



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



December Program: DVD “Fly Fishing the High Country”, Dry Fly Innovations, Boise, ID

Many of you met Nate Brumley of Dry Fly Innovations at our CFC Fall Flyfishing Classic on September 24. Nate provided two informative oral presentations and he and his family hosted a booth with great examples of their flies, videos, and other flyfishing products. **Nate** was born and raised on the Salmon River in Central Idaho. At a very young age, he started casting gray hackle flies at rainbows in White Bird Creek. Nate remembers to this day the 14-inch fish that jumped completely out of the water with his fly in its mouth. Nate has been chasing fish and making dry flies since that moment. Every time a feeding group of fish refused to take his offering, he studied the bug that he didn't have and tied it in detail. For over 40 years Nate has put a footprint along the shores of high-mountain lakes, spring creeks and tail waters that have all led to the creation of Dry Fly Innovations.

At the Fall Fly Fishing Classic, Dry Fly Innovations (DFI) generously provided selected DVD's for our auction and others at discounted rates. Cliff and Doug bought and successfully bid on some of these DVD's which were donated to the Club's library. Our December program is an excerpt from the DVD *Flyfishing the High Country*. This DVD was filmed on some of the most pristine high mountain lakes in Idaho. The video takes you to a spectacular granite environment on a quest to find cutthroat trout. It's an adventure packed with gorgeous scenery, wonderful music, and lots of beautiful fish! DFI backpacked over 50 miles to share an experience in fishing that is like nothing you have ever seen. *Flyfishing the High Country* shares tactics, tips, and opens up the fly box to some awesome high mountain fly pattern that keep “fish on.”



President Cliff Swanson's Message

The club had some great exposure over the last year and lets hope that the club members continue to be active in our events and make 2012 another good year. A big effort went into the Fall Fly Fishing Classic. Another great activity was the participation in the Art Walk in Moscow in June. Club members tied flies, told a few fishing lies and visited with people as they passed by our fly tying activity.

Just a reminder, some members have volunteered to bring baked goods to the December meeting for a small auction, instead of having a white elephant gift exchange. Bill Hendrix should have some raffle tickets for the landing net he is building. Don't forget to buy more raffle tickets at the meeting for a chance to win the club's yearly fly rod drawing. As you know, the Federation of Fly Fishers is having their national Conclave

Calendar

Dec 14: CFC Monthly Meeting, DVD “Fly Fishing the High Country”, University Inn, Moscow

Jan 11: CFC Monthly Meeting, Barry Cummings, Idaho Fish & Game, “Enforcement Issues: How the Public Can Help”, University Inn, Moscow

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 November Meeting

Fishing Reports: Reid Miller reported that he and two buddies (Don Johnstone and David Yonge) fished the Grande Ronde with a guide (Mac Huff) for a day recently. The weather and water were near perfect, but they never touched a fish. Well, maybe David had one hit – let's be generous. Lynn and Kaye Youngblood made a trip to The Joe, just to say they had fished it in November. There were a few risers, and they even caught a couple. It was 20 F at night!

Dave Tharp and Bill Hendrix spent a day at Amber Lake. They went up to the weed beds, and the fishing was good. Bill was pulling hogs out of the weeds on a 3-weight. He then paddled his canoe to the far end. Dave wasn't feeling well, and he passed out, coming back to consciousness under water looking up at his boat – not good – all wet with waders full. Another fisherman helped him out of the water – Dave mostly worried about his rod. The morale of this story – wear a real PFD, not one you have to blow up when there is a problem! Bill reported he went back the next week, this time with a 5-weight, and he hooked nine and landed six, up to 20 inches, on a #14 Hairs Ear Soft Hackle.

Andy Kleinhoff had done some fishing but had no luck. Cliff Swanson and Mark Brownell recently went to the North Fork, where the air was 35 F and the water 37 F. Cliff said he caught one fish, but could now say he caught one in November on a dry fly.

Announcements: Conservation Chair Doug Baldwin reported that the Montana fishing water proposal had gone down to defeat! Also, the CCA was pushing a proposed law that would allow leaving abandoned oil rigs in the Gulf, as they provide superb habitat for fish. Contact your senators to support this initiative.

Cliff announced that the FFF Conclave next summer will be held in Spokane, on July 10-14, which may have some impact on when we have our St. Joe fishout. This event will be a great opportunity for our club members. Cliff indicated that a decision had been made that there would be no gift exchange at the December meeting. Tentatively, there will be a program by an ID Fish and Game employee about how citizens can be involved in helping them catch poachers. Another idea for the meeting will be to have an auction, involving baked goods or other holiday items. Attendees do not have to bring something to participate. Bill Hendrix will have his net made and tickets for a drawing in January. Give him any thoughts on the net design.

Raffle Winners: Paul Agidius, Cliff Swanson, Doug Young, Nancy Miller, Bob Harwood, Gary Evers, Lynn Youngblood, Linda Gardai, Jeff Voigt, and possibly others.

Speaker: Jeff Voigt, "Fly Fishing Eastern Washington"

Jeff had a double knee replacement two weeks ago, and he was getting around amazingly well with one crutch, which he used as a pointer. He said he had many years of experience fishing both lakes and streams in Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington. Our members should know about the Idaho side, so he would only cover the Washington fisheries tonight. He passed out a sheet with the DeLorme page numbers for the waters he would be talking about, and some lake locations are indicated below. He started his descriptions in the northeast corner of the state, worked his way west and then south. Jeff made the statement several times during his talk that we were blessed with the finest and most varied fly fishing in the entire country – on our many lakes, spring creeks, and freestone rivers.

One of Jeff's favorite lakes is Browns Lake (DeLorme 7A, p. 105), which has a nice campground. It has flats on one end, where nymphs should be fished in the dark areas. There are big rainbows to be caught at the other end. Perhaps the best NE corner lake just now is McDowell Lake (3A, p. 104), which also has a good campground, but no water. There are both brookies and rainbows. You need a kick-boat of some kind, and you must get it to the water on foot using the trail, perhaps with a wheelbarrow or similar device. The lake is relatively small, only 25-50 acres, and is fly-fishing only. The best flies include chironomid, water boatman, and wooly bugger patterns.

The next water Jeff recommended was the Pend Oreille River (6-8 A-C, p. 105), where one can put in at Usk and fish the backwaters for pike and bass a couple miles to Cusick. He mentioned a number of other lakes, but a special one was Yocum Lake (6D, p. 119), however a 4WD road must be negotiated to reach it.

In the north-central region, the Columbia River (3A, p. 118) can be fished, but this is big water, and one should fish it from shore. Use caddis flies, and it contains some nice rainbows. A tributary is Big Sheep Creek (1A, p. 118), which is a small stream containing brookies. The Kettle River (4A, p. 116) has good fly fishing for rainbows from a kick boat. There is some good lake fishing on the Colville Reservation (1D, p. 102). McGinnis Lake has nice brookies. Buffalo Lake has a nice campground, as well as some big rainbows. Rebecca Lake has been going gangbusters for trout since rehab. Omak Lake (5B, p. 101) is a big alkaline lake with Lahonten Cutthroat. Grimes Lake (4C, p. 84), reached only through Marshfield, is another great Lahonten Cutthroat lake. Rufus Woods Reservoir (5-7D, p. 101) on the Columbia River has big rainbows near the commercial fish pens. Jeff uses his kick-boat with an electric motor to reach this area.

Dry Falls Lake (5D, p. 85) is a very good fishery, and Lenore Lake (4D, p. 84) still has some big Lahonten Cutthroat. Rocky Ford Creek (5B, p. 69) is a great spring creek but can be difficult to fish. No boats or wading are allowed, and the fish are very spooky. Jeff says that fish can be caught by several techniques: 1) use big dark patterns at dark, 2) sight fish a scud 3-4 feet in front of fish cruising past you and twitch it once when a fish approaches, and 3) tie on a pheasant tail with a scud dropper, cast it out and let it drift. Lenice and Nunnaly (2B, p. 52) are great spring lakes. You have to walk in and carry your kick boat. Sprague Lake (8B, p. 71) was rehabbed about five years ago and still fishes well. Rainbows can be caught all year long. Coffeepot Lake (4A, p. 70) is a fine lake for big rainbows in March. It has a campground with no water, but get out before the rattlesnakes come out of hibernation.

Jeff likes to fish what he calls the transition lakes, like Amber Lake (3B, p. 72), which has some nice rainbows to 20 inches. The biggest fish will not likely survive the winter, so they don't get any bigger than that. They grow about 1 inch per month during the summer. Jeff fishes them from a kick-boat, with a sinking line and his rod tip below the surface. He uses a strip-strike method, raising the rod only after a hook-up. There are numbers of these lakes, such as Medical, West Medical, Badger, Fishtrap, Williams, Rock, etc.

Also near Spokane, one can fish the Spokane River (5-8C, p. 89), putting in at State Line and floating down to the Upriver Dam, putting in below the Upriver Dam and floating toward town, or putting in below town. There are good numbers of rainbows, smallmouth and a few browns. In the central part of the state, there are a number of good spring creeks, the best of which is Crab Creek (6-7B, p. 71), one of the longest creeks ever. Most are on private land but the fishing can be very good.

Finally, Jeff gave the members some tips on flies (buggers, leeches, scuds, soft hackles, pheasant-tail nymphs, gold-ribbed hare's ear, chironomids, and boatmen will about cover it) and special techniques (try buggers under a strike indicator, try egg patterns, use sinking lines on the bottom retrieved very slowly, try lead line tips to get further down, try boatman patterns in the weeds, and remember to anchor your boat for slow lake fishing).

Fly of the Month: Pink Dink Leech

By: Bob Bates <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4478>

Hook: Mustad 79580 size 6

Weight: Lead wire 0.035-inch diameter, 7 turns

Tail: Marabou, Cerise

Body: Aura Trendsetter yarn, fluorescent cerise or extra hot pink color no. 3161 (Polar Chenille from Hairline looks similar)



John Newbury from Chewelah, WA, started experimenting with this pattern in about 2006 or 2007. He caught many 13- to 17-inch rainbows with it at a hike-in lake on the Little Pend Oreille Game Refuge. It is also a nice place to float around in your float tube or pontoon boat. Sprague Lake along I 90 southwest of Spokane, WA, is a different story. There are not so many fish, but they are big: 6- to 7-pound rainbows. They liked the Pink Dink Leech. Some smaller fish liked it also. This is a wet fly, so use a full sinking line to get the fly down where the fish are. Let the line and fly sink, and then use slow to fast retrieves until fish start hitting. It should not take too long. Another way to fish it, especially on big waters, is to mooch it. You can wind drift, kick with fins or row. Most fly anglers avoid the word "trolling".

Clearwater Fly Casters
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Clearwater Fly Casters

December, 2011

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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.