



The Tippet

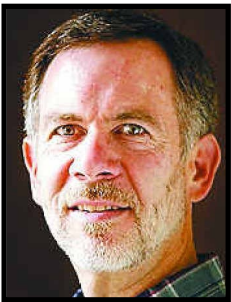
March, 2009

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



March Speaker

“Trails to Trout” – Rich Landers

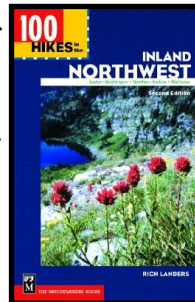


Rich Landers isn't sure whether his love for fishing is an excuse to hike or whether his love for hiking is an excuse to fish. Either way, the author of the guidebook "*100 Hikes in the Inland Northwest*" will present an armchair tour on how he satisfies both passions in some of the region's most spectacular backcountry settings.

Rich Landers, a native Montanan, has focused his outdoor pursuits around the Inland Northwest since becoming the Outdoors

Editor in 1977 for *The Spokesman-Review*. Landers is a contributing writer for *Field & Stream* magazine and has received conservation awards from the Idaho Conservation League, Washington Environmental Council, and National Audubon Society. He has pedaled his bicycle across the United States, climbed peaks from Rainier to McKinley, hiked countless miles of trails in Idaho, Montana, Washington, British Columbia and beyond. He's the author of "*100 Hikes in the Inland Northwest*" – a National Outdoor Book Awards winner - plus "*Paddle Routes of the Inland Northwest*" and "*Paddling Washington*".

Rich is married to Meredith Heick, a Moscow native and former Idaho State Junior Miss. They have two daughters.



President's Message

After being on vacation for the past two weeks, I am anxious to try my luck on the Grande Ronde for some of the elusive steelhead. It is the time of year when they should be in the deep holes and just beginning to become more active. According to fishing reports, leaches or nymphing with egg patterns has had some success. The Clearwater has been hot and cold about giving up good sized steelhead. Predictions for the spring Chinook runs are good and should provide some exciting fishing for a short period in early spring.

Sincere thanks to Steve Bush and Paul Agidius for running the meeting in my absence. I was sorry to have missed the excellent presentation by Dan Landeen. Thanks also to Dan for contributing some rod building bamboo that we plan to include in the April auction.

Calendar

Mar 11: Rich Landers, Hiking and Fly Fishing the Inland Northwest

Apr 8: CFC Auction — Gather Donation Items

Apr 18: Burgers and Flies, Special Olympics Benefit, Craig Lewis Home, Moscow

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

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

Trout Unlimited has an interesting offer of a Lifetime Membership with benefits of a Winston BII-MX 5 weight, 9 foot, 4-piece rod with a Lamson Guru 1.5 reel and other goodies for a donation of \$1000. The donation can be paid by an installment plan. For information, see their website.

The Great Western Sportsfishing Show will be held at the Spokane Convention Center from March 6-8. It promises something for everyone including fly fishers and a fly-tying theater that will run all day. Other upcoming events in the area include The Washington State Council of FFF Fly Fishing Fair to be held May 1-2 at Ellensburg, Washington. Activities include: fly tying demonstrations, fly tying classes, fly casting lessons, free youth fly tying tables, free seminars, raffle/auction and banquet. Lodging 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.

Despite some snow, the sun is out and it is a good time to go fishing! Tight lines!

Fred Muehlbauer, President, CFC

Backcast—February Meeting

February Speaker – Dan Landeen: “Cutthroat Fly Fishing on the North Fork of the Clearwater River”

Dan gave a great talk about fishing the North Fork region. Below is a summary of his talk.

The North Fork is comprised of a wide variety of water, and this was the traditional Nez Perce fishing and hunting area. It was primarily a salmon and steelhead river before Dworshak Dam was put in. The Native Americans used spears and traps, but they also used elk-bone hooks with grouse feathers attached.

On the North Fork, there are 80-100 miles of fishable water, usable from mid-June to November. It is best fished from shore. There are many good campgrounds, plus a number of undeveloped camp sites. Kelly Creek is a major tributary, and there are many other good ones to explore. You could see wolves, as well as many other forms of wildlife, and there are no rattlesnakes to contend with. He mentioned that the June 10 storm killed hundreds of small birds. The fish include cutthroat, bull trout, whitefish, suckers, and squawfish. Most cutthroat are 10-14 inches, many hybridized with rainbow, and most of the fish are found downriver late in the fall. There is a fall kokanee spawning run up from Dworshak Reservoir, with spawning habitat primarily in the tributaries. The cutthroat eat the spawn.

The North Fork is a difficult river to fish. Perhaps the best time is during the October Caddis hatches, say late August to mid-October. There are a wide variety of useful flies, including parachute patterns. At times, it may be best to use 18-20 size patterns, and you may need to use soft-hackle patterns.

Dan has some recommended changes to regulations on the North Fork. He thinks that there should be a slot limit of two fish in the 10-14 inch range, and that more enforcement is needed. There should be no limits on rainbow or brook trout. Motor cycles should be excluded from Weitas Creek.

Club Announcements

- Proposals for the Alspach-Engerbretson Scholarship are due March 31.
- Please gather your donation items for our club biennial auction on April 8.
- Don't forget to attend “Burgers and Flies” at Craig Lewis' house in Moscow on April 18.
- See *The Tippet* in full color on the club website!

Steelhead Counts for Lower Granite Dam

Good numbers of steelhead came over Lower Granite Dam this past year (most in September and October), with a slightly improved percentage of wild fish. Predictions for returns of salmon in 2009 are generally up for the Columbia River system, based on smolt returns and ocean conditions. So, we all hope that next year will be a good one for steelhead as well. Forecasts for 2009 steelhead returns are due out in June. The table below is based on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers data: <http://www.cbr.washington.edu/dart/adult.html>.

Year	Total Steelhead	% Wild Fish
2008	175,481	24.9
2007	157,083	21.0
2006	145,991	20.4
2005	152,802	23.1
2004	154,587	23.5

Note from Marv Slind (<http://www.iadriftless.org/FlyTying/fotm.htm>)

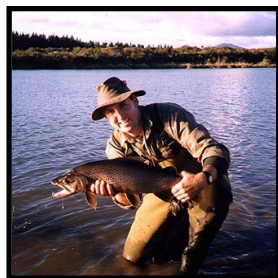
I thought you might enjoy the site I've set up for the fly tying. The two flies I tied are ones I brought with me – the "Hatch Matcher" is one that George Johnson showed the fly tying class I took in '82, and the Six-Pack is one that we featured in the old "Selections from the Flybox" that the CFC published 'lo those many years ago. Give my regards to everyone in the club. Maybe I'll run into someone on a stream again someday. Marv

Riwaka Brassie

Hook: #14-20 Tiemco 2457 (or equivalent)
Thread: 8/0 Black Uni-Thread
Body: Red and green Ultra Wire wrapped together
Wing: Small tuft of white Z-lon (or other synthetic fibers)
Thorax: Gray and green rabbit fur, mixed.

Source: Fly Fisherman Magazine, March, 2009

Tyer: John Nichols, New Zealand



Pictures of other flies by John Nichols: <http://www.danica.com/flytier/jnicholls/jnicholls.htm> By following the link "Back to main page" on this web site, you can find pictures of over 3700 flies by 234 tyers. More information on John's flies: <http://flytyingworld.com/PagesJ/johnnicholls.htm> John lives in Motueka, which is a beautiful small town in Northwest Nelson District on the South Island of New Zealand. He started to tie flies when he started to fly fish back in the mid 1970's. John says, "If I was ever in the awful position to choose between fly fishing or fly tying, I think the fly tying would win out."

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