



The Tippet

May, 2010

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



May Speaker: Bryan Irwin, CCA, "Common Sense Recovery for our Salmon and Steelhead"

CCA is the largest marine conservation organization in the country, with a presence in 17 states. CCA's efforts have resulted in the restoration of those areas' precious resources and dramatically improved sport fishing. CCA started chapters in the northwest just over two years ago and is already making a big difference in our fisheries management. CCA Washington has introduced legislation to reform commercial fisheries to the exclusive use of selective gear, saved the WDFW Commission from SB5127 allowing the public to continue to have a voice in the management of our resources, and actively supported obtaining funding for the removal of 3,000 derelict gill nets in the Puget Sound. CCA has 27 local chapters and over 9000 members in the region.

CCA's Executive Director for the Pacific Northwest, Bryan Irwin, will be presenting "Common Sense Recovery for our Salmon and Steelhead" detailing the issues facing our salmon and steelhead and what CCA is doing to recover our precious runs. Bryan came to CCA in 2008 following a 20 year career selling and managing commercial insurance accounts. Bryan has been an active volunteer in conservation efforts, and was actively involved with CCA since the organization first expanded into the Pacific Northwest. His passion for our Pacific NW salmon and steelhead, and recognition that CCA offered the last change our region has for saving our precious fish, led to his current role as Executive Director of CCA in the Pacific NW. For more information see the CCA website: <http://ccapnw.org/home>.

Accompanying Bryan will be Gary Loomis, CCA Chairman for Washington. Gary had just been discharged as a machinist from the Navy in 1964, and he went steelhead fishing. He caught some but decided he needed a light rod that would handle these fish on light tippet, so he bought a blank and made one at home. A guy on the river offered him \$200 for it, so he sold it and made another. Another guy on the stream bought it, so he went into business making them. He ended up working for Lamiglas, where he and a Boeing materials engineer helped them develop the first good graphite rods for the commercial market. Later, he started his own company G.Loomis, and the rest is history. They nearly went out of business, but Cabela's gave him a loan to purchase equipment so he could fill a big order for blanks for their company. This got him rolling, and he never looked back, until he sold the company to Shimano in 1997. He worked with them awhile, and later Northfork Composites was born. Gary has championed conservation causes too numerous to mention, including serving in his leadership capacity for CCA.



Calendar

May 8: Amber Lake Fishout

May 12: CFC Meeting, Bryan Irwin and Gary Loomis, Coastal Conservation Association Representatives

May 20: CFC Fly Tying Night, Moscow Fly Shop, 7-9 PM, Spent Spruce Moth

June 12: Mike Decker's Clinic at Elk River

July 8-11: Fly Flat, St. Joe River Fishout

Aug 23-28: FFF Annual Conclave, West Yellowstone, Montana

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**

Backcast to April Meeting

Fishing Reports:

Dave Tharp had been two places. He caught some small ones at Amber Lake, and he had done really well at Coffee Pot Lake, catching 12 fish in the 18 to 21 inch range. This included one 17 inch Largemouth Bass. Sharon reported catching nice fish on a Green Leech, but they just loved her red Bionic Worm today. She reported hooking El Gordo! John Reed reported hooking only one fish at Amber yesterday.

Mike Decker had been down on the South Fork a week ago, and he landed one of only four caught. Dave Uberuaga reported fishing the St. Joe, where he landed only one fish in two days. He had a big trip over to the Bitterroot, but it was very cold and few fish were seen. Mark Brownell fished Spring Valley in his kayak and LDR'd a few fish. Someone indicated that there were very good reports about the Coeur d'Alene River. This comment seemed to be confirmed by others in the audience.

Announcements:

Tim Caldwell, representing the American Fisheries Society Palouse Unit told the club about his organization and an upcoming event. This is an organization of fisheries professionals with a student chapter at UI. They have about 25 active members. They are having a fund-raiser on April 23, the "2010 Wild Game Feed, Auction and Fundraiser", and he invited club members to participate at the Moscow Moose Lodge. Their auction items include a Winston Vapor 8/9 spey rod and Galvan large-arbor reel. He indicated a willingness for his group to cooperate with the CFC club on conservation projects.

Cliff Swanson introduced a model of the "Viderger Pole", designed as a prototype for one that could be used to locate the club at the St. Joe Fishout and other events. Cliff indicated that ID F&G planned a conservation effort to plant willows along the East Fork Potlatch River on May 18. Interested club members should see the ID F&G website for details. Cliff also mentioned that some thought was going into a modified format for the club auction scheduled for next spring, and if members had thoughts they should contact him.

Mike Dekker talked about his free fishing day instructional outing on June 12 at Elk River. He needs volunteers to help with instruction and fly fishing gear to loan to participants. He has 30 novice fly fishers signed up at this point. He will be providing lunch for everyone.

Doug Baldwin, Conservation Chair, reminded the club that we need to work on getting a big turn-out next month for Bryan Irwin and Gary Loomis of the Coastal Conservation Association, who are coming over to talk about anadromous fish recovery efforts. Doug also indicated that ID F&G had a number of events on their schedule, and that either their website could be consulted, or members could contact Doug about them.

April Speaker: Mac Huff, "Fishing Wallowa County, Oregon's Northeast Corner"

Mac presented a PowerPoint show on fly fishing lakes and streams in Northeast Oregon. He runs Eagle Cap Guides: <http://www.eaglecapfishing.com/>. He guides both trout and steelhead trips, almost exclusively on the streams and lakes in the northwest corner of Oregon.

Some of the flies he has used recently for steelhead were shown, including a rubber-legs stonefly, a Wood-Duck soft hackle with red chenille body, and a green-body soft-hackle tied about size 12 on a larger hook. Mac showed pictures of some of the Eagle Cap high country lakes and indicated there were rainbows and brookies to 14 inches in some. The streams coming out of these mountains are nutrient-poor, but some do contain both rainbows and bull trout. For example, Sheep Creek contains rainbows below 6000 feet elevation but Bull Trout above.

Wallowa Lake has become famous as a result of record Kokanee being caught there, with a state record over 7 pounds bagged there recently. The Wallowa River has good access downstream of Wall, but almost all the land upstream is private. There are lots of fish and fair hatches. Good rainbows, 16 to 18 inches, are caught in the spring, and nice winter steelhead start in February.

The Imnaha River has three distinct sections. The upper or high-country section, has a blue-hole unique feature and provides significant salmon spawning habitat. There is a lot of wood in the river up there. The middle section is rather high gradient with no big pools, but the water is clear. The lower section from Horse Creek to the Snake River has lots of snakes and poison ivy. It runs through dry country and is very nice for wading. Smallmouth move up into the lower river for part of the summer, and steelhead season is a very big deal.

The Grande Ronde is the premier stream on which Mac guides. The Wenaha River joins it at Troy, Oregon, with access to this tributary by trail. There are big whitefish in the Wenaha, as well as Bull Trout and rainbows. The stoneflies are thick on the Ronde, which defines the nymph patterns used there. Floating is most productive, but the fishing is spotty some years. The best trout and smallmouth season is after run-off, from the end of July into August. There is not much reason to be on the river before 11 a.m. Therefore, use Woolly Buggers at the start and switch to dries later. There is no trout fishing in the fall of the year, but the steelheading is great.

Idaho Free Fishing Day Clinic on June 12

There will be a free Fly fishing clinic held in Elk River on June 12. Those wishing to participate should meet at the Elk River Country Cafe, 101 N 1st St. in Elk River between 7:00 AM and 7:30 AM. The clinic will include a group fly casting lesson and then small group fishing, with 2 to 3 beginning fly casters and 1 experienced fly fisherman. Around 1:00 to 1:30 PM, the group will meet for a picnic lunch (provided free of charge) at a nearby camp ground, and then there will be fishing in small groups as before lunch for the rest of the day.

There is a need for 6 to 8 volunteers from the club to help with the expected turn out of about 30 beginning fly casters. Please contact Mike Decker to sign up at mike_decker@selinc.com. There is an underline “mike_decker” in this e-mail address.

Spent Spruce Moth by Patrick Daigle

Hook: #14 Tiemco 100

Thread: Rusty dun 8/0 Uni-Thread

Wing: Deer hair (forked with thread)

Body: Cahill cream Antron

Underwing: White Crinkled Zelon

Source: <http://www.flyfisherman.com/content/spruce-moths>

If there's an overlooked major Western hatch, spruce moths are it. The hatch is short-lived and it's been mostly forgotten for ten years or more. It arrives at a time (August) when guided angling pressure is light—and it's safe to presume fingers of larger rivers carry the moths and are missed by anglers targeting the known sections and documented hatches. Some of the best waters where anglers are rediscovering spruce moths include the Big Hole, Madison, Gallatin, Rock Creek, Yellowstone, St. Joe, Kelly Creek, Clearwater, Lochsa, Selway, Middle Fork Salmon, Yakima, and the West Fork Bitterroot. Spruce moths are on additional waters ranging from large streams to tiny, forested tributaries of major rivers, including some roadless regions that beg to be explored.

Depending on air temperature and elevation, it may begin in early July and extend into late September. Hatches get going around 8 or 9 A.M., just as the sun tops the mountains and warms the air. It lasts until noon or 1 P.M., when the heat really builds and the frenzy often dies. Look for fish along rocky banks where depth and cover offer security. You rarely focus on a particular rising trout—just cover the water. Fish are gluttonous and attack attractor dries like #12-14 Goddard and Elk-hair Caddis during early stages of the hatch. As the hatch progresses toward noon, gorged trout may get picky. For these fish, tie on a specific spruce moth imitation such as Gary LaFontaine's Spruce Moth or Patrick Daigle's Spent Spruce Moth. Early in the hatch, 4X tippet is fine (you might even get away with 3X), but later in the hatch, 5X may be required.



Clearwater Fly Casters
PO Box 394
Pullman, WA 99163

Clearwater Fly Casters

May, 2010

Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2010

President	Paul Agidius	pagidius@moscow.com
Vice President	Cliff Swanson	clswan12@gmail.com
Past President	Fred Muehlbauer	muehlbauer406@roadrunner.com
Treasurer	Bruce Frazier	bedwin43@gmail.com
Secretary	Lavon Frazier	lavon_frazier@roadrunner.com
FFF Representative	Steve Bush	moscowtitle@moscow.com (208)882-4564
Conservation Chair	Doug Baldwin	baldwin5750@roadrunner.com (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.