



# The Tippet

February, 2013

## Clearwater Fly Casters

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

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



## February Program: Joe DuPont, Idaho Fish and Game, “Our Local Fisheries and Fish You Can Expect to Catch”

During this presentation I will go over how to identify our local fishes (this will even test some of the more experienced fishers) and then talk about when and where the best fishing occurs in waters from the Coeur d’Alene River down to the Grande Ronde.

Personally, fishing has been a huge part of my life, and now many of the activities my family partakes in revolve around fishing. In fact, there’s nothing more that our family likes to do than go on fishing trips. Last year these trips ranged from a fly fishing trip to the Missouri River to sturgeon fishing up Hells Canyon.

I have been a fisheries biologist since 1990 with most of this time spent in Northern Idaho. During this time, I have worked for AVISTA, IDL and IDFG. Currently, I work for the IDFG in Lewiston as a fisheries manager where I oversee the fisheries program for the Clearwater Region.

## Presidents’ Message (Kay and Lynn Youngblood)

What do we take for granted in life? As I get older, it seems that I’m more constantly reminded of how precious each day is. When Kay and I changed landscapes almost 7 years ago (from Indiana to the Palouse), we discovered a whole new world and what natural blessings there are in the Pacific Northwest. As we read obituaries in the morning newspapers, it’s quite common to see pictures of the now-deceased holding a trophy fish, or read about how they treasured fishing during his/her lifetime. One recent obit described how one gentleman shared at camp, after landing a 16” cutthroat on Kelly Creek, that he felt that he....”had just entered the pearly gates!” At this time of year, there’s a special longing, at least for us dry fliers, for spring to come and get back to the streams. I promise never to take for granted what we have come to cherish out here.....and that includes our friends in CFC and our shared wonderful hobby. Hope to see you at our February meeting.



## Calendar

**Feb 13: CFC Meeting, Joe Dupont, Kelly Creek Flycasters, “North Idaho Fisheries”**

**Feb 26: CFC Fly Tying Night, Moscow Title, 6:30 -9 pm**

**Mar 13: CFC Auction**

**Mar 22-23: NIFFE, Kelly Creek Flycasters, Lewiston**

**Jun 23-9: NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy (see p. 5 of On-line Tippet for details)**

## 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**

## Backcast to January Meeting

**Guests:** Katrina and Carl Johnson of Moscow

**Fishing Reports:** Marc Ratzlaff reported fishing down at Pyramid Lake on his ladder for Lahonton Cutthroat. He caught three fish to 23 inches. Someone caught a 24-pounder, which had been released as a small fish in 2007. Cliff Swanson visited Winchester Lake, where limits of trout were caught using a “modified-fly” technique (angle worm).

There was a call for Reid Miller to report on his fishing in Nicaragua, but he passed the baton to David Yonge. David said that he and Reid had taken their fly rods and did a bit of casting from a big rocky island along the Pacific Coast. Reid got one good strike but no hookup, and David had seen a giant fish, probably a Rooster Fish, come up out of the depths and cruise the shallows around the island. It showed no interest in his fly.

David said the wedding of his daughter Catherine on the beach on 12/12/12 was much more interesting. It was a beautiful affair, on the beach at sunset. The ceremony was about to begin, when a boat came roaring around the headland and into the bay, nosing right up on the beach. A man jumped out carrying a suit on a hanger. As he hurried up to the wedding site, his hip flask fell onto the sand, and he had to retrieve it. He turned out to be the lawyer that had to be present to make the wedding legal. He changed over in the bushes and sat through the ceremony, retiring to the bar as soon as possible after.

Doug Baldwin visited the Snake River last week, but there was just too much water and too much wind.

### **Committee Reports and Announcements:**

**Conservation:** Doug Baldwin attended a hearing on December 15 on the Washington-Oregon joint effort to revise the fishing rules on the Lower Columbia. He got a chance to speak on eliminating gill nets. This now seems to be a done deal, with only a few minor points to be worked out. The final decision will be made this coming Saturday.

**Scholarship:** Cliff Swanson said that applications had been received, all from Eastern Washington University, and that he had copies with scoring sheets, if there are members interested in looking at them. A decision will be made at the next Board Meeting, where any interested members are welcome to attend.

**Membership:** Paul Agidius said that he is now taking dues and members need to pay if they have not already done so.

**Program:** Doug Young has Joe Dupont from the Kelly Creek Club lined up for a presentation in February. The club auction will be in March, and he is working on the rest of the spring schedule. It was reported that Brett Bowersox will donate a sturgeon trip for the auction.

### **Program: Video “Trout Grass”, written and narrated by David James Duncan**

A famous Chinese poet eloquently described bamboo over 1200 years ago. It grows as much as three feet in a night, reaching heights of 60-100 feet. All paper and pens in China were made from this material for millennia. Of course, it has many other uses in construction, water transport, etc. The best bamboo for fly rods comes from Guangdong Province in Southern China, which has been the exclusive world supply for over 100 years. Women harvest the bamboo high on the slopes, and it is transported to the villages, by hand down to the lower slopes and then by carts on the gentler sections. There are now 180,000 acres of bamboo, and tens of thousands of people make their living by harvesting it. It is weighed, dried, cut, sorted and prepared for export. Less than 1 % is used for fly rods. It has to be straight, heavy and bug-free. Only one species of bamboo out of a total of 1200 species that grow in China is suitable for fly rods. One agent (Andy Royer) is responsible for selection of the bamboo exported to the US market, and all the great rod-makers get their material from him. None of these rod-makers had ever visited the Southern China region until Hoagie Carmichael, son of the great musician and a famous rod-maker, visited this area a few years back and became part of the “Trout Grass” video.

Relatively small quantities in bundles are transported by container ship to Seattle. They are then trucked to rod-building shops all over the country, like the Sweetgrass Rod Company owned by master builder Glenn Brackett in Twin Bridges, Montana. On the video, the many processes were explained by which bamboo poles are turned into fine fishing fly rods.

Also featured in the video was Tom McGuane, a famous fly fisherman and writer. He and David James Duncan described and demonstrated fly fishing some Montana streams using the bamboo rods made by Glen Brackett. They claim there is a magical connection with nature when using one of these rods that is different from the experience using a rod of man-made materials. Although casting distance may not be as great, the bamboo rods will give great accuracy and consistency over many years, as there is absolutely no historesis in the rod's flexes.

Bob Clark answered some questions after the video. He is from Lewiston and a member of both our club and Kelly Creek Flycasters. Bob is a master bamboo rod building and said he gets all his material from Andy Royer. He confirmed the figure quoted in the video of it taking about sixty hours to complete each rod by hand operations. Bob said he has enough good material to make all the rods he hopes to in his lifetime. He has donated bamboo rods to the club in the recent past.



## Fly of the Month: Klinkhamer Emerger

By Bob Bates: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Tying/FlyoftheMonth.aspx>

**Hook:** Klinkhamer extreme, size 12

**Thread:** 8/0 dark orange

**Post:** Poly, white

**Hackle:** Badger

**Body:** Uni yarn, orange

**Thorax:** Peacock herl



**Some excerpts from Bob's descriptions:** People have bragged about the Klinkhamer for years. However, some folks I have seen tying what they called a Klinkhamer were really tying some wild variations of it. Then I saw Judy Gattinella from Marysville, WA tying her version of it at the 2012 National Fly Fishing Fair in Spokane, Washington. It was a great looking fly.

According to several websites Hans van Klinken developed this fly in 1984. He was attempting to mimic the caddis larva he found in the grayling he fished for in Norway and his native Holland. The above version has an orange body to simulate an October Caddis. However, if you think about it, from the beginning it was a case of matching the hatch. One website has black, olive, cream, brown, sulfur and claret Klinkhamers. You present this pattern in the usual dry fly way -- drag free float. Its white wing is something for you to see and a body under water for the fish to see. (Note: See the website for tying instructions.)

The color of the hackle is not too important as long as it has some white on it. Generally, the white hackle disappears. Judy uses Frog Fanny floatant. She spoke highly of it. I'll have to get some and try it. If you can't get the official Klinkhamer hooks use a long curved shank hook and bend the front part down about 30 degrees. Is it a true Klinkhamer? I won't tell. However, tie a bunch and go fishing.

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*Clearwater Fly Casters*

*February, 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.

## **2013 NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy**

It's just around the corner, the opportunity of a life time for our youth 12-16 to learn conservation and our sport of fly fishing. Applications will be accepted starting January 1, 2013, for the NWYCFF Academy, June 23-29 at Hicks Lake, Gwinwood Community Center in Lacey, WA. The applicant must submit a written essay, explaining why she/he would like to attend, and a letter of recommendation is needed from their school counselor or science teacher. Applications are available on our website – [www.nwyeffa.com](http://www.nwyeffa.com) or contact me - mtclancy39@comcast.net. We also have a Facebook site with lots of pictures, showing what we do during the week.

All meals are included, and everyone will stay in warm comfortable cabins with bunk beds. There are very clean facilities with good clean showers. Each person needs to bring a sleeping bag, pillow and personal items. All fishing gear is provided, except waders and/or hip boots. All fly tying gear will be provided. Many will catch their first fish on a new fly they tied.

Cost is still \$275 for the whole week, but there are sponsorships available and no one will be turned away because of money. The event is sponsored by WCTU, WSCFFF and hosted by the South Sound Fly Fishers, Puget Sound Fly Fishers and Olympia Chapter TU. We will limit enrollment to 24 boys and girls.

There is classroom time, but we spend a lot of time casting, tying, eating, sleeping and learning what's in our streams. We are fortunate to have excellent staff of volunteer teachers. We had over 50 volunteers in 2012, and I'm sure we will have the same amount again in 2013.

So mark your calendars for the last week of June, the 23<sup>rd</sup> thru the 29<sup>th</sup>. This is a golden opportunity for our youth to learn a lifelong activity. The youth of today are the guardians of the future sport of fly fishing. Mike Clancy, Co-Director, 360-753-1259 & Jim Brosio, Co-Director, 360-943-9947 (Sponsorships are available, just ask us)