



# The *Tippet*

November, 2011

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



## November Speaker: Jeff Voigt, “Fly Fishing Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho”

Jeff was born and raised in Ventura California. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from University of California Santa Barbara, and a Masters Degree from Eastern Washington University. Jeff was a teacher for 23 years in Public Schools of California, Minnesota, and Washington. Also, he was a flight Engineer for Northwest Airlines for 14 years and a fish taxidermist for 10 years. In the fly fishing world, he coordinated and instructed in the Spokane Fly Fishers Fly Fishing School for six years. During this time, instruction was provide for nearly four hundred new fly fishers. With experience as an educator, his programs are entertaining and informative. Be prepared to ask a lot of questions.

Jeff is a lifelong fly fisher. He caught his first trout on a fly at age four from a small stream in the coastal mountains near Ventura, California. The fly was tied to a piece of leader attached to a willow pole cut from the streamside vegetation. At age seven he began tying flies under the tutelage of his mother. At his childhood home on the Ventura River, which ran though the back section of the family property, he learned to cast a fly from his dad. In the late 1940’s, the Ventura River was still a viable steelhead river.

From an early age, vacations in the Voigt Family were always fishing trips. To this very day it is hard for him to think otherwise. He has lived in four states over the years, starting in California for 29 years, then to Minnesota for 14 years. Since 1983, he has resided in Spokane. He winters in Arizona four months of the year. He has fished year-round in and around Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho and Western Montana. His fly fishing has taken him to many states as well as Canada and Mexico. In the last seven years, he has developed a near uncontrollable addiction/passion for saltwater fly fishing. If there are fish to be caught on a fly, he will try to find a way to go there and do it. Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Vancouver Island and central British Columbia, and the Yucatan and Baja regions of Mexico are all places he has spent time fly fishing.

It is a rare day when some time is not spent at the fly tying bench. Fly Fishing with family and friends is what makes his life worthwhile, along with lots of ballroom dancing with his wife Paula. Jeff has a collection of fishing cartoons accumulated over the past 40 years that he has been known to share with club members when he presents a program.

### President Cliff Swanson’s Message

I hope to see you at the November meeting. If anyone has club videos, please bring them to the meeting. “Trout Grass” is a recent purchase we are trying to locate, along with all the older ones. It’s steelhead time, so get out there and give it a go. Tight lines!

## Calendar

**Nov 9: CFC Monthly Meeting, Jeff Voigt, “Fly Fishing Eastern Washington and North Idaho”**

**Dec 14: CFC Monthly Meeting, Holiday Event**

## 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 October Meeting

**New Members:** Bill and Shaun Rogers, Chris and Crystal Lewis, Steve and Linda Garnai.

**Fishing Reports:** The Muehlbauers and Kleinhoffs were part of a group of six that spent time on Kodiak Island in Alaska, where they caught lots of Coho in the 10 to 15 lb range. They rented a house and ate fish, drank wine, and enjoyed their traditional “pint of Scotch fishing challenge”. Andy reported catching a 50 pound King on the Kenai, not on a fly. Andy and Fred fished the Deschutes River with River Borne Outfitters, where Andy reported some good spay rod instruction and “one nice one”.

Paul Agidius reported that the Slinds say “hi” to the club members. Bob Harwood reported three Chinook on the Klickitat River, and someone caught a 40 inch Steelhead. Bob caught 20 Smallmouth in four hours on Priest Lake, but not on a fly. He has a guide lined up for some saltwater fishing in Dubai and will give the club a report after.

Doug Baldwin reported some good trout from Rock Lake, including a 22 inch Brown and a 19 inch Rainbow – all sub-surface. Roxanne Bush caught her first fish on Kelly Creek this summer. Mike Dekker just finished three days on the Grande Ronde with a guide (Dixon Flyfishing). Only three fish were caught.

Reid Miller said he was enjoying Mike Croft’s book on lake fly fishing, as had others in the club he had talked to. Reid spent a very short day on the Selway in the rain and caught one nice Cutthroat, which made the trip worthwhile. Doug Young did some hiking and fishing in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, where he reported catching some nice fish on black nymphs.

The first two days of October, George Hinman and his daughter fished the Bitterroot River with their guide of the past 30 years (Dave Odell). They caught fish but nothing big. Jim Palmersheim hosted Ken Iwamasa who was filming many fly fishing examples, and Jim managed to get three in the Clearwater River.

Jared August had his father up on the St. Joe for his first fly fishing experience, and he managed to catch one, while Jared got about 20, including several above 15 inches. Bill Hendrix reported on the recent mini-fishout up on the St. Joe. He was going to drop John Read at the Marble Creek put-in, but John forgot his oars. Bill proceeded to hook and land a 16 inch Cutthroat. Dave and Sharon Tharp had a great trip that included The Joe and then up to Thompson’s Falls, to a blues festival, then on around to the Clarks Fork, the North Fork and Kelly Creek. Cliff Swanson told about his “get away” trip to the St. Joe after the Fall Classic, and he caught lots of fish, including getting busted off, loosening his drag, hooking a bigger one, and getting busted off again.

Lynn and Kaye Youngblood (Go Cards!) had a big trip this fall, including the Gallatin, Madison, Fall River, Henry’s Fork, Black-tail Creek, Bloody Dick Creek, etc. They had great weather and some fish too.

**Announcements:** President Cliff Swanson announced that the Fall Classic had been a great success, with a couple hundred attendees and good revenue for the club. Calendars for 2012 are available for order, and members were asked to sign up on the sheet provided. He indicated that Nate Bromley of Dry Fly Innovations would like to send club members their newsletter. If you are interested, either contact Cliff or go to their website, where you can sign up. Steve Bush said that the Kelly Creek Club was having Jerry Seim of Sage Rods tomorrow night at their regular monthly meeting.

George Hinman told the club that one of the few remaining original club members, Rich Tinder, had passed away this summer in Pullman. Rich had been a strong supporter of the club in the early years, but his interests had turned to bass fishing later on.

**Raffle Winners:** Roxanne Bush was presented the yearly club rod she had won. Winners on the night included Mark Brownell, Kaye Youngblood, Crystal Lewis, Fred Muehlbauer, Doug Young, Tim Cavileer, Linda Garnai, Roxanne Bush, Sharon Tharp, George Hinman and Jim Palmersheim. Bill Hendrix is building a net for a special club raffle.

## Program: John Read, "Fishing the St. Joe River – 2011 Update"

John presented a video with a fly-over generated from Google Earth, starting above St. Maries and proceeding to the headwaters and St. Joe Lake. This was interspersed with still photos and video of fishing specific runs. There are 120 miles of fishable water, but there are a number of miles of flat water on the lower end, not of great interest for trout fishing. The exception is that there are migratory fish that move back and forth to the lake below, and they can be targeted in this water in the early spring. They run the gauntlet of the big pike that lurk in the weed beds. There once were pike-minnows in the river, but they were successfully poisoned out years ago.

There are runs in the river that always contain fish, whether you can catch them or not is another matter. There is a great run at Big Creek, which is accessed from the north side. Another good run is about a mile above Huckleberry Campground, and a good float is from the new Marble Creek Bridge to Huckleberry. John showed video of him fishing this run, using a chest-mounted camera. He minimizes false casts, and was using a small parachute Adams for this October fishing (size 20-22). The fish are mostly in slower water late in the year. Also, he uses a Chernobyl Ant with a small dropper, and small ant patterns work well. In the spring, a big stimulator often works. John has tied and used a Spruce Moth pattern in recent years with good success, when the moths are hatching. Late in the year, there may be some October Caddis showing, and he has success on a big fly pattern of this type.

John started floating some 31 years ago with Dave, and they discovered many good runs doing this. They use Watermasters, made in Missoula. For example, the Prospector Creek area always has fish, and this is the take-out for the canyon section float. Some of the floats he mentioned were Eagle Creek to Prospector Creek, and Bluff Creek to Eagle Creek. John uses as heavy a tippet as he can get away with, and does not play the fish long, to help with catch and release survival. He uses a 4X tippet, only going to 5X or 6X when it is required for very small flies. There has been great fishing pressure on the river the past decade, and there are now times when very small flies must be used to catch fish.

John has been on a few trips above Red Ives, putting in at Heller Creek Campground or at Broken Leg Creek, which involved a tough hike to the put-in spot. He is impressed that the water is always clear, even after heavy rain. He showed some pictures of St. Joe Lake and the country near there they hiked through. Fish in the river can not access the lake, but there are some resident fish there.

## Fly of the Month: Beats Me by Bill Alspaugh

By: Thomas C. Duncan, Sr.

[http://www.danica.com/flytier/tduncan/beats\\_me.htm](http://www.danica.com/flytier/tduncan/beats_me.htm)

Photo: <http://www.flytyingforum.com/index.php?showtopic=46535>

**Hook:** Partridge Bartleet, #2

**Thread:** Red 8/0

**Tag:** Flat silver tinsel

**Tail:** Golden pheasant crest

**Ribbing:** Oval silver tinsel

**Body:** Pink silk and black dubb - 1/2 and 1/2

**Hackle:** Grizzly, palmered over dubbing

**Wing:** Badger



**Note by tyer Thomas C. Duncan, Sr.:** This fly was developed by Bill Alspach, and was the favourite Steelhead fly of my good friend, the late Dr. Dave Engerbretson. Thus, this fly is tied in Dave's memory. It originally used black chenille instead of dubb, and grey squirrel rather than the badger. Popular alternatives include red or fluorescent pink silk, and a calf tail wing. It is a good medium-shaded fly, well-suited for Summer and Fall fishing. Using the lighter, brighter alternatives gives it a better Winter effect.

Clearwater Fly Casters  
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*November, 2011*

## **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.