



The *Tippet*

October, 2009

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



President's Message

I was sorry to miss the fall picnic and barbecue but the fish were calling and a must trip was taken to one of our favorite spots up north. The coho fishing was slower than normal and needless to say disappointing, at least from my perspective. We dealt with canceled flights, high winds, horizontal rain and high rivers. Other than that, I was just happy to be there.

The fall picnic and barbecue was graciously hosted by our own Dave and Sharon Tharp. Many thanks to the Tharps! Reports are that they did a masterful job of barbecuing salmon and the dishes provided by the participants were a great complement to the main course. I heard that the fish stories were numerous and entertaining and some were purportedly true. We will try to have a replay of the best of those stories at the October meeting for the benefit of members who were unable to attend the picnic.

Steelhead are moving up the Snake, Grande Ronde and Clearwater Rivers in unusually large numbers and providing some excellent fishing. There are lots of fish willing to take an assortment of flies such as freight trains, purple perils and some variations. About half of the fish that I have landed thus far have been wild. As expected, many of the more productive spots are crowded, but with a little moving around, some good spots for hooking up can be found. With the large numbers in the rivers, this month is the appropriate time to latch into one of these legendary fish.

The Federation of Fly Fishers "Five Rivers Sweepstakes" will stay open until mid March, 2010, so they can sell enough tickets to make the event a financial success. To assist FFF, the club has purchased six tickets with the intention to include one or two in each of the raffles held at our regular meetings between now and February, 2010. So, members that participate in the regular monthly raffle will have an opportunity to win a trip to the Five Rivers Lodge at Dillon, MT, or the Grand Prize - a trip to Cinco Rios Lodge in Chile. Anyone interested can still purchase a ticket on the FFF website for \$20 or six tickets for \$100.

I hope to see everyone at the October meeting, which will be highlighted by our guest speaker Jim Neiberger, talking about fishing the Colorado. Let's have a good turnout and bring a guest if you can.

Tight lines!

Fred Muehlbauer, President, CFC

Calendar

Oct 14: First Regular CFC Meeting of the Fall, Jim Neiberger, "Fishing the Colorado River"

Oct 15: CFC Fly Tying Night, Moscow Fly Shop, 7-9 PM

Oct 17: Fly Tying Workshop, Skip Morris, Yakima River Fly Shop, 1-4:30 PM

Nov 11: CFC Meeting

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

October Speaker – Jim Neiberger, “Fishing the Colorado River”

Jim Neiberger is a native of Colorado who grew up fishing the Middle-park Region of the state. His father was and still remains an avid river angler who passed his passion on to his sons. At a very young age, Jim learned to wade and bait-fish rivers and streams. By the time he was in college his interest had shifted to fly fishing. There was a smooth, natural transition from dead drifting bait to dead drifting flies. Fly fishing seemed to be more prolific than bait fishing as he refined and slowly mastered the art. Fly fishing for almost thirty years now, Jim has landed a variety of fish ranging from small bluegills to large steelhead.

He has been a dedicated member of Trout Unlimited since 1981, participating in a number of activities. One of which is a program called “Fishing for Fun”, sponsored by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, which assists the handicapped to experience fishing. As a major project, another activity was building a handicapped access ramp at Aurora Reservoir. For the last five years, Jim has participated in numerous fly tying clinics, sharing his patterns and tips on where and how to fish them.

Jim is also an experienced photographer, whose photographs have appeared in the book “Flyfisher’s Guide to Colorado” by Marty Bartholomew, published by Wilderness Press. This book is a great resource if you visit the state for angling. It features rivers, creeks, lakes and reservoirs with maps and local accommodations, fly shops, campgrounds and much more. When he is on the river, he often finds himself thinking the following: “I can only hope that the passion of fellow anglers for this sport is such that we don’t love it to death, and that we collectively manage our resources and become stewards to protect it.” Jim is well known among fellow anglers and is always ready to assist as a guide when called upon by local fly shops. He is respected within the fishing community and is respectful of the sport.

Workshop on Fly Tying, Skip Morris, “Flies for Mayfly Hatches: Fly Tying and Fishing Tactics”, Saturday, October 17, 1-4:30 pm

Join renown fly tyer and author Skip Morris at the Yakima River Fly Shop in Cle Elum for a three and a half hour workshop on Mayflies. Skip will be highlighting flies he trusts for fishing the mayfly hatches of western and eastern Washington, British Columbia and all over the West. The workshop includes a slide show with tying demonstration and hands-on tying with Skip. Bring your vise and tools and plan to tie along with Skip.

As an innovative tyer, Skip is on the national scene with his patterns that will match the most fickle of hatches. The cost is \$35 with preregistration and \$45 at the door. We have a limited amount of space for this informative workshop. Please contact the fly shop for more information and to reserve your space.

Yakima River Fly Shop
113 E. 1st Street
Cle Elum, WA 98922
Shop Phone: 509.674.2144
E-mail: info@tightlinesangling.com

Fall Picnic Report

About two dozen CFC members and spouses gathered at Dave and Sharon Tharp’s house in Palouse on September 9 for our annual fall picnic. There was a pot-luck dinner, with the club providing the meat. Dave Tharp did an excellent job cooking the salmon, as always. After dinner, the attendees sat in a circle around the bonfire and told about some of their recent fishing experiences. Hopefully, some of the more interesting ones will be repeated at the upcoming October club meeting. A good time was had by all, and special thanks to the Tharps for hosting this fun event.

Special Alert from Friends of the Clearwater

Dear Friends,

As you know we spend the vast majority of our time, efforts, and energy protecting and educating the public about the wildlands in the Clearwater River drainage. Very seldom do we ask for your support for places outside of this high priority area of concern. When we have it has been for very specific issues such as protecting the Palouse Aquifer or other critical needs.

Today we are asking you to take 1 minute and visit the link below. The link is for the Helena, MT newspaper, the Independent Record. At this link you will find a poll concerning a new Montana logging bill, which has been portrayed by Senator Tester as a wilderness bill. This bill would mandate logging in public wildlands including in core grizzly habitat in the Cabinet Yaak bioregion. Most of the bill was designed in an exclusive behind closed doors process. The Tester bill could open roadless country to logging and removes protection for several wilderness study areas including the Sapphire Mountains and the West Pioneers.

The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) is a visionary proposal which would protect the Wild Clearwater Country and regions in MT threatened by the Tester bill. NREPA appears to be heading for a committee markup this fall. The Tester bill would undercut NREPA. Let's work together with our friends and supporters in Montana to keep bad wilderness provisions out of the Northern Rockies and to push NREPA through the House!

The poll: <http://www2.helenair.com/poll/>

More on Tester's bill: http://www.newwest.net/topic/article/tester_logging_bill_breaks_campaign...

Support NREPA by signing this petition: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/Support-NREPA>

Will Boyd, Education & Outreach Director

The Tippet Online

The newsletter editor and the board propose an alternative way for members to receive our club newsletter. As you may know, *The Tippet* appears each month on the club website. The editor can send an e-mail with a link to *The Tippet* on the website, where a member could read the newsletter. There are at least three possible advantages: 1) the newsletter would be available several days earlier than members now receive it by snail mail, which with the e-mail reminder, might allow better personal planning; 2) the on-line newsletter will be in full color, so pictures of speakers, club activities and the fly of the month will be more pleasing; and 3) members could print the newsletter if they want a paper copy, saving the club printing and mailing costs. If individual members 1) want to go to this paperless e-mail system, or 2) if they would like the e-mail reminder in addition to the mailed black and white paper copy, they should indicate this to the newsletter editor (Reid Miller) and provide their e-mail addresses. Due to repeated damage by the US Post Office of paper copies mailed to members, future issues of *The Tippet* will be printed on heavier paper, which may increase printing and mailing costs.

Kaufmann's Stonefly

There are many variations for the stonefly pattern developed by Randall Kaufmann for trout, steelhead, smallmouth, etc. A good tying description can be found at the Potomac-Patuxent Chapter of Trout Unlimited (<http://www.pptu.org>), including variations and how to fish this fly.

Hook: TMC 5263 (or TMC 300) sizes 2-6; add bead if desired; heavily weighted (lead flattened)

Thread: Black **Tail & Antennae:** Black turkey biots

Rib: Black Swannundaze or Wire

Abdomen: Blend angora 60/40 with rabbit or Haretron dubbing (various colors)

Wingcase: Three increasing sections of turkey quill coated with Flexament and clipped to shape

Legs: Round black rubber (after first wingcase) **Thorax & Head:** Same as abdomen

Note: Rubber legs and bead head are optional but recommended



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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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