



The Tippet

January, 2013

Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



January Meeting: Video “Trout Grass”, an award-winning documentary written and narrated by David James Duncan (www.troutgrass.com)

Fishing. It is a passion spun of wild places, tools & techniques, and the stories that bind them. Trout Grass is the story of that passion.

This unique film documents the transformation of bamboo from a hardy species of grass into a meticulously crafted split cane fly rod. Shot on location in the lush forests of Southern China and the majestic rivers of Montana, Trout Grass captures the allure of craftsmanship and rivers as well as the notion that fishing is about much more than catching fish.



Follow the journey of a remarkable plant through the hands-on approach to a century old tradition as master rod maker Glenn Brackett transforms a single bamboo pole into a stunning three ounce fly rod.

From the hands of a builder to the hands of an angler, we follow narrator David James Duncan (*The River Why, The Brothers K*) and fly fishing legend Thomas McGuane (*The Longest Silence, Ninety-two in the Shade*) to one of Montana’s resplendent waterways. Here, these two anglers reveal the magic of fishing with a fly rod made of grass and connecting with the order of rivers and flowing things.

Presidents’ Message (Kay and Lynn Youngblood)

H – Hoppers

A – Ants

P – Pheasant Tail

P – PMD

Y – Yellow Sally

N – Nymphs

E – Emergers

W – Wulffs

Y – Yellow Humpy

E – Elk Hair Caddis

A – Adams

R – Royal Trude

Rain or Shine, **WET or DRY**, we want to **BUG** you about making certain to **FLY** to all of our **CFC** meetings in 2013.

Collins-Allured Award Winner

Cliff Swanson holds his club award for outstanding service and the fly box for being past president at the December meeting of the Clearwater Fly Casters. Congratulations go to Cliff for this well-deserved award.



Calendar

Jan 9: CFC Meeting, Video “Trout Grass”

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

March 13: CFC Auction

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 December Meeting

Guests: Brett Bowersox and Dan Kenney

Kay read letter from Selkirk Conservation Alliance thanking the club for our donation in memory of Bob Harwood.

Fishing Reports: Chris Lewis fished for steelhead on the Snake, trolling with plugs, hooked many, 5 keepers. Jim Nagler fished on the Clearwater with a drift boat, caught three on plugs.

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Scholarship - Cliff reported we have three applications, all from EWU. The committee will hopefully announce the winner at the January meeting.

Membership - Paul is still accepting dues, with the membership year now Sept thru August. Cliff noted that he hands out club business cards when he meets people fishing or whatever.

Program - Doug is planning the Trout Grass DVD on growing and production of bamboo fly rods for our January meeting. Joe Dupont of the Kelly Creek club will give a presentation on different species of fish in WA and ID for February. The club auction is being planned for March. Members should consider gifting items for auction. Dave Tharp will be the auctioneer. Doug asked for DVDs that members own to use as stand-in presentations.

FFF - Steve reported on the FFF event in Spokane. Over 450 registered, with over 1000 additional public attendees. There were 110 fly-tying demos. Kay said the club had a booth and sold a number of Harwood prints. FFF has joined TU in efforts to eliminate lake trout in Yellowstone Lake, having some success.

Conservation - Doug B reported there are 18 claims for placer mining on the North Fork. He also talked about WA joining with OR to phase out non-native gillnetting on the Lower Columbia. Doug plans to attend a hearing on Saturday in Olympia to give input. Dave Tharp moved, Paul A seconded, and a motion carried unanimously that Doug represent CFC at the meeting as well as himself. Doug thinks the tribes will stop gillnetting too if this becomes law. (see attachment to On-Line *Tippet*)

Fly Tying - Steve B noted that the fly tying night will resume in January.

Treasurer - Bruce said there were a few calendars left. Members who ordered them should pay for and pick them up. Any remaining calendars will be available in January.

Special Presentations - Doug Young presented the 2012 Allured-Collins award to Cliff Swanson. John Read presented Cliff with a hand-crafted fly box for being past president.

IDFG Announcement - Cliff introduced Brett Bowersox who described an IDFG project to look at cutthroat in the South Fork of the Clearwater. They want to gather more information to protect them and do habitat restoration. They will be working with grad students, but they are looking for volunteers to catch fish in order to radio-tag them, also looking for funding for radio tags which cost about \$250 each. They want to tag at least 40 fish. The difference between a PIT tag and radio tag is that PIT has to be activated by the fish swimming close to an antenna while the radio tag actually transmits a signal all the time. Radio tags will last about a year to track movement of the fish. Jen Bruns will coordinate the volunteers, with a formal announcement likely in February, and with fishing in late March or early April. Doug Young suggested members might want to donate for a radio-tag - "adopt a fish". Kay suggested a reminder in the Feb *Tippet* and an actual article in March.

Announcements of Public Interest - Kay...

mentioned option of volunteering hours at WA state parks and get a Discover Pass in return. See www.discoverpass.wa.gov for more info.

announced a \$100 donation to Casting for Recovery and also thanked Bill Hendrix for donating a hand-made net to the group.

Program: Dan Kenney, Fisheries Biologist, US Forest Service, "Bull Trout Basics: Biology, Distribution, and Conservation"

Dan Kenney has been at Orofino for two years. He was previously at Sawtooth National Forest near Ketchum. Dan explained the taxonomic breakdown of the Salmonidae family. Bull trout belong to the *Salvelinus* genus which also includes lake trout; all fish in this genus are called char. Char have light spots on dark background, while trout have dark spots on light background. There are three native char in the western US: Dolly Varden, Bull Trout, and Arctic Char. Bull Trout and Dolly Varden were formerly the same species, but they were separated in 1978. All char in WA and Northern ID are Bull Trout, not Dolly Varden. Here, Bull Trout might be confused with Brook Trout. Best way to tell them apart is by the dorsal fin. Bull Trout have transparent or light dorsal fins, whereas Brook Trout have a dark pattern. Hybrids are in between.

Bull trout are highly predacious and will eat all sorts of other fish. They are usually migratory. World record for size is over 30 pounds, caught on Lake Pend Oreille. Some are "resident" in small streams, but most are "fluvial" and move from small spawning streams into larger streams to live. Some are "adfluvial", meaning they move into lakes or reservoirs to live. They are anadromous in the Puget Sound region.

Bull trout spawn in the fall, usually late August or early September on the North Fork. Eggs hatch in the spring. These fish require very cold water, especially for spawning and early rearing, as well as low levels of sediment. Where they are most dense, a monoculture often occurs, i.e., they are the only species in that vicinity.

Bull Trout in Dworshak Reservoir are adfluvial. They migrate to the mainstream North Fork in late spring, to larger tributaries in early to mid-summer, then high up in tributaries for spawning in August and September.

Dan's research was in Boardman Creek in the Sawtooth National Forest. He found the fish grow for four years and then out-migrate. They're 1 1/2" at 1 year, 4" at two years, 6" at four years, and 7" - 10" when they out-migrate, mostly in the spring but some in the fall. However, it is not the same for all streams. The environment and food supply can effect fish size and out-migration times.

Bull trout are often in shallow streams and it is easy to approach them. Dan showed close-up pictures of fish, one about 34" long. Approachability makes them vulnerable to poaching and predation. Females usually spawn every other year. They need time in between to gain body mass and make the trip back up a tributary worthwhile. A redd is about a square meter in size. Most of the fish survive spawning. He showed counts of redds in certain areas of four streams of the upper North Fork. There was a steady increase for 8-12 years, but there has been a definite decrease the last two years.

The original distribution of Bull Trout was basically the Columbia drainage. Numbers are on the decline, and Bull Trout was designated an endangered species in 1990. There are five recovery areas in WA, OR, and ID, plus some in Canada. Primary threats are 1) blockages such as dams and culverts that prevent passing upstream, 2) habitat degradation such as stream diversions, warming water, and sedimentation, 3) hybridization and competition with Brook Trout, and 4) over-harvest from poaching or just not being able to identify them correctly.

Fly of the Month: North Fork Special SBS

By ScottP on Fly Anglers Online – see website for detailed instructions

<http://www.flyanglersonline.com/bb/showthread.php?48343-North-Fork-Special-SBS>

hook - Dai Riki 135 #10

underbody/weight - lead free wire .025

thread - UTC 140 black

tail - goose biots natural grey

body - rabbit dubbing black

rib - Ultrawire med red

wing cases - biots black

legs - goose biots natural grey

bead - silver 5/32



Clearwater Fly Casters
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Clearwater Fly Casters

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Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2012

President	Kay & Lynn Youngblood	kaylynn4341@yahoo.com
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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.



Date: Monday, December 10, 2012 1:10 PM
 From: CCA Washington <info@ccapr.org>
 To: Doug Baldwin <baldwin5750@roadrunner.com>
 Subject: Will you Help Make History?



CCA WASHINGTON ACTION ALERT



Hi Doug,

Last Friday the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission voted to adopt a proposal that would end the use of indiscriminate gillnets in the mainstem Columbia. An Associated Press article on the decision can be found by [clicking here](#).

This watershed event in Northwest fisheries management is a direct result of the efforts of CCA members like you. However we must get both states to adopt this proposal and **we need you to voice your support for the policy this Saturday at the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting.**

Public comment on the proposal will start at **9:00 AM on Saturday, December 15** in Olympia (details below). The Commission will then vote on a policy to implement the Workgroup recommendations at their January 11th-12th meeting. It is critically important that we fill the room with supporters of ending gillnet use. Time and time again you have answered the call. In fact, CCA members from Oregon and Washington outnumbered commercial gillnet interests at every step, including the last Workgroup meeting near Astoria! We are so close to victory, but we can't let this slip through our fingers.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission vote followed three months of extensive public hearings and negotiations between the two state Fish and Wildlife Commissions after Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber released his reform proposal in response to Oregon's Measure 81 ballot initiative. The key provisions of the Workgroup proposal approved by Oregon last week include:

Ban the use of gillnets in the mainstem Columbia River by 2017. After this "transition period" gillnets would only be permitted in off-channel "SAFE" areas where they have minimal impact on wild and upriver salmon and steelhead stocks.

Prioritize recreational fishing in the Columbia River mainstem, leading to significant increases in recreational fishing opportunity and economic returns to Washington and Oregon. Immediate shifts during the transition period would be followed by increasing sportfishing opportunity.

Increase hatchery production in off-channel "SAFE" areas to maintain commercial harvests. Limit mainstem commercial fishing to selective fishing gear within the sportfishing priority.

The plan does include some changes to recreational fisheries, including a possible requirement for the use of barbless hooks in the Columbia and additional restrictions on Columbia River white sturgeon harvests.

Many of us have waited for this type of reform for decades! You can bet the commercial gillnet lobby will show up in force in the hopes of maintaining the status quo. However, I know that you will attend Saturday's meeting and urge the Commission to adopt these critical reforms for the health of our fisheries and our communities.

Please join us on Saturday morning to secure this historic victory for the fish!

What: Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Hearing on Columbia River Fishery Reform Proposal

When: 9:00 AM, Saturday, December 15

Where: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington St SE in Olympia, First Floor, Room 172