



The *Tippet*

May, 2011

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



May Speaker: G.L. Britton, Double Spey Outfitters, "Flyfishing on Upper Crab Creek."

Upper Crab Creek, because it is primarily on private land, is a relatively unknown spring creek in Washington. Many people do not know that Rocky Ford is Crab Creek, just called by another name for 12 miles. My lease is due north of Sprague Lake by about 12 miles. Our 5 miles of water has been catch and release for the 12 years I have had the lease. The presentation covers tactics, hero shots, ecology, geology, and history of Upper Crab Creek. Our section has both Native Redband Rainbows and some Triploid Rainbows.



My father retired to Moscow, ID in the mid sixties. I was eight years old. Dad was an avid fly fisherman and I spent most of my summers with him on the rivers of North Idaho, learning the basics of a trout stream. After leaving home and attending the University of Idaho, I began to meet and fish with other, better fishermen. It has been my good fortune to have known and fished with countless friends who have taught me much of what I know.

I opened Silver Bow Fly Shop in Spokane in the late eighties and owned it for seven years. During those years, I guided locally for trout and steelhead and taught steelhead fishing and fly tying. For over a decade, I was a steelhead addict and had years where I landed in excess of 100 fish. I learned to tie spey and classic Atlantic salmon fly patterns. After selling the fly shop to gain more outdoor time, I began teaching fly fishing schools as well as advanced tying and casting classes.

From the late 1990s through December of 2008, I managed the Washington guiding operation for Northwest Outfitters in Coeur d' Alene. It was early in this venture that I began my operation on Crab Creek. From a work satisfaction perspective, this was my pipe dream. Honest, loyal, hard fishing people to share life with for a decade. Sadly, the shop closed in December of 2008, but it has since reopened in the Riverstone Development with much of the same staff.

Over the years, I've had the pleasure of working with many excellent guides in the area. As each year progresses, my focus moves from one resource to another and my fortune to employ these guides has enabled Double Spey Outfitters the ability to expand the variety and quality of our services for the benefit of our guests.

Double Spey Outfitters web site: <http://www.doublespeyoutfitters.com/index.html>

Calendar

- May 3: CFC Fly Tying Night, Moscow Title
- May 11: CFC Meeting, G. L. Britton, "Fly Fishing Upper Crab Creek"
- Jul 15-17: St. Joe Fishout
- Sep 24: CFC Fall Fly Fishing Classic, 1912 Center, 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 April Meeting

Guests: speaker Sean Wilson and his wife Gina, from Troy, ID

Announcements: Cliff Swanson – Amber Lake Fishout will be on Saturday, May 16. He will have lunch. The CFC Board Meeting will be Thursday, Apr 21, at the Fireside in Pullman. Lewiston F&G will hold a First Aid/CPR class on Apr 15. Also, they are holding a volunteer planting north of Moscow on Apr 23. They need help with the Hordemann Pond fishing day on Apr 30. The F&G volunteer monthly meeting is set for May 27 at the ID Dept of Labor Building at 5:30 pm.

Bob Harwood – Brought tee shirts for \$15 to support the North Idaho Selkirk Conservation Alliance, as well as mugs for \$10. Both have one of Bob's Bull Trout prints.

Kay Youngblood – Dennis Dauble will be at the Palouse Library on Apr 15 at 6 pm.

Nancy Miller – the Idaho Native Plant Society will be hosting a talk on “Rare Plants of the Clearwater Basin” by Juanita Lichthardt in the Fiske Room of the 1912 Center on Thursday, Apr 14, at 7 pm.

Steve Bush – there will be a bird walk for kids on Sunday, Apr 17, from 11 am – 2 pm in the old Tideman Lot. Burgers and Flies is set for May 21 at Craig Lewis' house. The 2011 Washington Fly Fishing Fair will be in Ellensburg on Apr 29-30.

Dave Uberuaga – asked members to be gathering items for the fall auction.

Mike Decker – will hold the Free Fishing Day clinic for new fly fishers again this year and will need help from members.

Fishing Reports: Steve Bush and Paul Agidius fished Amber Lake this past Friday, and there were 25 boats on the water. It was a nice day. The fish are big but slow to come to the fly. Steve landed one fish. One guy was catching fish on a black chironomid using a 15 foot leader. John Read had fished Amber as well, but on a windy day. There is lots of water, and the lily pads are 1-3 feet below the surface. He got a few fish using a Soft-hackle Hare's Ear.

Gary Evers reported being on the Columbia on Monday, but that the “springers” were not yet in. Dave Tharp said he and Sharon had just come from Dry Falls, where it had been windy but not crowded. They got 8 fish in about 4 hours, but very few of the big, black-bodied ones. They saw lots of birds. Sharon reported catching a “happy” fish on her first cast, as it jumped and jumped, then nothing for a couple hours. She caught 5 fish, including the big one on a chironomid.

Dave Uberuaga reported being the first in the campground at Huckleberry this year. The water is going down fast, and it is clear. There are fish in the water willing to take a fly, particularly from a drift boat and throwing big bunny flies to the banks. The snow packs are 130 % of normal, so there should be good water all summer.

The Youngbloods fished Owyhee and Rock Creek, with good fishing both places.

Raffle: Winners included John Read, Gary Evers, Mike Decker, Roxanne Bush, Cliff Swanson, Bob Harwood, Dave Tharp, Dan Payne, Kay Youngblood, Doug Baldwin, Steve Bush and Bruce Frazier.

Program: Sean Wilson, Idaho Fish and Game, “Results of the First Four Years of a Whole Lake Fertilization Experiment on Dworshak Reservoir”

The fifth year of fertilization was conducted in 2010, but has now been stopped to prepare a better environmental impact statement. The fish populations of interest are Kokanee, Smallmouth Bass, various trout species and Bull Trout. Why fertilize? Because the nutrient levels (nitrogen and phosphorus) were too low to support fish of desired sizes and numbers. Also, the nutrients that were present in the lake were out of balance (N to P ratio too low).

Fertilization has been done on Kootenay and Arrow Lakes in Canada, with significant positive benefits for the Kokanee. An experiment was designed for Dworshak and started in 2007. The goals were 1) restoration (reduce inedible blue-green algae), and 2) increase the size and biomass of fish. Liquid ammonium nitrate was applied from a truck on a barge. Due to stratification of the lake, the fertilizer only went into the top layer of the lake, (continued on next page)

and only in concentrations of a teaspoon per thousands of gallons of top-layer water. Monitoring has been done for water quality, plankton, and Kokanee.

The results have been interesting but not spectacular. First, looking at nutrients, nitrogen levels have not changed, but phosphorus has decreased, bringing the ratio closer to balance. Clarity of the water may be down slightly. Chlorophyll has not changed much. Picoplankton levels are up significantly. Inedible phytoplankton is down and edible phytoplankton is about the same. Blue-green algae is still present but maybe lower. There are higher densities of zooplankton, particularly big Daphnia which Kokanee eat. Kokanee abundance is variable year to year, but lengths and weights are up in years with similar fish densities, and condition factors (weight to length ratios) are up.

Future fertilizations will depend on obtaining the needed permit and judgments based on project evaluation as to benefits and desirability. It is hoped that the 5th year of the trials can be completed this summer.

In response to questions, Sean said he thought some of the variability in Kokanee numbers is related to spilling, as there has been too much water recently. Fresh water systems are usually phosphorus limited, so nitrogen limiting is unusual. Another possibility would be to extract phosphorus using a treatment plant.

President Cliff Swanson's Message

Is there a spring fishing season? It does not look like there will be much going on this spring with the wet, cold season that we have had. However, I was able to find a few mushrooms the other day. I ventured out on a cold, rainy, windy day; stepping between snow piles I was able to find enough mushrooms for a meal for two.

A few of upcoming club events will be upon us before we know it. First, I would like to invite as many club members that can to help Mike Decker at Elk River for his free fly fishing event. He needs volunteers and spare fly rods. A fly or two would also be nice so if you have some extra flies to donate to Mike bring them to the May meeting, I am sure he would appreciate them. Second, I would like to remind everyone about the St. Joe Fish-out. It will be held at Fly Flat Campground on the weekend of July 15th to July 17th. There will be a potluck dinner on Saturday night the 16th. One change that the board has decided to do is not provide the meat for the potluck dinner. So our dinner on Saturday the 16th will be a true potluck dinner. Third, I would remind the membership about the upcoming Fall Fly Fishing Classic to be held on September 24th. There will be some speakers, fly tiers, an auction and a banquet dinner for club members and guest speakers. Please mark your calendars to attend as well as lend a helping hand. It will take some helping hands to make this event successful.

I have some F&G volunteer dates that you may want to put on the calendar: May 19-20 Latah Soil and Water Conservation Awareness Days at Spring Valley 8 to 3; June 1-2 East Fork Potlatch River Plantings, meet at Bovill Park; June 24 Potlatch River Steelhead Tagging Day; July 16 Seven Devils Butterfly Count.

Fly of the Month for May: Koichi Kawai Beetle

From: Fly Fishing with Pookie, Written By Dean Reiner of Hatch Finders Fly Shop
Tying Instructions: <http://www.hatchfinders.com/FlyFishingWithPookie.asp>

Hook: Daiichi 1270 curve shank
Over Body: black foam strip
Under Body: peacock herl
Indicator: yellow poly-yarn
Legs: black round rubber legs



Over the years I have tied many forms of beetles. Most worked and some worked extremely well and this is one of them. Koichi developed the pattern a few years ago. And when fished one on one with other patterns it has outperformed them on most occasions. As you go through the tying steps, you will notice there are a few more steps to this fly than you would find on other beetle patterns. The effort is well worth the time. The beetle floats well and is very durable and can be tied in many sizes. If Dandy and I can tie it so can you. Give it a try you won't be disappointed.

Clearwater Fly Casters
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Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2010

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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.