Fly Fishing Fair, Ellensburg**
- May 13: Jerry White, Jr., Restoring the Snake River for Salmon and People**
- May 16: Amber Lake Fishout**
- July 10-12: St. Joe Fly Flat Fishout**
- July 28-Aug 1: FFF Conclave, Loveland, CO**
- Sept 9: Annual BBQ**

Information

The Tippet is available as a PDF file on our web site. Please submit information to the Newsletter Editor.

Meetings 2nd Wed:

Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 PM
Dinner: 6:30 PM
(buffet, \$16 per person)
Program: 7:30 PM

We have two applicants for the Alspach-Engerbretsen Scholarship and a promise for a third application. The proposals will be reviewed and awarded at the May meeting of the club.

A reminder: The Washington State Council of FFF Fly Fishing Fair will be held at Ellensburg, Washington on May 1-2, 2009. For additional information see their website.

The Clearwater has been giving up good sized steelhead, but the complaint is that boat traffic is heavy, making it difficult for the bankers. On a recent trip to the North Fork of the Clearwater, I talked with two fly fishers who fished for a couple of hours and hooked into six steelhead and landed three, one of which was wild.

The Grande Ronde should also be picking up, but the water level has been high, making fishing difficult. Ice is coming off local lakes like Amber and Sprague and, according to the Spokesman Review, fishing is reported to be excellent. Columbia Basin lakes are also a good bet to get into some nice trout.

Fred Muehlbauer, President, CFC

Backcast—March Meeting

Speaker – Rich Landers: “Trails to Trout”

Rich talked about his passion for hiking and fishing, which culminated in the publication in 1987 of a book *100 Hikes in the Inland Northwest*, by Rich Landers, Ida Rowe Dolphin and the Spokane Mountaineers, one of a series on hiking in the Pacific Northwest published by The Mountaineers in Seattle. This book has been updated a couple times since, with the cover of the latest version shown in the March CFC newsletter. It won a National Outdoor Book Award. Rich does not sell the books himself, and he donates all book proceeds to support outdoor conservation activities – giving a bit back to the land, as he put it.

The PowerPoint presentation Rich narrated was mostly a travelogue of a number of hiking and backpacking routes, ranging from The Cascades in Washington to The Absarokas in Montana. He had great pictures of high-country lake settings from spectacular view-points, as well as some lake close-ups. There were pictures of nice fish (mostly cutthroat) he and companions had caught from some of the lakes and streams. He said he fly fishes most of the time, but is not averse to using a fly-and-bubble technique when that is more productive. There are some lakes where a conveyance device is helpful to fish them effectively. He nearly always practices catch-and-release. An interesting aspect of his fishing experience is that the lakes are not predictable. Many high-country lakes go through cycles, and one year there may be larger fish, another year there may be many small ones, and another year there may be so few that catching one is difficult. He usually carries only simple fly fishing tackle, as the high-country fish are “generally agreeable”, and flies like The Renegade are about all you need.

Rich started by describing some very easy hikes into high country lakes near the north end of Pend Oreille. I will not try to mention specific lakes by name, as there were too many for this space, and they are all so beautifully described in his book, complete with detailed maps and pictures. One of his favorite areas is the Kelly Creek Area, where he hikes in to Hansen Meadows, fishing the river of course, and also some nearby lakes. He has hiked extensively in the St. Joe River Area (including Five Lakes Butte), which he finds very productive.

Other areas that Rich described through pictures and words included the Cabinet Mountains in northwest Montana, the Mallard-Larkins and the Little North Fork of the Clearwater, the Montana-Idaho Stateline Area south of I90, the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness Area on the east slope of The Cascades, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, the Ten Lakes Primitive Area in the Whitefish Mountains of Montana, the Seven Devils Area in west central Idaho, and the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness Area (including the headwaters of Rock Creek) in Montana. Rich described one area a bit further afield as “the premier hiking and fishing area in The Northwest”. It was the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area in southern Montana and northwest Wyoming. In this area, there are over 950 lakes with streams as well, and the area is full of spectacular wildlife. Rich hinted that he could spend the rest of his hiking and fishing life there.

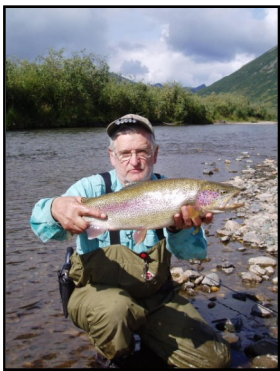
Member Profile: Dale Coryell

Dale and his wife live three miles East of Moscow on Lenville Rd. They have lived there for seven years. Prior to that, they were in Edmonds, Washington for 17 years. Dale explains his occupation by saying, "I have had the privilege of 20 years in the fly fishing industry." He was self employed in various businesses during the years leading up to full time work in the sport that he loves.

Dale started attending meetings of Clearwater Fly Casters about the same time as he opened his fly shop here in Moscow. He has been a member for 4-5 years. He says that he has also been accused of being the entertainment for the members a couple of times. He looks forward to doing that again, as he has just produced the *2008 Alaska Rainbow Fly Fishing Wilderness Float Trip DVD*.

There are a number of places to fish on his favorites list. He likes the Clark Fork River, the Bitterroot, Rocky Ford, the Skagit River, the Snoqualmie River, and a few reservoirs around here until the water warms up. But Dale is really a fan of wilderness floats in Alaska. He started going up there in 1963, and he leads trips up there every summer.

Before runoff in the spring, Dale likes to use Royal Wulffs for the Montana Rivers. He uses scuds for Rocky Ford, most all year. For the reservoirs, he likes to drag flies behind his Access EXP Raft, particularly a #14 Zug Bug or Black Gnat on a #2 full sinking line with a 9 foot fluorocarbon leader. Up in Alaska, he uses all kinds of different colors and types of Woolly Buggers, Flesh Flies, and of course those four pound Grayling come to a Caddis in a spectacular way.



Dale has many favorite fish, depending on the area he fishes. He spent ten days in Los Roques, Venezuela, a year or two ago, so of course one of his favorite fish is the Tarpon. He says he had to mention that one first. Then, "I would add the Atlantic Salmon I caught on Peter Powers' Atlantic Salmon Reserve over in Russia." Here at home it's Cutbows, Rainbows, Cutthroat and Browns. Then up to Alaska, Coho Salmon (Silvers) are in his opinion, the best fighting fish. "I have hooked and fought every game fish species in Alaska, except for Inconnue, or Sheefish." After silvers, Dale likes the Rainbows, and then down the line of the salmon clan. Grayling, char and dollies finish his Alaska list.

Here is what Dale has to say about his favorite fishing memories. "My first Tarpon and my first Atlantic salmon are memories I will never forget. These trips were exciting and wonderful adventures. But I have to come back to Alaska for the best trip and my fondest memory. That was in 1963, when I lied my way into a job running the fuel oil dock in Pelican, AK. I spent that summer pumping diesel and gas for commercial strollers working the Fair-weather Banks for Chinook Salmon. While I was there, I borrowed a 12 foot skiff made out of quarter inch plywood. It had a 5 hp outboard. I spent every free minute out setting Halibut skates. That's a long line that lays on the bottom with many hooks on it. I caught Chinook, or Kings as they call them up there, on the way out and back from setting the Halibut skates. I caught some really nice fish. My biggest Halibut was 265 pounds, and the Salmon ranged from 12 to 28 pounds. This was such a treasure, I will always remember these exhilarating times."

Dale has recently moved his shop (Moscow Fly Shop) from S Mountain View Rd (out near the Eastside Mall) to 210 South Main Street in downtown Moscow. He says, "My shop and I are dedicated to the art of fly fishing and all that it entails. Stop by for a visit."

The (Modified) Shop Vac

Hook: scud, #12-18 (could go a lot smaller if desired)
Bead: copper brass
Thread: 8/0 rusty brown Uni
Body: mottled turkey wing quill
Rib: small copper-brown Ultra Wire
Wing: tan or white Sparkle Emerger yarn, short
Collar: peacock herl
Posted by "Longs for Cutts" (Walter Wiese of Gardner, MT) on 2/9/2009 on the *Fly Fisherman Outdoor Forum*: Fly Tying



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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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