



The *Tippet* February, 2009

Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com
A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



February Speaker

“Fly Fishing the North Fork of the Clearwater River” – Dan Landeen

The North Fork of the Clearwater River is one of the best cutthroat fly fishing streams in the region. Located in the Clearwater National Forest, there are over a 100 miles of river and many tributaries to fish. Kelly Creek is one of its main tributaries and has been a catch and release river since the mid 1970s. The North Fork feeds Dvorshak Reservoir and historically was a salmon and steelhead river. The North Fork also contains healthy populations of bull trout and whitefish. Many camping areas are available along the river and photography and hiking opportunities abound. Dan will give an overview of the river and talk about fly fishing, cutthroat, camping, hiking, and photographic opportunities.

Bio of Dan Landeen: Dan Landeen is a resident of Clarkston, Washington and is employed by the Nez Perce Indian Tribe as a wildlife biologist. Most of his work for the Tribe is conducted at the US Department of Energy’s Hanford Site in eastern Washington. Dan represents the tribe at the site on cleanup issues and ensuring that natural resources are protected as that land is being cleaned up.

Dan’s hobbies include rod building, backpacking, flyfishing, and photography. He is also the principal author of two books, *I Am of This Land: Wildlife of the Hanford Site and Salmon*; and *His People: Fish and Fishing in Nez Perce Culture*. He is also the sole author of *Steelhead Fly Fishing Nez Perce Country: Snake River Tributaries, Rivers, Anglers, Flies, Origins* which was published by Frank Amato Publishing

In the summer Dan frequents many of the local streams in pursuit of cutthroat trout including the Selway, Lochsa, and North Fork of the Clearwater. He especially enjoys taking pictures and panoramas of the local region. He also has a good working knowledge of Photoshop which enables him to enhance photos or add artistic effects. Dan also reproduces art work, and restores and retouches old, damaged or faded photos.

Calendar

- Feb 11: Dan Landeen, Fly Fishing the North Fork of the Clearwater
- Feb 21: North Idaho Fly Fishing Expo, Kelly Creek Flycasters, Quality Inn, Clarkston
- Mar 11: Rich Landers, Hiking and Fly Fishing the Inland Northwest
- Apr 8: CFC Auction—Gather Donation Items

Information

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

Feb 11 Meeting:

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

President's Message

“Cabin fever” is something everyone is getting this time of year with all the snow and cold weather. In any case, it's a good time to take a look at the equipment and make improvements and upgrades, getting ready for another year of fishing. It is also a good time to take note of some new fly patterns that may work on your favorite streams. While I am reluctant to wade the freezing cold water this time of year, the Snake, Clearwater and Grande Ronde rivers are reportedly giving up some good catches of steelhead, and it is tempting. The prospects may be short lived with the return of some very cold weather and the likelihood of lots of ice in the rivers. Anyway, it would be nice to get out and try for some hookups. I recall a cartoon about the question of whether the term ‘steelhead’ referred to the fish or the fishers. With all the snow this winter, there should be good runoff and stream flows that will be favorable to returning steelhead.

There are a number of fly tying and fly fishing expos and fairs scheduled for spring, and it will be good to attend as many as you can to enhance your knowledge and skills. One of the first is the North Idaho Fly Fishing Expo that will be held at the Quality Inn, Clarkston, Washington on February 21, 2009. The event is being sponsored by the Kelly Creek Fly Casters. The Washington State Council of FFF Fly Fishing Fair will be held at Ellensburg, Washington, May 1-2, 2009. Activities include: fly tying demonstrations, fly tying classes, fly casting classes, free youth fly tying tables, free seminars, raffle and auction, and banquet. Lodging for the event will be at the Best Western in Ellensburg. The Fair will be held at the Kittitas Valley Event Center. More information will be forthcoming on their website. The Fly Fishers Federation Conclave will be held at Loveland, Colorado, from July 28th to August 1st.

A letter of support for the fee increase being proposed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game has been sent to last month's speaker, Brett Bowersox. Please take a moment to thank Paul Agidius for agreeing to serve as vice President and President-elect for 2010. I look forward to working with Paul during the year. Go fishing!

Fred Muehlbauer, President, CFC

Backcast—January Meeting

Fishing Reports and Announcements

Dave Tharp has a bad shoulder on his casting arm. When he told his doctor, he got right in that day. Dave Cuellar has been to Rocky Ford with some success, fish in the 20-28” range. He reported that there was a lot of snow, and the weather was cold. Dale Coryell from the Moscow Fly Shop announced that he has moved his store to the space that used to be the Wild Women Traders on Main Street. Paul Agidius graciously volunteered and was elected to be the Vice President. Steve Bush reported that the fly rods available from the FFF for teaching purposes were not available when he contacted them. It was suggested by Bruce Frazier that the club look into getting some embroidered shirts. John Reed is following up with the shirt people at Tri-State.

January Speaker – Brett Bowersox – “Production, Productivity, and Life History Characteristics of Steelhead, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, in the Potlatch River Drainage, Idaho”

Brett Bowersox from the Idaho Fish and Game gave a very informative talk about the steelhead monitoring project that he and his crew are conducting on the Potlatch River. They are now able to pit tag young salmon and identify them as individuals as they come back up over the dams. For the steelhead enthusiasts in the club, it appears that the population is different from the strain in the main Clearwater River.

Proposals for Alspach-Engerbretson Scholarship

This is a call for proposals for the award of the Alspach-Engerbretson Scholarship for the 2009-10 period. These proposals are due March 31, 2009, and should meet the guidelines and be submitted as indicated on the Clearwater Fly Casters web site (see **By-laws** under the link to **Good Stuff**).

Any undergraduate or graduate student (at a college in this region) involved with fisheries research and management, natural resources management, fishing education or other work fostering the knowledge of fishing shall be eligible for this award. Preference will be given to individuals who are involved with the conservation and restoration of wild fish, fisheries management, and/or stream and habitat restoration either through research, education, or extension. Interested candidates are asked to submit the following to the Clearwater Fly Casters Board of Directors: 1. A one-page description of the proposed research project with the appropriate contact information for the student and a faculty advisor. 2. Letter of endorsement from the faculty advisor.

Clearwater Fly Casters Auction

Alert! The **biennial** (every two years) **spring auction** scheduled for the April 8th meeting is just around the corner. This is the main fund raising event for the club, and we encourage everyone to donate items. These items can include anything related to fly fishing, such as equipment, tying materials, artwork, trips, dinners, lessons, etc. Also, if any member has ideas about commercial sources for auction items, please pass these along to one of the club officers at your earliest opportunity. This is the only fund-raiser for the club, so let's make sure it is a good one. Please advertise this every way possible, so we can get a great turn-out.

Local Meeting of Interest

The Palouse Audubon Society has advertised a talk “**Status of North American White Sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*): An Understated Fisheries Conservation and Management Concern**” by Paul J. Anders PhD, Fisheries Scientist; Associate Consultant Cramer Fish Sciences; Affiliate Faculty, University of Idaho, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. This talk will be held February 18 at 7:30 pm, at the 1912 Center, Fiske Room, 3rd and Adams, Moscow.

The Ant Fly

Ant Fly Pattern by Rob O'Reilly

Source:

<http://hipwader.com/2003/ant-fly-pattern>



Hook: Tiemco #101 (or any dry fly hook)

Thread: Black (or color to suit)

Body: Fine black dry fly dubbing

Hackle: Black (or color to suit)

Rob's note on proportion: What makes an ant fly "look" like an ant is the distinct head and abdomen separated by a skinny, leggy thorax. Be sure to create the abdomen and head as "ball-shaped" and keep the wraps of hackle tight together. Rob ties his with a few wraps of thread ahead of the abdomen, and before the head to accentuate the separation effect. Rob says that ant patterns, along with all terrestrial patterns, are marginal flies for most anglers. However, they are easy to tie and fish well, especially on breezy, summer days on small streams. Take time to make a few of these.

The newsletter editor knows that Dave Yonge ties and uses some very effective black ant patterns (using foam) up on "The Joe", and probably on other North Idaho rivers.

Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2009

President	Fred Muehlbauer	muehlbauer406@roadrunner.com
Vice President	Paul Agidius	pagidius@moscow.com
Past President	Steve Bush	moscowtitle@moscow.com
Treasurer	Bruce Frazier	bedwin43@gmail.com
Associate Treasurer	Debbie Bell	debbiebell@hotmail.com
Secretary	Vacant	
FFF Representative	Steve Bush	moscowtitle@moscow.com (208)882-4564
Conservation Chair	Doug Baldwin	(509)334-1630
Program Chair	Doug Young	dlyoung@wsu.edu (509)334-1617
Newsletter Editor	Reid Miller	millerrc@moscow.com (208)882-2877
Webmaster	Tim Cavileer	tcavi@uidaho.edu (208)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 Hour 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM and Program at 7:30 PM.

Clearwater Fly Casters
PO Box 394
Pullman, WA 99163