



# The *Tippet* January, 2009

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



## January Speaker

**“Production, productivity, and life history characteristics of steelhead, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, in the Potlatch River drainage, Idaho” – Kent Bowersox**

The Potlatch River Steelhead Monitoring and Evaluation Program (PRSME) is providing effectiveness monitoring for numerous habitat restoration projects currently occurring within the drainage. The PRSME framework is being used to establish baseline levels of steelhead production and productivity within the drainage. Prior to this project, limited data were available regarding steelhead population dynamics and life history within the Lower Clearwater River Distinct Population Segment. The monitoring effort began in the lower Potlatch drainage in 2005, and in the upper Potlatch drainage in 2008. Adult steelhead escapement estimates into Big Bear Creek, tributary to the lower Potlatch River, has ranged from 68 – 384 adults in 2005 – 2008. During the first year of trapping, the adult escapement estimate into the East Fork Potlatch River, a tributary to the upper Potlatch River, was 197 adults. Juvenile outmigration estimates have ranged from 4,817 - 14,164 fish on Big Bear Creek from 2005 -2008, and was estimated at 6,976 fish on the East Fork Potlatch River during the first year of trapping in 2008. Adult female spawners and subsequent years of juvenile outmigration data have been used to estimate recruits per spawner, with a productivity estimate of 27.9 recruits/female in Big Bear Creek for BY 05. A variety of different life history strategies have been observed within the upper and lower Potlatch steelhead populations. Data associated with this project have challenged the A-run designation for the Potlatch River steelhead population, as well as provide additional direction for habitat restoration within the drainage.

**Personal Info:** Kent is Regional Fisheries Biologist for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, located in Lewiston. He was born and raised in Pennsylvania where he grew up fishing chalk streams such as Letort Spring Creek and large rivers such as the Susquehanna. It was in Pennsylvania that he gained a healthy respect for the smallmouth bass. After leaving Pennsylvania, he attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, where he received a B.S. degree in Biology. After graduation, he worked for North Dakota Game and Fish, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, and the University of Idaho on a variety of fisheries projects. He then attended the University of Idaho for a Masters. His Master's thesis was focused on diet and growth of paddlefish in Fort Peck Reservoir, MT. Post graduation, he worked for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as an Assistant District Fish Biologist in Lakeview. His primary focus was desert redband trout and other rare endemic species of the Great Basin. In 2006, he returned to Idaho for his current job working with IDFG on the Potlatch and South Fork Clearwater Rivers.

## Calendar

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

**Feb 11: Dan Landeen, Cutthroat Flyfishing on the North Fork of the Clearwater**

**Apr 8: CFC Auction**

## 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, \$15 per person)**

**Program: 7:30 PM**

## President's Message

I want to thank Steve Bush for an outstanding job as club President this past year. The leadership and organizational skills he provided went a long way toward making 2008 a highly successful year for the club. He was especially helpful to me and made the job of Vice President quite easy, while passing on many of the club traditions that can and will be followed during the coming year. The Christmas dinner and gift exchange was the usual success and especially the Christmas rod drawing won by Steve Hoskins. John Read has graciously agreed to build the rod in consultation with the winner. Steve Bush was the winner of the "Fly of the Month" membership for the year. We expect to receive another membership for the raffle this coming year. I would like to thank Reid Miller for taking on the task of editing *The Tippet* and maintaining the calendar of events included in the newsletter each month. Reid has taken over from Cliff Swanson whom we are grateful to for doing an excellent job as the previous editor. The club is also fortunate for the fine work of Doug Young in arranging for an excellent line-up of speakers for the year. Special thanks to Bruce Frazier for his work as treasurer and keeping our monetary affairs in good order. Doug Baldwin has been working with the conservation committee as it lines up projects where club members can have positive impact on water and fish for our future fishing enjoyment. I encourage club members to personally thank these individuals for their contributions over the past year. The position of Vice President is now vacant, and I would like to encourage members to consider applying.

We will be encouraging applications for the Alspach-Engerbretson Scholarship Award for this year. Graduate students from UI or WSU involved in fisheries research or natural resource management are eligible for the award. If you are aware of worthy students, please make them aware of the award and encourage them to apply.

Club officers want to hear from the members about what they would like from their club and what activities they would like to see. We will continue with the traditions of The Club and especially the barbecues and fish outs. An up-to-date calendar of events can be found in *The Tippet*. I encourage the members to participate as much as possible in these events. I look forward to a year of good fishing and hope to get better acquainted with club members and to hear their fishing stories.

*Fred Muehlbauer, President, CFC*

## Backcast—November Meeting

### Fishing Reports and Announcements

There being few volunteers at her table, Marion Yonge indicated that the fish tank had been cleaned recently in her classroom. She also gave her version of the Costa Rica trip, and yes she did carry all of David's gear. John Reed announced he needed pictures of the St. Joe River for the Kelly Creek Flycasters Conclave. Mike Decker reported that he had recently fished the Grande Ronde with A. J. and caught his first steelhead. They fished four runs and caught four fish. Cliff Swanson brought up an issue related to potential development near Elk River, involving land swaps between the Forest Service and a private developer. It was suggested that members interested in this issue might want to look at the Friends of the Clearwater web site for more information. Joe Ford announced that there are two upcoming Ducks Unlimited events that members may be interested in. On January 17, the Colfax DU is having a dinner and auction at the Colfax Golf Course. On February 14, the Pullman DU is having their Valentine dinner at Gladdish.

### December Speaker – Reid Miller – "Fly Fishing and Travels in Australia"

An introduction to this talk can be found in the December *Tippet*. Reid talked about travels he and Nancy did along the Queensland Coast in October, 2007, including some saltwater fly fishing at Hervey Bay and some hand lining for reef fish on Hamilton Island. He talked about fly fishing for Black Bream and Flathead in the Swan River near their apartment in Perth. However, the main focus of his talk was a trip he and his son Craig took from Perth, to fish the Ningaloo Reef near the town of Exmouth in Western Australia in January, 2008. This is an area of wonderful sea life associated with a major barrier reef that runs for hundreds of kilometers down the West Coast of Australia.

Reid and Craig fished two days and used the only fly fishing guide service in this area, which turned out to be expensive but a very professional outfit. The water and conditions were near perfect. They caught three different kinds of Trevally, as well as Spangled Emperor. Although they saw one school of big Bonefish and a few Permit, they did not spend much time targeting these species, and they were not able to catch any. Reid hooked a huge Giant Trevally, well over 50 pounds, but had no chance to capture it in the coral reef area they were fishing at the time. It was a fantastic trip, and Reid would be glad to talk to anyone interested in a trip to this high potential but little used saltwater fly fishing area. Reid's full write-up of the Exmouth trip can be found on the CFC web site.

## Rod Drawing

Steve Hoskins of Troy was the lucky winner of the year-end drawing for a custom built rod by John Read. Steve is a new member of CFC this year, and we like to make sure our new members are treated right!

## Letter from Federation of Fly Fishers

Dear Clearwater Flycasters,

Happy New Year!

Many of us make new years resolutions to make positive changes each year. The Federation of Fly Fishers has made several resolutions to grow the organization during 2009. You can read about the FFF's New Years resolutions in our 2009-13 Strategic Plan, which is now open for your comments (see FFF web site).

The Federation of Fly Fishers has always been and always will be a grassroots organization. Your comments and feedback will help strengthen our work.

This new year we thank you for your continued volunteer efforts and challenge you to resolve to take a few hours to work on a conservation project, teach the sport of fly fishing to a new angler, or simply get out and fish more yourself. Enjoy the New Year and the January E-newsletter,

Federation of Fly Fishers

## The Beadhead Prince Nymph

Source for tying recipe and instructions: <http://hipwader.com/2002/prince-nymph-pattern>

Source for picture: <http://shopflyfishingspecialties.com/>

Whether its steelheading or cutthroat fishing, the Prince Nymph is one of those old reliable patterns that most fly fishers have in their streamside collections. It is often used as a dropper. On the website listed above, you can read about its use for catching smallmouth. I have personally used it to dredge out some of the biggest grayling in one of the rivers in Northern Saskatchewan.



Hook: Tiemco 101 size #16-#10/Daiichi 1180  
(or a standard length nymph hook)  
Thread: Black 6/0 and 8/0  
Bead: gold-plated brass 1/8" with tapered hole  
Weight: med. or small lead wire  
Tail: brown goose biot

Wing: white goose biot  
Hackle: brown wet fly  
Rib: fine gold mylar  
Body: peacock herl

## **Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2009**

<b>President</b>	<b>Fred Muehlbauer</b>	<b>muehlbauer406@roadrunner.com</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bruce Frazier</b>	<b>bedwin43@gmail.com</b>
<b>Associate Treasurer</b>	<b>Debbie Bell</b>	<b>debbiebell@hotmail.com</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	
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<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Tim Cavileer</b>	<b>tcavi@uidaho.edu (208)883-4572</b>

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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