



# The *Tippet*

Sept, 2009

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



## President's Message

We are rapidly closing in on the day for the Fall Barbecue so get ready for some great food and company at Dave and Sharon Tharp's place in Palouse (see more details about the barbecue in this issue of *The Tippet*). We want to thank the Tharp's for graciously offering to hold the event.

The St. Joe Fly Flat Fishout was a rousing success with most of the members taking part during the week/weekend. I especially enjoyed the Friday evening potluck dinner featuring the superb cooking of John Read using a unique charcoal roaster oven. There was plenty of food and everyone had a great time. Fishing stories were numerous and some were even believable. As for fishing, I spent most of my time above Spruce Tree Campground in some familiar spots. The fish seemed to take most anything small, with Sparkle Duns working well on the surface and Copper Johns underneath.



The Federation of Fly Fishers "Five Rivers Sweepstakes" will stay open until they can sell at least 4000 tickets. So, there is still a chance to win a trip to Five Rivers Lodge in Dillon, MT, or the Grand Prize - a trip to Cinco Rios Lodge in Chile. Tickets are available on the Federation's website for \$20 or \$100 for six.

The steelhead runs coming over the dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers and heading in our direction are large and moving fast. Record numbers are expected soon and it will surely be time to try our luck. Some people think the best fly fishing for steelhead is early in the season when the fish are moving and active and before the boats take over the rivers. If there is interest in a Steelhead Fishout this fall, one possible site would be the Grande Ronde near the confluence with the Snake or, alternatively, the Grande Ronde above and below Rattlesnake grade. There are places to camp at both sites and access to some spots likely to hold good numbers of steelhead.

*Fred Muehlbauer, President, CFC*

## Backcast—May Meeting

### Fishing Reports

Paul Agidius fished the St. Joe two weeks ago and caught six in the 12-14 inch range.

Steve Bush fished the South Fork, where he used a long-distance release technique. He reported on the FFF Meeting at Ellensburg, which was good as usual.

## Calendar

**Sept 9: Annual BBQ, Tharp Home, Palouse**

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

## 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**

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Mark Bromwell reported fishing Spring Valley, catching five rainbows on spinners. Gerry Vidregar reported catching some rainbows at Spring Valley.

Dave Tharp had fished Amber Lake, reporting the fishing very slow – caught four fish. He and Sharon fished Sprague Lake too, with nine rainbows in the 16-22 inch range. Their best fishing was a Coffee Pot, with many fish to 22 inches – very dark fish – best in the shallows by the inlet. The Olympia Peninsula club was having their annual fishout up there one day when they were there. There is a free camp with a pit toilet at Coffee Pot, a nice place to be early season. Sharon added about the Woolly Buggers being hot at Coffee Pot.

John Toker was a visitor, having left this area in 2003. He has been mainly in the Bahamas, Alaska and BC since, and is now married. He works with Deneki Outdoors <http://www.deneki.com/>. A recent highlight for John was a Babine River float with 70-year old Yvon Chouinard, founder of the company Patagonia.

Mike Dekker fished the South Fork and had some fabulous fishing on egg patterns, landing his biggest steelhead. The group hooked 15 fish.

## Scholarship Winner

Jens Hegg, an MS student at the University of Idaho has been named the Alpach-Engerbretsen Scholarship winner this year. He was in attendance to tell the club a bit about his research. He is interested in Fall Chinook migration, in particular in where the 2<sup>nd</sup> year out-migrants are coming from. He will use the otolith, which depends on the stream geology, to try to develop a map for the Snake River Basin. Perhaps for his PhD, he will broaden the study to other areas outside this basin. On a private note, Jens is a guitar player and song writer.

## May Speaker

Jerry White Jr. of Save Our Wild Salmon grew up on the Willamette, fishing with his grandfather, and got salmon under his skin. His current organization is a collection of groups interested in the environment, in fishing, and many other things. Jerry brought two people with him, who added comments during his presentation. One was Dustin Ahern, a Lewiston businessman who was raised in Genessee, and the other was Brian Jones, a grower from Dusty who has orchards on the Snake River. The Working Snake River Project proposes saving endangered salmon by removing the four Snake River dams and determining how the river would work for all of us.

Jerry talked a lot about the history, where 14,400 acres were inundated, which impacted somewhere between 1.5 and 8 million salmon. The four dams were put in between 1961 and 1975. The positive impacts were shipping, hydroelectric generation and irrigation, with no flood control benefits. On a northwest basis, the hydroelectric generation and irrigation are of minor importance. Rail transport has been removed, and soft white wheat is transported to Portland, where it is put on tankers headed for Asian markets.

There is a crisis now for the salmon, combined with aging dams, loss of river recreation, and high costs to taxpayers for the fish mitigation. A major problem is sedimentation, particularly at Lewiston, mainly because the three dams planned above this level were not put in. There is only 1.5 foot of freeboard now, down from 5 feet earlier. Extensive dredging and levee raising have been proposed by the Corp of Engineers.

Proposed removal of the dams would require rail transport to the Port of Pasco, with continued river transport on to Portland. This would require a new rail system, but would result in reclamation of lots of land and access along the river. Power generation is not very big, amounting to less than 4 % of Pacific Northwest energy generation. This can be replaced with improvements in efficiency (60 %) and increased use of renewables (40 %).

Those who are interested in being heard on this issue should contact their legislators and/or the Obama Administration.

## New Members

We all welcome David and Connie Stiller of Moscow as new members of the club. Please be sure and get to know them at the next meeting, if you haven't already.

## Report on St. Joe Fishout

The St. Joe Fly Flat Fishout was a great success with upwards of 35 people from the club taking part for a couple of days or for the entire week. The Friday evening get together was highlighted by an excellent roast beef cooked by our own Master Chef John Read. He used a unique charcoal cooker that was a marvel to behold. The roast was amply supplemented by numerous dishes brought by the members to share. To top off the dinner, Bill Hendricks provided his now famous chocolate cake for dessert.



The weather for the entire weekend was ideal and made for some outstanding and comfortable fishing. Many of the fishers used rafts or pontoon boats and floated some of the more difficult spots on the river. Part of the group simply hiked along the river and waded into some promising and productive spots. Fishing success was excellent, as the fish seemed to be taking most offerings. The Saturday breakfast was ably cooked by Dave Tharp on his "Studebaker" grill on which he made an outstanding combination of shrimp and eggs and other early morning delights. Dave Stiller took the photos, and Cliff Swanson sent them to us.



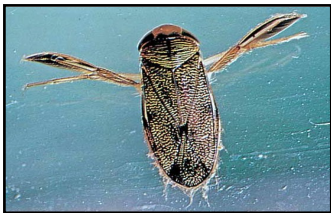
The St. Joe Fly Flat Fish out as an annual event will be on the 2010 schedule. Anyone planning to attend in 2010 are encouraged to come early and be prepared for a week of excellent fishing and some believable and some unbelievable stories.

## Annual Fall BBQ

The annual CFC barbecue will be held at the Dave and Sharon Tharp place in Palouse, Washington starting at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, September 9. The event will feature barbecued salmon, but there will be hamburgers for those who prefer something other than fish. The event is potluck so please bring a dish to share, which can be a main dish, salad or desert. Also, please bring your own bottle/beer/wine/soda and some folding chairs. Let's have a great turnout.

Directions to the barbecue from Moscow or Pullman are as follows:

1. From **Pullman**, follow WA-27 to Palouse (about 15 miles)
  2. Turn **RIGHT** onto E MAIN ST/WA-272 (go 0.7 miles, past tracks)
  3. Turn **LEFT** just past 40 MPH sign onto Lynd Road and park on grass
  4. If needed, can go up drive to house to drop chairs, etc.
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1. From **Moscow**, go north on US-95 (go about 8.7 miles)
  2. Turn **LEFT** onto ID-66 (Crossing into WASHINGTON) (go 5.0 miles)
  3. Turn **RIGHT** at stop sign onto WA-27 and cross the river (go 0.2 miles)
  4. Follow directions 2-4 above



## The Water Boatman

A common early season aquatic insect in our region is the water boatman, one variety shown in the picture on the left. There are many imitations of these insects, such as the one shown here ([www.cascadefly.com/Flytying.htm](http://www.cascadefly.com/Flytying.htm)). They are usually tied on a standard nymph hook, size 12-18, with a peacock herl underbody, a case back made from some type of shiny material, and rubber or other flexible legs. Instructions for tying the water boatman can be found in a number of sources, such as The Online Fly Tyer: <http://www.onlineflytyer.com> Why not experiment and come up with your own method of tying these effective flies? Ask John Read how he ties them and where he fishes them.



## **Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2009**

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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.**

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