



The *Tippet*

March, 2011

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



March Speaker: Sam Sickles, River Borne Outfitters, “Deschutes River Fishing”

The power point presentation will be about the various different fishing opportunities and techniques on the Deschutes. We first talk about the trout fishing, most importantly the Stonefly and Caddis hatches, including hatch timing, proven patterns, the type of water we fish, etc.. We include our guided trip options as well. We move on to Steelhead fishing. We cover run timing, fishing techniques, gear requirements, etc., all supplemented with an ample amount of fish eye candy to back up our stories! Our end goal is to educate your members on fishing the Deschutes, and to possibly convince a few of them to come fish with us!

Guide & Proprietor Sam Sickles was born and raised in the steelhead capitol of the world, Oregon! At twelve years old he was introduced to fly fishing and was hooked. Growing up in Springfield right next to the MacKenzie and Willamette Rivers was no help for the affliction.

After graduating from Oregon State in 1994, where he majored in fishing the Alsea and Siletz, Sam’s travels took him all over the west in search of salmon, trout and steelhead on a fly rod. Many years later, Sam and his wife Marni relocated to Hood River in an effort to wear out the affliction. Needless to say, it has been a failure on their part.

Whether by drift boat or jet sled, the quest has remained the same, the endless pursuit of trout and steelhead on a fly rod. Sam’s enthusiasm is contagious and his ability to instruct and teach is second to none. Any day spent on the water with Sam is one not easily forgotten!

President Cliff Swanson’s Message

Fishing season is just around the corner. Paul Arensten’s presentation encouraged me to start thinking about the upcoming fishing season. I highly recommend that you get your fly vest down off its winter hanger and take inventory of your flies, clean your lines, check your waders for leaks and start tying a selection of your favorite flies for the upcoming fishing trip.

The club has gained a few new members this spring and have had several guests in attendance. Thanks for your participation in getting people to attend our meetings. It is awesome to see our club grow. Be sure to give Doug Young a pat on the back for having organized great programs.

The clubs’ biennial auction will be held on September 24th, 2011 at the 1912 Center in Moscow. Several club members have stepped up and are invaluable in the organizing and planning of the fall event. Without everyone’s support, one person could not do such an event. Thanks for all those that have been helping.

Calendar

Mar 9: CFC Meeting, Sam Sickles, River Borne Outfitters, “Deschutes River Fishing”

Mar 15: Fly Tying Night, Moscow Title

Apr 13: CFC Meeting, Sean Wilson, ID Fish and Game, “Nutrient Enhancement in Dworshak”

Apr 16: Amber Lake Fishout

Jul 15-17: St. Joe Fishout

Sep 24: CFC Fall Fly Fishing Classic, 1912 Bldg, 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 February Meeting

Guests: Paul Arentsen (our speaker) and his family from Joseph OR, Eric Nordquist from Colton, Becky Thorgaard (Gary's wife) from Pullman, Diane Weber (Tom's wife) from Pullman, Crystal Lewis from Troy, and Mike Ray, Brit-tany Kitto, and Steve and Linda Gardai, fishing buddies from Moscow.

Fishing reports: Marc Ratzlaff reported fair fishing for Lahonton cutthroat (19-23 inchers) at Pyramid Lake about 35 minutes from Reno. The weather was unusually warm with a water temp of about 40 degrees. Jim Palmersheim had a fishing equipment report – great bargains to be had on the St. Croix website. Dave Tharp said that Shirley Engerbretson couldn't make it to the meeting but still has float tubes and some other things. Dave and others will get together with her before the next meeting.

Conservation Report: Doug Baldwin reported that Washington State is planning to merge three state offices including the Fish and Wildlife Commission. See the CCA (Coastal Conservation Association) website for more information on Senate bill 5437 and House bill 1850.

Announcements: Cliff Swanson asked for feedback on a date for the Amber Lake Fishout; members agreed on April 16. Kelly Creek is still looking for fly tiers for the Saturday of their Expo on March 26. Tim Cavileer is going down to tie on Friday. There were still some questions on a logo for shirts, caps, etc. The next Executive Board meeting will be Tuesday, February 15, at 5:30 at the Old PO in Pullman, followed by fly tying at Moscow Title in Moscow at 7:00. Steve Bush had a handout for the FFF conclave in Ellensburg on April 28-30. Attendance is free for the event but a fee is charged to take the classes. Steve also announced that the other Steve Busch was going on a trip to Ascension Bay Mexico April 1-9 and there was one opening on the trip. There will be a workshop on February 23 for landowners and land managers titled *Understanding Fish and Their Habitat* at the IDFG building. Volunteers are needed to teach fly casting after the main workshop around 3pm. The weekend of July 15-17 was confirmed for the St. Joe Fishout.

Plans are being made for the club expo and auction to be held next fall. Cliff asked the members of the Executive Board and Committee chairs to meet briefly after the meeting to discuss a date and venue. Doug Baldwin pointed out that the spey rod and reel that the club will raffle off for the event were there and available for inspection.

Raffle: Winners included Crystal Lewis, Tom Weber, George Hinman, Steve Bush, Doug Baldwin, Marc Ratzlaff, Brit-tany Kitto, Fred Muehlbauer, and Jim Hill.

“Hells Canyon Country and the River of No Return” Program: Doug Young introduced Paul Arentsen, owner of Winding Waters River Expeditions in Joseph OR. Paul has spent 10 years guiding from the Hells Canyon Dam to Heller Bar on the Snake, and on the Grande Ronde, Wallowa, and Lower Salmon rivers. He does pleasure trips in the summer and steelheading trips in the spring and fall.

Paul talked about the natural and cultural history of the areas, and his slide show included photos of petroglyphs and pictographs, arrowheads, spearheads, pit houses, and other relics of peoples who lived along the rivers. He pointed out that a petroglyph is made by chipping away the desert varnish on rock while a pictograph is colored pigment painted on rock.

Donald McKenzie was the first known white person to travel upriver through Hells Canyon in 1819 looking for a route to transport furs for the Hudson Bay Company. The Homestead Act of 1862 brought more people into the canyon, and when gold was discovered there in 1905, even more people came. Gold mining didn't last long, however, as there wasn't much gold and it was hard to get out. Techniques used in mining on the Salmon left tailing piles along the river. Sweep boats, introduced on the Salmon in the 1870's, were used to take supplies in to the miners and to bring their gold out. These boats had 20' long oars – one in front and one in back. When the mining went bust, the boats were dismantled and sold for lumber in Lewiston. That's why the river is called the River of No Return – because the sweep boats never came back on the river.

Hells Canyon on the Snake was originally called Box Canyon; the name Hells Canyon became popular in the 1930s and 1940s. One of the earliest uses of Hells Canyon for recreation started in 1925 when Amos Burg and John Mullins took float boats through to Portland OR. In 1939, a woman commissioned Buzz Holmstrom (first man to solo a rowboat through the Grand Canyon in 1937) to take her by water from Vancouver to New York.

The trip took six months, with 18 days of it spent going through Hells Canyon. Blaine Stubblefield was the first “outfitter” to take passengers into Hells Canyon in 1949. The Hells Canyon dam was completed in 1968, which flooded the largest rapids on the river. The Snake River between the dam and Pittsburg Landing are designated both wild and scenic (1968 Wild & Scenic Rivers Act), while the stretch below Pittsburg Landing and the Salmon River are designated as scenic. Paul’s outfitting business has a federal permit which allows him to go through wild and scenic places.

Paul wrapped up by showing slides of flowers in Hells Canyon, including Macfarlane’s Four O’clock which can live to be up to 100 years old and is found on only 13 known sites, all in Hells Canyon or the Imnaha and Salmon River canyons. He also noted that the “Steelhead Train” won’t be running up the Wallowa this year (mentioned by last month’s speaker as a fun trip), but Paul and others are hoping to arrange another party to provide similar transportation.

Fly of the Month for March: Golden Nugget

Source: http://globalflyfisher.com/patterns/gold_nugget/

- Hook: Curved nymph hook size 8-12
- Bead head: Pearlescent glass craft bead
- Thorax: Medium brown rabbit fur dubbing
- Wing case: Turkey quill section
- Body: Four clear craft beads colored brown on top using craft marker
- Butt: Rabbit fur dubbing to hold everything in place
- Tail: Golden Goose biots



Of course, the picture on the left below is the actual insect and the one above is the Golden Nugget imitation. The third picture shows how the Golden Nugget looks when viewed in water!



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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.