



The *Tippet*

October, 2011

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



October Speaker: John Read, “Fishing the St. Joe - 2011 Update”

John will give the talk he gave at the Fall Fly Fishing Classic, with some updates of interest to club members. It will involve some striking Google Earth animated views of the St. Joe River, with run-by-run descriptions of the fishing with which John is familiar. He starts his descriptions down near St. Maries and ends up above Red Ives. Those that saw the presentation at The Classic will enjoy the fact that the projector will work throughout at our club meeting, at least we hope so!

John was raised in St. Maries, and he started fishing on the smaller streams like the St. Maries River and Elk Creek. In later years, his attention has rested heavily on the St. Joe, and he has experience fishing the river in nearly all seasons and stretches. His usual technique is to float a section, stopping to fish the best runs. He has been a great help to other club members at the annual summer fish-outs on the Upper St. Joe.



President’s Message—Cliff Swanson

Thanks to the club members for making the Fall Fly Fishing Classic such a success. So many members helped out and everything seemed to move smoothly. Most everyone appeared to be having a good time. I also received several comments about how great this event was. I thought the silent auction was good, as there was something for everyone to bid on. The fly tying venue was astounding with some great fly tyers showing their skills and tricks. And the presenters did an exceptional job of sharing their knowledge with their audiences. It was probably worth having the event, just for the information transfer that took place.

It was very enjoyable to sit down to a catered meal after a long day and being able to relax. As usual, the impromptu live auction was successful and a lot of fun. Dave has a way of generating and squeezing the last dollar out of an auction item.

On Sunday, after my brain had settled down, instead of being exhausted from all the planning and worry that something might fall through the cracks and last minute adjustments would have to be made, I had this calm, euphoric feeling about what had transpired at The Classic. It felt good, and I was on a natural high. Because of the Classic, I now see the clubs’ members in a whole new way. I will take away from this experience a fond appreciation for the people I had the privilege of working with, as well as those that chipped in at the Classic to help out where needed, thinking of them as good friends, almost like close family members, rather than just acquaintances at a club meeting or at a fish-out. For this I will be forever grateful.

Calendar

Oct 4: CFC Fly Tying Night, Moscow Title

Oct 12: CFC Monthly Meeting, John Read, “Fishing the St. Joe”, University Inn, Moscow

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 September Fall Fly Fishing Classic

Clearwater Fly Casters sponsored their very first Fall Fly Fishing Classic on Saturday, September 24, 2011, at the 1912 Center, Moscow, Idaho. It started at ten in the morning and continued until four in the afternoon. There were presentations in the Fiske Room; featured fly tyers in the Art Room; registration, vendor booths, raffles and silent auctions in the Great Room; youth activities and fly casting instruction on the high school lawn across the street; and refreshments on the Plaza outside the Great Room. Vendors with booths included Casting for Recovery, Dry Fly Innovations, Sure Shot Sporting Goods, and Northwest River Supplies. Refreshments were by New York Johnny's and The Ale House.



Nate Brumley (Dry Fly Innovations in Meridian, Idaho) gave two presentations, on “Winter Dry Fly Fishing” and “Dry Fly Essentials”. He discussed all aspects, including rods, leaders, tippets, flies, where and how to fish. His videos of casting techniques and catching big trout on Southern Idaho streams were very informative, as were the key flies to be used. Nate stressed that dry flies could be effective all year round, but that for winter fishing, they often had to be very small. He demonstrated tying techniques for some of the dry flies they make: Golden Stone, Mayfly and Searcher. To say Nate is enthusiastic about the sport of dry fly fishing would be an understatement!

One of our club members, John Read, gave his “Fishing the St. Joe” talk, with a Google Earth video leading us up the river, with embedded still pictures of the fishing. He discussed each run he has fished, indicating when and where and which fly. John discussed the runs he doesn't fish and the reasons, such as too dangerous to float, poor access, etc. Unfortunately, the Fiske Room projector quit during his talk, but he finished off with words what he couldn't show.



Mike Croft, an artist and author from Tacoma, gave an interesting presentation on why glow-bugs and other flies with lots of color are effective in catching fish. He drew pictures on a large art pad to illustrate his talk. Later, he demonstrated innovative ways to tie the GloBug and Fenton Fly, particularly techniques to make small GloBugs. His book “Lake Fly-Fishing Manifesto” is a classic, and he had a few with him for sale. He signed them with a drawing of a cartoon character, filling the inside the front cover, worth the price of the book by itself! His Stillwater Midge (emerging adult) is a must for all serious “frog-water” fishers.



Nick Davids of the Idaho Fish and Game talked about the “Potlatch River Steelhead Project”. He has been involved with monitoring and evaluating steelhead production and designing habitat restoration within this drainage. This is a long-term and on-going project, and club members have helped as volunteers in the recent past. The project is a challenge, as there are relatively low numbers of fish, very low water levels in late summer, and occasional big floods that take out everything in their path, including monitoring and restoration structures.



LeRoy Hyatt, a professional fly tyer from Lewiston, and co-host of the TV series “Fly Tying: The Angler's Art”, showed some of his innovative techniques, tying some incredible flies: Butch Caddis, Signal Light and Bloody Muddler. He is recognized as one of the premier fly tyers in the Pacific Northwest. He is found at all the regional events, and his name is known by all serious tyers. LeRoy has been a long-time supporter of our club.

Other outstanding tyers were featured on the day. Tim Cavileer (club member and UI scientist) demonstrated the McMurray Ant, Copper Top Nymph and Chernobyl Ant. Tim has been organizing our club fly-tying nights each month, selecting the flies to be featured in *The Tippet*, and communicating with interested members about tying schedules and locations. He is our club webmaster as well, and we do have a website we can all be proud of.

Bob Bates (Washington State Council of FFF and Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club – editor of *The Fly Leaf*), tied 3P Nymph, Pink Dink Leach, BH Serendipity and DF Damsel. His flies and tying techniques, as featured in the club newsletter he edits, have been a great help to our club members over the years, as well as many other tyers in the west.



Finally, Dan Wight (Spokane Fly Fishers member and officer – pictured at left with an interested attendee) demonstrated techniques for pike and saltwater patterns, as he was set up in the alcove above the Great Room. He ties some awesome flies! They would catch big pike wherever they reside. Also, he gave out advice about where and how to catch some nice pike in our area. His flies were sort of the antithesis of Nate Bromley's small winter trout flies. It looked like Dan's flies could feed on some of Nate's. Dan and Mike Croft had some good discussions about flies, materials and techniques after the event.

There were good numbers of club members and other folks from the nearby communities in attendance at various times of the day. The auctions and raffles were well-supported, and the vendors got a chance to talk to a good many attendees. Some folks learned a bit about casting, and at least a few kids were given a taste of what fly fishing is all about. According to Roxanne Bush, who coordinated the kids activities, at least one small boy will be hooked for life, as he was so disappointed he didn't catch the "red fish" (think red casting ring). Some of our big boys are still trying to "catch the red fish"!



Club members and special guests attended a catered BBQ dinner after the event. The Classic was hard work for a few club leaders, like our president Cliff Swanson (pictured at left), but several more helped out on the day, a good time was had by all, and the general feeling was that it had been highly successful. The event was Cliff's idea, and he pushed the committee and the club board to make it happen. We all own him a big thank-you!

Refreshments on the Plaza: The Ale House and New York Johnny's - fine drinks and brats



Event Pictures by Roger Willemsen

Fly of the Month: Olive X-Caddis

Hook: Standard dry fly, size 14 to 20
Thread: Olive 6/0 or 8/0
Shuck: Ginger or amber Z-lon
Wing: Elk hair (may be bleached)
Body: Olive Antron dubbing



This fly represents an emergent caddis with a trailing shuck and should be fished in the surface film. It was originated by tyers in West Yellowstone but has been modified and copied by many others in the west. Some tie the shuck as a loop, and it should be rather sparse. Color of the body and hook size should be adjusted to match the hatch. Colors might range from olive to tan to brown to black. For further descriptions and tying instructions, see the North Idaho Fly Casters September newsletter at the following website: http://www.northidahoflycasters.org/images_alan/2011Sep.pdf

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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.