



The *Tippet*

April, 2012

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



April Program: Jim Hill, "Fly Fishing in Glacier National Park"

Cheryl and Jim Hill have been fishing and hiking in Glacier Park for over 40 years. Their outdoor experiences with family and friends have taken them all over the park and across the continental divide on foot several times. Fishing has been great, although the essence of their trips has always been quality time with family and friends.



Cheryl grew up in Whitefish, Montana, about 30 miles west of Glacier Park. She worked two summers during high school at Granite Park Chalet in the park's back country. She was a Registered Nurse in the Pullman Regional Hospital's Operating Room for over twenty years until she retired in 2001. Cheryl has tied flies in the past, but not recently. Five grandkids get a lot of her attention, though.

Jim grew up in Havre, Montana, about 190 miles east of Glacier Park. His first trip to the park was as a boy scout in the 1950's. Jim retired from WSU in 2001 after 32 years in the computing services area. Jim doesn't tie flies although he dabbled a bit with it years ago. Jim learned fly fishing (and is still learning) from Cheryl's brother Chet and some of their friends.

This presentation will give you an overview of the park and fishing opportunities on both streams and lakes. Tips and techniques will be shared to give you a shot at success on your first visit. Some of our favorite haunts will be identified along with some insight on how to fish them. Books, maps, flies, and more pictures of Glacier Park will be available to peruse before and after the meeting.

Presidents' Message (Kay and Lynn Youngblood)

So it's April....can exciting fly fishing be on the immediate horizon? Actually, Kay and I, along with your erstwhile *Tippet* Editor, Reid Miller, tried to get an early jump on the season on the Owyhee River in mid-March. We knew from past experience that it would be warmer down there. So how does one explain the snow that we "enjoyed" ? The next day it did hit 70 degrees, so our faith in Mother Nature was restored. Modesty precludes me from telling you who caught the biggest fish, but suffice it to say that each of us caught more than one Brown that topped 20 inches. But please don't tell anyone, because it's already crowded enough down there! :-)

Calendar

Apr 5: Fly Tying, Moscow Title, Moscow 6:30-9 pm (Skinny George)

Apr 11: CFC Meeting, Jim Hill, "Flyfishing in Glacier", University Inn, Moscow 5:30 pm

Apr 28: Amber Lake Fishout

May 9: CFC Meeting, Rick and Sam Hedding, "Smallmouth Bass on the Fly", University Inn, Moscow 5:30 pm

June 9: ID Free Fishing Day, Elk River Outing

July 10-14: FFF Conclave, Spokane

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**

For the second time in as many months, the Best Western folks were forced to set up an additional table. So if you haven't made a meeting yet, you're missing out on a lot of fun, fellowship, and good info. Our upcoming meeting promises to be another delightful time with fellow CFC member Jim Hill sharing from his wealth of experiences fishing in and around Glacier National Park.

Let me try to tempt you to consider making the Amber Lake Fishout by indicating that in addition to delightful weather, there will be a catered noon shore lunch of burgers and brats AND Kay's delectable strawberry/rhubarb pie, as made by the Palouse Empire Fair's grand-prize winner. This item is weather dependent, but our rhubarb is up and if we ever get any sunshine, we'll be good to deliver on that promise. Hope to see you there.



Backcast to March Meeting

Guests: Pat Carey who recently moved to the area from California, Mike Ray who is visiting again, and Fred Spencer an old friend of Kay and Lynn from Palouse

Fishing Reports: Doug Baldwin said he had been to Rock Lake and hooked up with a few nice browns, the only one in the boat being nearly 30 inches. Dan Payne said he had fished The Ronde and caught several steelhead, some going 8-10 pounds, using a Black Wooly Bugger. John Reed had a customer that had fished Amber recently using the same fly, and he had done well. Jim Palmersheim fished the Clearwater and had a couple grabs, but he really liked his new Rio Skagit spey-casting line.

Cliff Swanson told a rather long story about his recent experience fly fishing through the ice at Georgetown Lake. He described it as hand-lining with a fly. He caught some nice brookies, lying on his belly and watching the fish swim around and grab his fly. In two days, he caught 10 fish, three rainbows and the rest brookies. He stayed at a motel in Anaconda, while his buddies froze out on the ice when the propane ran out. A big gust of wind took the ice house away, with Cliff inside, but his buddies grabbed it with no dire consequences.

Don Shearer took his son to fly fish at Rock Lake. It was windy, and his son caught Don three times but no fish. His son was aghast that Don thought this fun. Don helped some "old folks" get their boat launched and filled his waders in the process. All in all, it was a very good day.

Lynn Youngblood reported fishing Silver Lake and Cascade Lake with Fred Spencer. On one of these trips, Lynn got but a single fish, compared to quite a few caught all together. He had a phone message about how lonely it is to be "only one".

Committee Reports:

FFF: Steve Bush indicated that the WFFF fair will be May 4-5 in Ellensburg. The FFF Conclave will be in Spokane July 10-14 at the Convention Center and Red Lion Inn. See the web sites for more details about these upcoming events.

Membership: Paul Agidius reported that about half the members had paid dues for 2012, and that the rest could pay them tonight or soon. Paul presented a fly box to Fred Muehlbauer for his service as club president a few years ago.

Conservation: Doug Baldwin indicated that CCA has been working a number of issues with the WA legislature. A new law relating to abandoned nets appears ready for approval.

Scholarship: Cliff Swanson reported that Liza Mitchell had been selected for the CFC scholarship, and that she would appear to accept it in either April or May. There were six fine applications for this scholarship, and Kay Youngblood thanked Cliff for his efforts in getting all these great applications.

Program: Doug Young reminded the attendees that our own Jim Hill will be talking in April about fly fishing in Glacier National Park, and that Rick Hedding and his son will present a program on fly fishing for bass at our May meeting.

Fly Tying: Tim Cavileer said there had been a recent fly tying night and would be each month. He asked members to come, bring their fly tying equipment and join in the fun. He will send out an announcement of the next night, usually held at Moscow Title on Washington Street in Moscow.

Program: Bill Geer, Theodore Roosevelt Foundation, "Impact of Climate Change on Fisheries and Wildlife"

Bill's first job as a kid was working the local rodeo, and his earnings went straight to fishing tackle, such as new bass plugs. He read the first FFF journal, and there was an article on Rock Creek. This led to his choice of the University of Montana, not too far away. He has been in fish and wildlife management directly and indirectly for many years, and his job now is to keep the public informed about national issues and to ask for their help on specific ones of great urgency.

Bill has been working on the science and potential impacts of global warming on fisheries and wildlife in the West, and he has produced some videos targeting those who fish and hunt for recreational purposes. The video he showed tonight is on the State of Washington, but is really for the Columbia River Watershed, as state boundaries are meaningless when it comes to fish and game migrations. The video is titled "Beyond Season's End", and it will soon be up on their web site. (Editor's Note: Google "Beyond Seasons End". This web site has lots of good information and articles about this topic.)

There are a number of climate change related issues, but it is "all about the water". Sea levels are predicted to rise by 2-4 feet by 2100. This will result in major losses of coastal wetlands and a change in the profile of any up-slope new wetlands formed. These will be minimized by dikes and dams, because people already live there. Melting glaciers result in lower stream flows in the late summer and fall and less habitat. Air temperature increases result in higher stream temperatures and changes in the flora of higher areas, all of which push fish and wildlife to higher areas. In Washington, although overall precipitation is up, late summer precipitation is trending downward, resulting in lower stream flows and higher water temperatures. Timing is everything. Also, drought increases insect infestations, which are now devastating large timber stands in Washington and throughout the West. Droughts are resulting in huge fires, rather than helpful ones for wildlife.

So, what can be done? There are many agencies now thinking about and addressing the issue through specific projects, primarily mitigation projects. For example, stream communication projects are being done to help fish move upstream to lower water temperature conditions. Similarly, animal migration corridors are being improved to allow elk and other large game animals to move to higher elevation areas. This may have the impact of being harder to hunt, even though numbers may not suffer. In the case of Colorado, the herds have actually increased while hunter success has dropped.

There are many things that can be done. Governmental agencies respond to political pressure, and that peaked a few years ago and has since dropped relative to global warming. It has recently started to increase again. Bill suggested that his job was to inform, and that we could individually or collectively do with the information as we see fit.

Raffle: Scott O'Daniel was the winner of the Bill Hendrix net, and Bill said he would deliver it to Scott, who attends our St. Joe fish-outs each summer. Thanks to Bill, the Club netted about \$200, which will add to the scholarship fund.

Monthly raffle winners included Don Shearer, Reid Miller, John Reed, Steve Bush, Bruce Frazier, Mike Ray, Nancy Miller, Mary Reed, Roger Willemsen, Pat Carey, Bill Budd, Roxanne Bush, Bob Beuvel, George Hinman, Paul Agidius, Doug Baldwin, Eric Nordquist, Fred Muehlbauer, etc.

Fly of the Month: Skinny George

Hook: Daiichi 1270 #14-18

Thread: brown 8/0

Tail: olive marabou

Body: olive maribou (or Olive Super Fine dubbing)

Shell back: gold tinsel

Thorax: olive maribou (or Olive Super Fine dubbing)

Beard: olive marabou



Tim Cavileer watched Carolyn Sells tie this pattern on "Fly Tying: The Angler's Art" (Season 5, DVD #53). The original has a body of Super Fine olive dubbing, but Tim likes the marabou wound over the hook better. Everything on this fly is tied sparse, sparse, sparse. If you think you have the amount of material just right, split it and only use half!

Clearwater Fly Casters
PO Box 394
Pullman, WA 99163

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Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2012

President	Kay & Lynn Youngblood	kaylynn4341@yahoo.com
Vice President	(vacant)	
Past President	Cliff Swanson	clswan12@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bruce Frazier	bedwin43@gmail.com
Secretary	Lavon Frazier	lavon_frazier@roadrunner.com
FFF Representative	Steve Bush	moscowtitle@moscow.com (208)882-4564
Conservation Chair	Doug Baldwin	baldwin5750@roadrunner.com (509)334-1630
Program Chair	Doug Young	dlyoung1013@gmail.com (509)334-1617
Newsletter Editor	Reid Miller	millerrc@moscow.com (208)882-2877
Webmaster	Tim Cavileer	tcavi@uidaho.edu (208)883-4572

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.