



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



December Program: Ken Cain, “Restoration of Burbot in the Kootenai River”

Native populations of burbot (*Lota lota*), the only cod living in freshwater, have declined rapidly in both North America and Europe. In Idaho, the only native population of this species is found in the Kootenai River. This stock of freshwater cod has traditionally been a valuable cultural, economic and subsistence fishery for Native Americans in the region and provided sport and commercial fishing opportunities until stocks collapsed in the 1970s and 1980s. About 10 years ago, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho



along with concerned citizens initiated efforts to re-establish burbot in this system. It is anticipated that continued conservation aquaculture efforts combined with habitat improvement will lead to population recovery and a sustainable fishery for this species into the future.

Biography: Dr. Cain (Ken) received his PhD in Fish Health/Immunology from Washington State University in 1997 and holds a B.S degree in Fisheries and an M.S degree in Aquaculture (fish nutrition) from Michigan State University. Currently, he is a Professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences at the University of Idaho. In addition, he holds an administrative appointment as the Associate Director of the UI’s Aquaculture Research Institute. Dr. Cain is an active researcher and has authored or co-authored over 60 refereed journal articles and a number of other scholarly articles and book chapters.



Ken’s primary research interests focus on defining the immune system in fish and developing vaccines and other tools to combat important fish diseases. He has worked on wild and hatchery fish and holds patents for new tools for use in controlling or diagnosing diseases in fish. Ken’s personal interests and hobbies center around outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting, kayaking, rafting, camping, and snowboarding.

Presidents’ Message (Kay and Lynn Youngblood)

The crowd for the November meeting was a little lighter than one might have hoped (pushing 30), but those of you who weren’t there missed as fine a program as we’ve had in some time. The “back cast” will tell you more, but Marika Dobos was quite a hit and it would be my guess that she’ll be invited back in a year or so to further update us on her work and the investment that CFC has made in her efforts.

Calendar

Dec 11, Dr. Ken Cain, “Restoration of Burbot in the Kootenai River”, CFC Monthly Meeting, University Inn, 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

We now look forward to the December meeting which will include, of course, the drawing for a fly rod from all the raffle tickets purchased this year. Be certain that your dues are paid up in order to be eligible for the drawing.

This is the last "President's Message" from Kay and me as we are finishing up our "two year term." It has been a wonderful experience for us and we're very grateful to everyone in the Club for working with us as we picked up this mantle two years back having had no experience in providing leadership to CFC. In that vein, a special note of thanks to our Executive Committee who took us under their wing and provided guidance.

Backcast to November Meeting

Guests: Bob Barry of Pullman appeared to be the only guest.

Fishing Reports:

Cliff Swanson reported fishing The Joe with Marc Ratzlaff recently. They used small flies, after roping down a steep bank near Cable Creek and taking turns casting. Cliff caught 25 in one hole and Marc a few as well. Marc went back two weeks later and reported the fishing completely dead.

John Read had been up on The Joe, after he heard about Cliff's trip. He worked his way up from Huckleberry, past Avery and Eagle Creek to Prospector Creek. He really slayed them after switching to an October Caddis. All told, he caught over 50 fish.

Kay and Lynn Youngblood were on The Joe very recently, to say they had fished in November, like they do each year. They stayed at Huckleberry CG. The weather was terrible while they were there and the fishing poor.

Doug Baldwin said he had been out several times, using gear for Steelhead with some success. Also, he spent three days on Rock Lake with good luck on Browns. He participated on the Steelhead Smolt catching trip for Game and Fish on the East Fork. Brett said the probability for success was low, but they caught 80, which was a big surprise. The temperature of the water was so high they couldn't do the desired surgery on these smolts.

David Yonge reported lots of casting practice for Steelhead, but he had landed one. Once he went with A. J. who is an outstanding spey caster. He tried David's rod and said he didn't like it – couldn't get it out like his own rod and line. A. J. was using an Airflo Delta Spey line and rods David had never heard of. David guesses he still has a lot to learn about spey casting!

Andy Kleinhofs had been up on the Upper Rhonde during the past two weeks. There were no fish and no people fishing either. Someone said the Steelhead are mostly still in the Lower Granite Pool.

Committee Reports: The Executive Committee decided that the club would only have reports by request of the committee chairs. There being no such requests tonight, the Presidents called for a Treasurer's report.

Bruce Frazier said the club now had \$4255 in operating funds and \$7595 in scholarship funds.

Announcements:

There will be no gift exchange at the December meeting.

Dave Tharp modeled an old long-sleeved tee shirt he found in his closet. It had a picture of George Hinman on it, when George was in his 30s, with a fly rod and nice fish. The wording said, "If you don't like environmentalists – put us out of business." George is the only founding member of the club still with us.

A list of "Accepted Practices" for the club was distributed at the meeting. Feedback on needed additions or deletions are sought by the Presidents and Executive Committee. A copy of this material will be attached to the On-Line newsletter for December.

Paul Agidius reminded the club members that the end-of-year drawing for the fly rod will be held at the December meeting. To be eligible, members must be paid up on their dues for this year, as well as have tickets in the pot from monthly meeting raffles.

Program: Marika Dobos, "Habitat Use and Movement Patterns of Westslope Cutthroat Trout in the South Fork Clearwater River Basin"

Marika gave her own fishing report. She was part of a group that fished for Steelhead on the Grand Rhonde near Troy, OR, on October 24-5. They caught 15-20 fish, averaging about 50 hours per fish per fisherperson.

The work she talked about tonight was her Masters' thesis project, which is still in progress. She has had support from the club, and the club bought her a dry suit to wear while snorkeling. Club members have helped Marika by catching fish for radio tagging (see picture at right).

Marika says that there are 14 sub-species of Westslope Cutthroat, and that they use three strategies: adfluvial, fluvial, and resident. They now occupy only 59 % of their historical distribution, with the largest area now in Idaho, amounting to over half their total area. Historically, there were larger areas in Montana. Losses of habitat, introduction of non-native species, and harvest have all been factors in their decline.

Her work has focused on the South Fork of the Clearwater, because fish numbers are low and average sizes are small in this river, compared to other rivers in the Clearwater Basin. In the early 1970s, these problems were apparent throughout the basin, but changes in harvest regulations have caused great improvement in the Middle and North Fork drainages. Since 2010, similar regulations have been put on the South Fork, with catch-and-release on the main stem and two fish on the tributaries. The questions is will these be effective on this stream? Is the environment supportive?

The South Fork can be considered to be composed of four different sections. The upper section has good flows and a number of good tributaries, but this section has been historically impacted by mining and clear-cutting. The middle section is a high gradient, canyon stream. Below the canyons, there is a meadow section with riffles and pools. The lower section is a low-gradient, wide river with high water temperatures in the summer months, lethal for Westslope Cutthroat.

She is using different strategies to study distribution and movement of trout in this river system. Radio telemetry is expensive but very effective. Snorkeling is cheap but may not be as effective. Temperature loggers can help with assessment of environmental conditions throughout the year, and 11 of these are in operation. They tagged 35 fish and followed them for a season. Of these, 19 survived, 12 were confirmed dead, and 4 just disappeared. A few of those that died were due to predators. Fish that were tagged below the canyon section mostly stayed there, with some up and down stream movement. The fish tagged above the canyon section stayed there, moving in and out of the tributaries.

Marika does not yet have definite conclusions from her work. Hopefully, she will return and give us an update when she finishes her thesis work.



Fly of the Month: Doc's Mayfly

From the FFF website: It is with sad heart that we must report Bob Bates, longtime producer of the Fly of the Month, passed away on October 16, 2013.

Source: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Tying/FlyoftheMonth.aspx>

Hook: Tiemco 2488H, size 16 size for PMD

Thread: Light Cahill, 6/0

Tail: Brown dry fly hackle

Wingcase/ abdomen: Rainy's nymph stretch or scud back

Thorax/legs: Goose CDC



Jeremy Gilbertson from Billings, MT, tied this pattern at the 2011 FFF Fly Fishing Fair in West Yellowstone, Montana. He tied it to be a durable all-day fly, which guides like because they do not have to keep changing a guest's fly. He fishes it on the Missouri and Bighorn rivers where there are a lot of fish to catch if you know how to do it.

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Clearwater Fly Casters

December, 2013

Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2013

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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.

Clearwater Fly Casters

Accepted Practices

2013

1. There is an opening picnic/potluck/bar-b-cue as determined by the President on the second Wednesday of September at a location determined by the President in coordination with the Board.
2. Regular meetings will be held the second Wednesday of the months October through May.
3. The general location of the meetings will be The Best Western-University Inn in Moscow, ID.
4. In April, the President coordinates with Best Western-University Inn to verify meeting dates for each meeting of the following year, October through May.
5. The Executive Committee sets the club meeting schedule to: Wet Fly Hour 5:30 pm. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and program immediately thereafter.
6. There is an annual "fish out" on a Saturday in late April or early May at Amber Lake with the President providing lunch; expenses subsidized by the Club.
7. There is an annual "fish out" in mid-July at Fly Flat Camp Ground at the St. Joe. A potluck is held around 6:00 p.m. on Saturday evening for members and guests.
8. The club has participated in and paid for all entry fees in the Moscow Art Walk with members tying flies at a provided table.
9. Through the generous donation of Bob Harwood, the club is selling his fish prints (framed and unframed) with the revenue going in to general fund.
10. The club has participated in the Pullman Art Walk, no fees necessary, coordinating with a merchant in setting up Bob Harwood's framed fish prints and tying flies.
11. The Executive Committee opens all board meetings to all club members and encourages all to attend with the hope that attendance by membership will provide a greater input regarding the management of club affairs.
12. The Executive Committee generally meets at least 1 week prior to the regular meeting to allow time for any research or coordination to occur before the regular meeting. The date, time and location are determined by the President with consensus of the Board.
13. The President is responsible for preparing the speaker's framed certificate for piscatorial prowess, etc.
14. The Executive Committee shall in cooperation with the Treasurer provide the Program Chair with an upper limit for speaker honoraria/housing on an annual basis.
15. The club will pay for the dinner of the speaker and 1 or 2 guests as determined by the Program Chair at each monthly meeting of the Clearwater Fly Casters.
16. The Program Chair may seek complimentary housing for guest speakers when needed.
17. The club shall maintain through the Membership Chair an updated Membership Directory. That Directory shall be available to all members for personal use but shall not be given out for commercial purposes.
18. The Tippet Editor shall maintain an Email Directory of all members where applicable.
19. The club does not allow commercial advertising in the club newsletter, the Tippet. Members shall be permitted to advertise to buy or sell personal items pertaining to fly-fishing.
20. The chairperson(s) and or committee for the biennial club auction will be appointed by the President.
21. The Alspach-Engerbretson Memorial Scholarship is open to any under graduate or graduate student in the studies of fisheries research and management and natural resources from the schools of University of Idaho, Washington State University, Lewis Clark State College and Eastern Washington University.
22. The immediate Past President shall serve as the chair of the Scholarship Committee.
23. The Executive Committee will be responsible for reviewing all scholarship applications and selecting the scholarship recipient.
24. Scholarship applications are due in February with presentation of scholarship winner and distribution of funds at the March meeting.
25. The Steve Allured-Benton Collins Award may be given yearly in recognition of outstanding contributions to the activities of the club. Past members of this award select the recipient for each year.
26. The operating year of Clearwater Fly Casters is September 1 through August 31.
27. General membership dues should be paid by December.
28. Individual membership dues are \$20.00.
29. Family membership dues are \$30.00.
30. Student membership dues, with student identification, are set at half the regular membership.
31. The club will rent a post office box in Pullman with the treasurer having the key.
32. The club shall maintain the domain site of www.clearwaterflycasters.com.
33. The club shall maintain hosting services for the club website.
34. Check signature persons and debit card holders are the Treasurer, Membership chair and Program Chair.
35. In the event of a club members death, a sympathy card will be sent to the family.
36. The President or Program Chair is responsible for the overhead projector and laptop.