



The *Tippet*

March, 2013

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



March Program: Biennial Auction, Dave Tharp Auctioneer

As always, we will have a wide range of donated items available for purchase at auction. Some came from club members and others from local businesses. The proceeds will be used to support scholarships for students doing research related to our fly fishing club interests at regional colleges and universities. This year, we received a number of good proposals but were able to support only one application. In future years, we hope to be able to do more to help with this important work. Please come and bring friends. Many of our members have obtained prized possessions through our past auctions, and we are sure the same will be true this year. Listed below are some of the items that will be auctioned:

- Guided Fishing for Sturgeon on Snake River (Hell's Canyon)
- Split Rail Cedar Fencing
- Gift Certificate from Filling Station in Troy (that's a restaurant)
- Gift Certificate from Mimi's Bakery in Palouse (that's also a restaurant)
- Fresh Baked Breads
- Fly Tying Materials
- Six-course Gourmet Dinner for Four
- Fly Rods and Reels
- Gun Case
- Fly Box and Flies
- Home Made Pies
- Four-place Dish Setting
- Six-month Supply of Hills Dog Food (up to 40 lbs/month)
- TFO 2-piece Signature Fly Rod and Okuma Reel
- Korkers Slippers - Size 10

Presidents' Message (Kay and Lynn Youngblood)

Kay and I were really impressed with the quality of February's program as well as the attendance. All in all, the meeting was both informative and great fun. But speaking of fun, you'll want to be certain to attend the March meeting, our Auction, where proceeds will be used to fund scholarships for deserving students. And deserving students they are. By the way, you'll get a chance to be impressed by last year's and this year's scholarship winners at the April meeting.

But show up at the March Club Auction for a chance to bid on a great range of donated items. And the real treat, of course, is watching Dave Tharp masquerade as an auctioneer. See you on March 13.

Calendar

Mar 13: CFC Auction

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

Mar 27: CFC Fly Tying, Moscow Title

Apr 27: Amber Lake Fishout

Jun 23-9: NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy (see p. 5 of February 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
(buffet, \$16 per person)
Program: 7:30 PM

Backcast to February Meeting

Guests: Fred Meyer, Stephen Johnson, Jodi Prout, Kathy Prout, Mike Swan, and, new member before the evening was over, Joe Vaughn.

Fishing Reports: Krystal Lewis caught a steelhead on the Clearwater on January 1. Chris Lewis had one on near Lenore the Monday before the meeting, but his rod fell apart and he lost the fish. Lynn Youngblood went ice fishing but not catching. Mike Swan hooked two on Tuesday on the Clearwater - when asked where on the Clearwater, he said "above Lenore, below Orofino" - that was a big help. Doug Baldwin scouted Rock Lake, fishing for an hour and a half with his new flies with the hook on the back. He and Marcia had six strikes but no hook-ups. Dave Tharp said he hadn't been out fishing, but was busy cleaning rods and tying flies.

Committee Reports: Paul Agidius reminded folks that dues were due. Those who have not paid by the end of the year are not eligible to win the rod raffle. So far 31 members/couples have paid this year, 20 have not. Doug Young suggested sending an email reminder to those who haven't yet paid.

Bruce Frazier reported on the club's finances. So far this year, we've spent \$23 more than was brought in, and we haven't yet awarded the \$1000 scholarship. However, the March auction is our biggest fund-raiser, so more money will be coming in.

Cliff Swanson announced that this year's scholarship would be awarded to Conor Giorgi, a grad student at EWU. Liza Mitchell, last year's winner, will give a brief overview of her work at the April meeting.

Cliff reported on behalf of Steve Bush about a rally for stream access at the Utah State Capitol Building on February 15. He had a handout that described Utah's "Public Waters Act" which closed off public access to over 400 rivers and waterways, susceptible to criminal trespass for waters that flow over private property. The Utah Stream Access Coalition supports a new compromise bill modeled after Idaho's "Public Waters Access Act". Cliff also reminded members about the WSC-FFF expo in Ellensburg in May and the 2013 International Fly Fishing Fair in West Yellowstone in September.

Doug Baldwin has not heard anything yet on North Fork placer mining. Apparently the judge is still deliberating the issue. Washington's Fish Commission adopted the joint resolution with Oregon, on a vote of 9-0, eliminating gill nets on the main stem of the Columbia. Commercial fisherpeople have filed a lawsuit in Oregon to block it. There have been rumors of Washington commercial fishers doing the same, but it hasn't been filed as yet.

Doug Young reminded us about the auction and the club meeting in March. There will be no formal program. Dave Tharp has agreed to be auctioneer. Bring your friends!

Announcements: Tim Cavileer announced fly tying night at Moscow Title. Lynn Youngblood announced that Tim was resigning as webmaster. (Before the meeting was over, Cliff Swanson agreed to take on the job.) Dave Tharp said that Dave Engerbretson's book collection is now at the UI, even those that had been at WSU have been moved. Kay Youngblood remarked that perhaps the history of the club would make a good program. Doug Young announced that former member Dave Holland passed away in a scuba diving accident in Mexico earlier this week. Lynn reminded people of the Harwood prints for sale in the back of the room.

Dates to Remember: March 13 is the club auction, our primary fundraiser. Joe DuPont and the IDFG is donating a day of fishing on the sturgeon research project which is trying to determine if different rigs make a difference in the catch. The trip is for all day on the Snake, up to four people, food included, no alcohol – a \$400-\$500 value. The trip must be taken within a year; the best times are May to early July and again late September to mid-November. The last guided trip they did, 14 sturgeon were landed, several over 7 feet. They have caught as many as 20 on a trip. They will put in at Heller Bar and go up the Snake. John Read and Linda Lewis brought stuff in for the auction. Tim Cavileer's group has been tying flies for it too. Kay and Lynn are donating a six-course dinner for four on the banks of the Palouse as well as baked goods.

April 27 was the date set for the Amber Lake Fishout. A later date would conflict with the university commencements.

Program: Joe PuPont, Clearwater Region Fishery Manager with the IDFG, presented "Our Local Fisheries and Fish You Can Expect to Catch". Joe is VP of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society which is seeking donations, possibly flies. He is also looking for contributions and/or volunteers to help with catching cutthroat trout for radio-tagging in the May to June timeframe.

Joe showed photos of cutthroat and rainbow trout and talked about the differences between them. Cutthroat have a stripe under their throat and their spots are bunched at the back towards the tail and on all fins. They spawn early in the spring, between April and June depending on elevation. Rainbow trout have a faint throat slash and their spots are more evenly distributed along the length and depth of the fish with the characteristic rainbow stripe along their side. Some have white spots or tips on their fins. Identification becomes more difficult with hybrids. Joe showed a photo of a hybrid with a bright orange throat slash and evenly distributed spots. Steelhead have the same pattern as rainbows; any rainbow over 20 inches is considered a steelhead. There are very few brown trout in Idaho.

Bull trout are actually char, not a trout at all. They have light spots on a darker background, the opposite of rainbows and cuts. They don't have black markings on their dorsal fin, but they could have some white spots. They have white leading edges on their fins and small scales which makes them feel slimy. Brown trout sometimes have halos around their spots.

As for salmon, Kokanee have been stocked in Dworshak and migrate up the tributaries. Chinook have black gums with spots on both their upper and lower bodies. Coho have white gums with spots on their upper half only.

For the novice, bass could sometimes be confused with trout. Smallmouth bass have vertical stripes and the back corner of their mouth does not go beyond the middle of the eye. Largemouth bass have a distinctive horizontal stripe and the back corner of the mouth is behind the eye.

Joe then went on to describe local waters with tips on how to fish them. Unfortunately, those descriptions wouldn't fit in the space available for our printed newsletter. You can find them on Page 5 of this on-line version of *The Tippet*.

The meeting finished with the regular raffle followed by a short Executive Committee meeting to discuss the auction.

Respectfully submitted,

Lavon Frazier

Fly of the Month: Winter Black Stonefly

By Jim Rogers (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Idaho-Fly-Casters-NIFC/100315636713111?ref=ts&fref=ts>)

Hook: DiRiki 300 dry fly 1XL
Thread: Black No. 8
Body: Black fine dry fly dubbing
Hackle: Black or Dun
Wing: Elk Hair, down wing
Legs: Fine, round rubber
Thorax: Black fine dry fly dubbing
Head: Black thread



Jim's Notes: An acceptable substitute for this fly is a Black Elk Hair Caddis. For me, the sudden appearance of these hardy insects serves as an annual reminder that winter is almost over and spring is on the way. It also reminds me that the cutthroat trout will be surface feeding on the Coeur d'Alene River. Beginning in late January or early February, the mature larvae leave their watery past behind for good and haul themselves up on nearby rocks and vegetation. Most casual observers don't even notice these bugs, except for the anglers reading the latest hatch. Their next undertaking is to fly back to the water and lay their eggs. Cast upstream of a rising trout and watch for the take.

Clearwater Fly Casters
PO Box 394
Pullman, WA 99163

Clearwater Fly Casters

March, 2013

Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2013

President	Kay & Lynn Youngblood	kaylynn4341@yahoo.com
Vice President	Roger Willemsen	rw.willemsen@gmail.com
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.

Joe DuPont's Descriptions of Local Waters And How to Fish Them

Coeur d'Alene River - one of the more overlooked rivers; has cutthroat up to 24 inches, the largest in N Idaho; wouldn't eat fish out of the South Fork though; good 7 mile float from the confluence of the North and South Forks down to Cataldo Mission; the North Fork is more for shore fishing.

St. Joe River - open year-round same as Coeur d'Alene; catch-and-release for the entire stream and tributaries; monitor fish population using snorkeling and found 10-15 times higher density than in the 70s; fish below Avery in the winter; fish higher up the river in the summer; the fish congregate in some pools but not in others - look for dimpling; maybe early July or August for Marble Creek; they're still stocking limited numbers of Chinook in the Joe.

Little North Fork of the Clearwater - can take two cutthroat of any size; high densities of cutthroat here; known for cuts and bull trout; bull trout are in deep pools in August; go up the Joe to Avery, cross the bridge, then go up Fish Hook Creek to the Little North Fork.

Kelly Creek and North Fork of the Clearwater - catch-and-release year-round; part of Kelly Creek is roadless and part of it has a road alongside; good fishing for cuts and bull trout in the upper part of the North Fork; fish congregate at the mouth of the tributaries at the head of Dworshak; can get 50 fish days from mid-October until the end of May. Note that the Clearwater Region no longer stocks grayling or golden trout.

Lochsa River - fishery has come back with changed regs after construction of Hwy 12; can get 22" cutthroat in deep pools; fish move up as water warms; Storm Creek drainage is good when it's warm.

Selway River - good cutthroat fishing if float it; there is a road into the campground at White Cap Creek; White Cap Creek down to the falls is a 5-7 day float.

South Fork of the Clearwater - known for steelhead and Chinook, average 32 inches; has a road along the entire way; heavily stocked; release above Harpster Grade; fished heavily on lower end.

Clearwater River - favorite time for steelhead is August in the lower Clearwater; October through April for the big ones; can keep fish in August/September west of the Hwy 12 bridge; catch-and-release east of Hwy 12 bridge; October is good all the way up the river.

Snake River - good for steelhead, also smallmouth bass by rocks; October-November is the best time; try Heller Bar and above.

Grand Ronde River - a Washington and Oregon fishery; fish average 6-7 pounds; has steelhead and smallmouth; good float between Boggans and Shoemaker Grade; avoid the lower river as it has a dangerous canyon.

Lowland Lakes - heavily stocked; lot of carry-over fish; bluegills in Winchester; rainbows and sterile brook trout in Deer Creek Reservoir located about 10 miles north of Pierce; new family-friendly 56 acre Deyo Reservoir opening soon about 3 miles west of Weippe with rainbows.

High Mountain Lakes - 710 of them in Idaho, 258 have fish, stock 78 of them with cuts and 9 with rainbows; only stock native cutthroats or sterile rainbows; average 12-16 inches, up to 24 inches; don't stock more lakes because of the impact on amphibians.