



# The Tippet

March, 2012

## Clearwater Fly Casters

[www.clearwaterflycasters.com](http://www.clearwaterflycasters.com)

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



### March Program: William Geer, "Beyond Seasons' End in Washington: Climate Change and Fisheries"

The presentation addresses the: (1) physical evidence of climate change in Washington; (2) the effects of a changing climate on fish and wildlife; (3) the implications for sustainable hunting and fishing; and (4) measures and projects being taken now by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and several non-government organizations to ameliorate the most adverse impacts of climate change and maintain public fishing and hunting opportunities. The presentation will not advocate for Congressional legislation or political candidates, but instead provide scientifically sound and factual information to sportsmen and women so that they are better informed about climate change.



William Geer is Climate Change Initiative Manager for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Lolo, MT. He joined the TRCP staff in 2005 as Policy Initiatives Manager. After earning a B.S. from the University of Montana School of Forestry and a M.S. degree in limnology from Montana State University, Bill has spent the past 39 years as a professional fish and wildlife conservationist. He served as the Chief of Fisheries and Director of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Coordinator for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Vice President for both Field Operations and Conservation Programs for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Inland Northwest Conservation for the Nature Conservancy in Idaho and Executive Director of the Outdoor Writers Association of America before joining the TRCP in February, 2005. He currently serves on the board of directors for Hellgate Hunters & Anglers in Missoula, and Conservation Hawks in Bigfork, Montana. He is also an elected Community Council member in Lolo, Montana.



In addition, Bill became a fisheries biologist because of his lifelong love of fly fishing. He bought his first fly tying kit in 1961 when he got paid from his first job, and he still ties flies today. He joined the Federation of Fly Fishers when the organization first formed in about 1968, and he joined California Fly Fishers Unlimited in Sacramento in 1967, before moving to Montana the first time in 1970 to finish college. His wife bought him an Orvis Midge/Nymph 5-weight bamboo fly rod in 1972 as a college graduation present, and the first two trout taken on the rod were a 25 1/2" male brown trout weighing nearly 6 lb, and another 25" male brown trout an hour later weighing almost as much,

both caught on a home-tied Montana nymph. He still fishes with that rod, plus a few other graphite rods.

### Calendar

**Mar 14: CFC Meeting, William Geer, "Climate Change and Fisheries", University Inn, Moscow 5:30 pm**

**Mar 23-4: NIFFE, Red Lion, Lewiston**

**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**

### 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**

## Presidents' Message (Kay and Lynn Youngblood)

So it's March and for Kay and me that means dry fly fishing can't be far behind. Bring it on! But one of the things that keeps us going during the "off season" is our monthly meeting with our fellow Clearwater Fly Casters. Our goal at last month's meeting was to require the Best Western to set up an extra table.....and that's what they had to do! So congratulations to all of us!! We had at least 40 folks in attendance, and we're hoping to match that number again this month. In addition to what promises to be an excellent program, we will be concluding the raffle of Bill Hendrix' "catch and release" net, a beautiful work of art in itself. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Backcast to February Meeting (from notes by Cliff Swanson)

**Guests:** Barry Cumings and daughter Britney, Jim Cash and Dan Quesnell, as well as past members Bill Budd and Shirley Engerbretson, who have deep roots in the Clearwater Fly Casters club.

**Fishing reports:** Bart (?) caught a nice buck. Dan Payne reported that he and Steve had fished the Grande Ronde, caught a couple of steelhead and lost one. Fred and Andy fished the North Fork of the Clearwater, where Fred was being polite letting Andy catch the first fish. However, Andy was taking so long that Fred became bored and caught the first one himself. Kay, Lynn, Bruce and Lavon saw a steelhead caught while they were birding along the Snake River.

### Committee Reports:

**Membership:** Paul Agidius reported that there are 31 paid members, and he is waiting on 35 members that need to pay. Please settle up with Paul at the March meeting.

**Conservation:** Doug Baldwin reported that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation withdrew support for the Lochsa land exchange. The State of Washington legislature is planning to increase funding for hatcheries updates and production. So far, legislation has passed the House and the bill is before the Senate. The Columbia Land Trust has purchased some land at the estuary of the Columbia River. The plan is to restore some more of the traditional estuary area. Leroy Hyatt reported that the Ranger station will be closed as will other campgrounds on the Lochsa for the season. If the campgrounds that remain open do not bring in enough money, they will be privatized.

**Scholarship:** Cliff Swanson reported that five applications have been submitted so far. And it is possible that one more application may come in from an OSU student. There will be a decision made at the board meeting as to whether this student is eligible.

**Program:** All programs have been arranged for the year – see the attached Calendar.

**February Program:** The club was honored to have LeRoy Hyatt present to the club about steelhead fishing. During the wet fly hour, LeRoy tied several flies and shared some great tips on tying tricks and techniques. His program was extremely entertaining and helpful to anyone that goes steelhead fishing. Leroy's program included some great side notes and experiences he has had over the years. He also showed some flies that produce good results for catching steelhead. A number of them have been featured in past *Tippetts*, such as the "Beats Me".

LeRoy said that minimum steelhead rods are 6-weight, but 8 or 9-weight are more common. One must be able to cast consistently 60-70 ft. Most people over-cast the fish. Spey rods are often used for better line control. Learn one or two casts, and learn to cast left or right. Use a floating line until the water is 42° or below. In colder water, use a sink tip. Felt soles are a must. Studs are better for fishing but be careful, as guides do not like their boats scuffed up. A wading staff may just get you into trouble.

**Raffle:** In the monthly mini-auction, there was an aggressive bidding war between Cliff Swanson and Jolanta Kleinhoff for the baklava made by Kay Youngblood. Jolanta got it for \$24. A fly book by LeRoy Hyatt went for \$42. Raffle winners included Linda G, Dave T (won the Dog Food fly tied by LeRoy), Sharron T, Andy K and others. Next month the drawing for the Bill Hendrix custom float-boat landing net will take place.



## Fly of the Month: Mrs. Simpson

Fly tied by: John Morton, Photograph: Hans Weilenmann  
[http://www.danica.com/flytier/jmorton/mrs\\_simpson.htm](http://www.danica.com/flytier/jmorton/mrs_simpson.htm)

Recipe from Tim Cavileer:

Hook: #2 to 12 - 3X long shank, weight optional.

Thread: Black 6/0.

Tail: Black Squirrel.

Body: Red or Yellow or Green wool, floss or chenille.

Wing: Rump feathers of the male ring-neck pheasant. Often the church window feathers are used instead of the rump feathers.

Head: A well-formed varnished black head.



Text from: Alan Shepherd, Australia, <http://flyangersonline.com/features/oldflies/part236.php> (“just old flies” section)

In 1936, King Edward VIII and Mrs. Wallis Simpson, an American, wished to marry. Because Mrs. Simpson was divorced, with two husbands still living, the British Government took the view that she could not be Queen. The then Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, had the duty of informing the King, just months into his reign, that popular opinion would be opposed to such a marriage. King Edward was also warned that the resignation of the government was a possibility. On 16 November 1936, the King announced that he would renounce the throne. The press had a field day, but to cut a long story short, Edward VIII abdicated the throne in December, 1936.

At this time the 'Killer' style trout fly was developed and a name was required. To a trout, the fly is very attractive; it's a fly worth having; a fly that would merit a trout giving up its kingdom for, hence the 'Mrs. Simpson' trout fly was christened.

The fly is dressed in the 'Killer' style, a distinctive way of fly dressing in which feathers (usually spade-shaped breast feathers) are tied flat on both sides, flanking the hook in a streamer fashion. Both New Zealand patterns; Mrs. Simpson and Hamill's Killer (Bill Hamill) were some of the earliest flies dressed on this style. Other well known early flies in this style include a South African pattern, Walker's Killer, and the American fly, the Hornberg (Frank Hornberg).

As with all flies tied in the 'killer' style, the number of feathers utilized depends on the hook size. For sizes #8 to 12 hooks, only 4 feathers are needed, two on each side tied in at the head (Editor's note: perhaps with the bottom pair slightly longer than the top pair). As the hook size or shank length increases, so too does the number of feathers needed. For sizes # 6 to 8 flies, 8 feathers are used, two pairs at the head and another two pairs at the midpoint of the hook shank. The big flies on sizes #2 to 4 hooks will require 3 pairs of feathers along each side. That's 12 feathers per fly, two pairs at the head, two pairs 1/3 of the length down the hook and another two pairs 2/3 of the length down the hook shank.

Whatever the size of the fly, all the pairs of feathers should be matched and dressed concave sides facing inward. Picking feathers from a whole skin is the only way to go; this is because the feathers can easily be picked and matched. As you can imagine these flies are very difficult, fiddly and time-consuming to make. Just matching and stripping the base of each feather takes quite some time.

Editor's notes: LeRoy Hyatt wrote an article about this fly in the Lewiston Tribune a year or two ago, titled “Here's to you, Mrs. Simpson”. By the way, he recommends tying them weighted.

When I and my family spent six months in Christchurch 30 years ago, the first thing I did was to go down to the local fishing shop and buy some flies for NZ trout. The salesman was quite knowledgeable and recommended a handful of nice streamers. Of course, Mrs. Simpson and Hamill's Killer were among those I got, and I still have them in my collection. I wish I could tell you about all the “big ones”, but I really can't remember catching a single fish on either pattern. Based on LeRoy's article, you bet I will be trying them on some of the Washington lakes this summer. I did catch some nice rainbows at a lake near Christchurch, on some Love's Lure dry flies I got at the same shop.

Clearwater Fly Casters  
PO Box 394  
Pullman, WA 99163

*Clearwater Fly Casters*

*March, 2012*

## 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.