



The *Tippet*

October, 2013

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



October Program: Video: Tie Magic

Tie Magic: Volume I, produced by Dry Fly Innovations (2011), is a fabulous combination of beautifully tied dry flies and wonderful instruction on how to use them. This DVD is packed with precision fly tying and some of the most spectacular trout fishing footage ever assembled.

Dry Fly Innovations takes you to the tying bench of Master Tyer Nate Brumley as he spins six awesome dry fly patterns. Three of the patterns are designed to fish in the stonefly hatches, and the other three flies are smaller patterns to be fished in specific hatches. Nate also shares priceless insight on how to construct superior dry flies.

After tying each bug, they take you to the river and illustrate exactly how to fish the fly for maximum success. The fishing scenarios are magical visits to pristine rivers where you can experience boat fishing and wade fishing alike.

Only about 40 minutes of the two-hour video will be shown, so all six fly patterns will not be covered.

Presidents' Message (Kay and Lynn Youngblood)

Kay and I just returned from an 11 day fishing trip to the Lochsa and NF Clearwater Rivers. The last 6 days of that trip included some form of rain each day and upon arriving home, the extended forecast calls for at least 4 more days of the wet stuff. I think we're beginning to grow gills! Sometimes it's a challenge to remind ourselves on rainy fishing days that it's those days that replenish the waters that keep our favorite sport viable and healthy. Some other things that replenish us are those monthly Clearwater Fly Casters' meetings where we meet and share good times and fellowship. And it just so happens that the forecast calls for an uptick in the weather about mid week and it may hold for a few days. We deserve it! Why not cap off this promising trend by joining us for our first regular meeting of the 2013-2014 year on Oct. 10?

We'd be remiss if this message didn't include a note of gratitude to Sharon and Dave Tharp for having opened their home earlier this month for our annual potluck kickoff. It appears that a good time was had by all.

Backcast to September Gathering (Cliff Swanson)

Dave and Sharon Tharp hosted the club for a potluck on September 11 at their home in Palouse, WA. Those in attendance were Kay and Lynn Youngblood, John and Mary Read, Dave and Sharon Tharp, Ray and Jill Dacy, Bruce and Lavon Frazier, Dave and Marion Yonge, Doug Baldwin, Steve Bush, Cliff Swanson, Bill Hendrix, Jim Palmersheim and Elsie Sakuma. Norm and Christal Steel were quests of Kay and Lynn and had traveled from Indiana. Lucky and Dan were visiting the Tharp's, from Traverse City, Michigan.

Calendar

Oct 9, Tie Magic Video, CFC Monthly Meeting, University Inn, Moscow, ID

Nov 13, CFC Monthly Meeting, University Inn, Moscow, ID

Dec 11, Dr. Ken Cain, "Restoration of Burbot in the Kootenai River", CFC Monthly Meeting, University Inn, Moscow, ID

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**

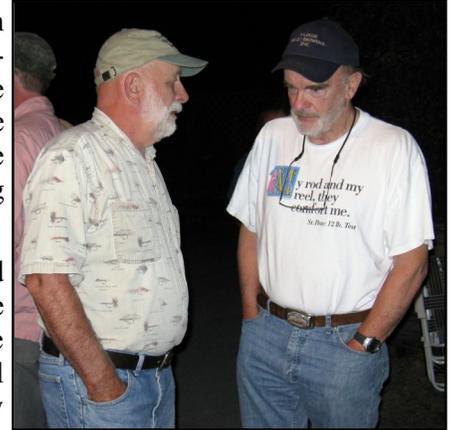
Fishing stories:

Dave Yonge had floated the lower mile or so on Kelly Creek. His only comments were that it was like a rock garden.



Dave and Sharon's recent trip was good and the fishing ok, but traveling cross country to get to another lake took its toll on their trailer. Sharon reported that it was like an ATV trail and was not a particularly happy time.

Kay and Lynn had some great fishing in British Columbia for 4 to 5 pound rainbows. Kay commented that the fish were not leader shy but were boat shy. Like Dave and Sharon, they had some camper troubles. They ripped the undercarriage on one side of their camper and ended up getting a new camp trailer.



John Reid reported that he and Mary had fished the St. Joe in early September with some of the best fishing he has seen there in a long time. He reported it as "world class fishing". Ray and Jill

Dacey had fished in the McCall area, where Ray caught a nice fish on his new bamboo rod. Jill reported that they had taken their grandson camping at Spring Valley and had a great time catching bluegills.

Bill Hendrix had a good story from the past, when the late Bob Wallace would give fishing reports again and again. Dave McKeen reported that his grandsons caught 22 bluegills in 40 minutes. Lucy McKeen had the most interesting story about her volunteer work at a Pelican rehabilitation hospital in the winter in Texas. They had one pelican that showed up at the front door of the rehab facility that was injured and had line and hooks wrapped all around its body. The bird just showed up on its own, just as if it knew to come there for help.



John Read had been to Amber Lake and reported that the weeds need to die down to make fishing easier. He did manage to hook several fish and landed 15 with one in the 20 inch range. Cliff had been out on the South Fork of the Clearwater helping Marika Dobos catch Westslope Cuts so that they could be implanted with radio tags. Doug Baldwin, Dave Still-er, Paul Agidius, George Landle and GL Britton also helped catch fish for the tagging project. Steve and Doug reported on the sturgeon catching adventure they had with the fish and game. As close as possible, they were to try and simulate the different ways that sturgeon fisherman fish. The sturgeon were 3 ½ to 4 feet. Many of them had tags from being caught earlier. One tag was 13 years old.

Jim Palmersheim said that in the 7 seasons of guiding in Alaska there were 5 days of rain and weeks and weeks of sunshine. The water was clear and they were sight fishing for rainbows that were 30 inches long and 15 years old. Dolly's were in the 24-28 inch range.

Fly Fishing at Warm Springs, Montana (by Reid Miller)

Did you ever stumble into some good fly fishing when you least expected it? Of course you have. That's what makes the sport so much fun. It happened to Warren Wright and me at the end of this past May. We had fished a day on the Beaverhead with Scott Ferris, one of Tim Tollett's guides at Frontier Anglers in Dillon. We caught some very nice rainbows and browns and were quite satisfied with our trip. The plan for the next morning was to settle up with Tim and then fish the Big Hole River on the way home. However, high winds were predicted for Western Montana. Scott had suggested we stop at Warm Springs, if we decided to head on north and take I-90 back. He told us it was a fishery worth exploring.

The wind whipped my camper around as we drove north out of Dillon, so we passed up the Big Hole and pulled in at Warm Springs to look it over. The wind wasn't bad there, surprisingly. We talked to two "older gentlemen" (probably about our age) putting their rods back into their car in the parking lot where Nancy and I had parked to bird this area a few years before. One of them was from Spokane and the other a Montana resident. They said they were familiar with this fishery but had not fished this morning, just looked around. They told us that only parts of this big area were open to fishing, the stream for 1.5 miles downstream, and a couple of the ponds. They were recommending we back-track and fish the Big Hole, or drive up and fish the Missouri between the Wolf Creek Bridge and Craig (which they described as heavily fished but "World Class"). Warren and I decided to take our binocs and walk around a bit.

I stopped to glass two other "older gentlemen" fishing the pool below the outflow from the upper lake. One was smoking a pipe and catching fish almost every cast. They appeared to be nymphing. With no further discussion, we walked back to the camper and got our waders and gear together. I used the same two-nymph rig as on the Beaverhead and got back down to the stream while Warren was trying to re-rig his 4-wt rod. The two men were gone, so I asked the only fisherman in sight how to get over there. He said to wade over to the island and then on across the main stream. He said the first part was easy but the last part more difficult with the high water. I waded to the island, a bit slippery the last part with my rubber-bottomed boots and no staff. The current was pretty swift too.

It looked like we could fish the same pool from the island side, from some rocks near some fish baskets, so I walked up the island and set up there. A sign said not to disturb the baskets but nothing about not fishing there. I flipped my rig across, let it drift down into the pool and starting hooking fish almost immediately, landing a couple of really nice 16 inch browns. It was a bit of a challenge to keep them away from the fish baskets when landing them in the small amount of soft water on my side. They were very hot fish. Warren showed up, and I called him to wade to the island and set up on my rocks. He caught some nice fish there. I fished from below along the willows, and hooked a big fish; however it was nearly impossible to land them in the fast water sweeping along the island. I moved to the bottom end of the island and landed several more browns, and then a beautiful 19 inch rainbow, which took me into the backing a few times. A young guy and girl walked down and fished the run below me. They caught several nice fish as well. All told, I hooked eight fish and landed six, all but the one were 16-17 inch browns. We called it quits after a too-short hour and walked back to the truck, both with big smiles which lasted most of the way home.

This area was constructed to collect the heavy metals from the Anaconda open-pit mine, keeping them out of the headwaters of the Clark Fork. You wouldn't want to eat any of the fish, even if the regs allowed! But I would sure fish it when we pass this way again in the early spring of the year.

Fly of the Month: Beetle Bug Palmer

(The Lewiston Tribune Online, posted by LeRoy Hiatt, June 11, 2013)

Hook - Fry fly hook, brand and size are tier's choice. Nos. 10-18 are most popular.

Thread - Black 8/0 (70 denier)

Wings - Calf body hair upright and divided

Tail - Black moose body hair

Body - Red dubbing

Hackle - Coachman brown. (Some people clip the bottom of the hackle.)



From LeRoy's notes: Every fly fisher knows the old standard Royal Wulff pattern. The Beetle Bug Palmer is a takeoff of that, but much easier to tie. When a friend first showed me the Beetle Bug, I was not very impressed. For years I had seen and used a similar pattern called Borden's Beetle Bug but it did not impress me enough to make a place for it in my box. "You had better give the Beetle Bug Palmer a try," my friend said. I had been shown the pattern many years ago. My experience fishing for cutthroat trout is any fly with red in it will work, so I decided to give this red-bodied fly a try.

The first size for the Palmered Beetle Bug I tied and tried was a No. 12. I had some success, but I had more refusals than actual hook ups. I went back to camp and tied some in sizes 14 and 16. The next morning I had much better success with the smaller sizes. Since then I have used the pattern in many states and Canada with equal success. It is very easy to see and so much easier and quicker to tie than the old Royal Wulff pattern. I will not say it catches more fish than the Royal Wulff, but I sure do enjoy fishing it.

Clearwater Fly Casters
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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.