



# The Tippet

April, 2014

## Clearwater Fly Casters

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

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



## April Program: Barry Cummings, Idaho Fish and Game, “Enforcements Role in Fish and Wildlife Management: A Snapshot”

Barry is an IDFG District Conservation Officer and supervises the six officers in the Lewiston district. Barry graduated from the University of Montana with a BS in wildlife biology in 2000 and while in college worked for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. He started working for IDFG in 2001 in southern Idaho (Idaho Falls) and moved to the Deary patrol area as a senior Conservation Officer in 2002. He also graduated from the Idaho Peace Officers Standards Training academy (POST) in 2002 and holds an advanced certificate from that academy. Barry was a field training officer prior to his promotion to District Conservation Officer in 2010. In addition to his other duties he is currently a firearms instructor and less lethal training instructor for officers in IDFG. Barry has hundreds of hours of specialized training - too much to list here. Just this past winter, Barry was hired by the University of Idaho to teach a class in wildlife law enforcement. He has been nominated for and has received several awards, including:

Missoula Exchange Club Officer of the year 1999; nominated for North America Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association (NAWEOA) "Torch Award" in 2004 and 2005; received Conservation Enforcement Officer of the year in 2005; nominated for NAWEOA Officer of the year for region 4 in 2012 and received the Shikar-Safari Wildlife Enforcement Officer of the year award for Idaho in 2012.

### Presidents' Message (Roger Willemsen)

I was delighted when the Executive Committee decided to offer two scholarships for 2014. We had four applications two of which were outstanding. Congratulations to Megan Skinner, PhD student, Washington State University and Adrienne Zuckerman, Masters Student, University of Idaho. Their award checks will be presented at our April meeting. I expect they will also provide a brief presentation on their research projects at the meeting. Their faculty advisors are also expected to attend as well as guests they may invite. It would be great to have a room full of members to welcome and congratulate our scholarship winners and their guests.

Introducing young people to the sport of fly fishing has been an important function of CFC over the years. I think that providing education on the sport of fly fishing not only provides an ideal means to introduce a fun recreational activity but also stewardship awareness. Some of the best stewards of our sport are fishermen and their numbers have been decreasing, particularly youth, over the last decade. While this trend may decrease fishing pressure and crowding on our favorite streams and lakes it also reduces stewardship of our aquatic natural

### Calendar

**April 9: CFC monthly meeting**

**April 11: PUAFS Wild Game Dinner and Auction**

**April 16: Fly Tying, Moscow Title, 6:30 – 9 pm**

**April/May: Fly Fishing Instruction, Moscow HS**

**May 6: CFC Executive mtg**

**May 10: Amber Lake Outing**

**May 14: CFC monthly meeting, Speaker: Fred Rabe, “Relationship of Aspen Beaver Ponds and Brook Trout in the Rocky Mountains”**

**July 11-13: St Joe Outing**

**Additional events at:  
[www.clearwaterflycasters.com](http://www.clearwaterflycasters.com)**

### Information

**The Tippet is available as a PDF file on our web site:  
[www.clearwaterflycasters.com](http://www.clearwaterflycasters.com)**

**Please submit information to the Newsletter Editor.**

**Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed, University Best Western Inn, Moscow, ID**

**Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 pm  
Buffet Dinner \$16, Students \$8: 6:30**

**Program: 7:30**

resources. Last year we had the opportunity to provide fly fishing instruction for students at Moscow High and we plan to do it again this spring. There may also be an opportunity to provide fly fishing instruction to a larger audience this summer – stay tuned.

## Backcast to March Meeting

**President** Roger Willemsen presided

**Guests:** Marika Dobos, President Palouse Student Unit of the American Fisheries Society, Tony Imthurn, Conservation Officer. Former member Darrell Tonn and his wife Diane.

### Fishing reports:

- Krystal Lewis went to Riggins with a group called Women With Bait, for a yearly steelhead fishing derby. At present, their boat is in fourth place out of approximately 600 entries. They caught a total of 6 fish - 2 wild fish and 4 hatchery. The derby runs 6 weeks with one week left, so Krystal anticipates their fourth place may drop.
- John Read visited Amber Lake and found an ice free area at one end, but there were no fish.
- Doug Baldwin fished at Rocky Ford creek. It was a beautiful day, but the water was low, and few fish were caught.
- Mark Ratzlaff fished Pyramid Lake near Reno. The fishing was slow, but that might have been do to the fact there had recently been a fishing derby. He caught 6 fish in 3 days, some were large, and he has the pictures to prove it!
- Conner Giorgi, our speaker for the evening, went bonefishing out of Xcalak, MX and caught lots of fish. He said the fishing was spectacular, with fish in the 16 -20" range.
- The Frazers are currently in Corpus Cristi, TX. It's cold and the fishing is lousy.

**Committee Reports:** Membership, Paul Agidius requested everyone to check to insure their membership fee is paid for the year.

### Announcements:

- There are two winners of the scholarship— Adrienne Zuckerman, Masters degree candidate at UI, and Megan Skinner a PhD student at WSU. Both proposals were highly rated. The Executive Committee decided funds are sufficient to finance two scholarships for 2014. Both Adrienne and Megan will be at our April 9 meeting and will present a short summary of their research projects. Their applications can be viewed on the CFC website.
- Marika Dobos requested additional assistance with her cutthroat trout project. She has tags to surgically implant in 36 fish. Last year Paul Agidius, Cliff Swanson, Doug Baldwin and previous CFC member Doug Stiller, helped collect samples for her fisheries study - thank you so much-couldn't have succeeded without their help. She is again requesting help - all will be welcomed. Marika can be contacted at: [dobo6458@vandals.uidaho.edu](mailto:dobo6458@vandals.uidaho.edu)
- Marika Dobos, PUAFS, announced their Wild Game Feed at the 1912 building on April 11. It is the biggest fund raiser for the Palouse Student Unit of AFS for the year. Wild game is served plus lots of other delicacies. A silent and live auction as well as games are part of the festivities. There are normally many great auction items available, and Marika said more are welcome. CFC will provide a box of flies (courtesy our fly tyers) and a Bob Harwood print. We are all welcome to attend!
- Kay Youngblood is putting together a basket for Beans N' Jeans - a fundraiser to benefit Palouse Habitat for Humanity. Many of our CFC members are active in this organization including John Read, Joy Lunsford, Roger Willemsen, Marc Ratzcliff, and Kay and Lynn Youngblood. She has some nice items to include in the basket but could use more. Please contact Kay if you have something to donate.
- Dave Tharp reported there is no longer a camp host at Kelly Forks on Kelly Creek. Some members of Kelly Creek Fly Casters plan to act as volunteer camp host during the summer. Dave proposed that members of CFC might also consider taking a week or two to host at the site. Contact him if you would consider getting involved.



**The Raffle** was conducted. All raffle tickets will be kept for the custom rod raffle in December. Members are encouraged to bring "different" raffle items to supplement and support this raffle.

## Program Notes:



Conor Giorgi is an MS candidate at Eastern Washington University. He was the recipient of the Clearwater Fly Casters' 2013 Bill Alspach & Dave Engerbretson Memorial Scholarship. Conor presented results of his research completed to date in his presentation.

The anadromous fish population in many of the tributaries of the upper Wenatchee River, WA have dramatically declined. Historically Coho, Chinook, Sockeye and Steelhead were common in Nelson Creek, the Chiwawa, Little Wenatchee and White Rivers which are tributaries of the upper Wenatchee River. The reduction in the number of salmon has occurred even though the upper Wenatchee basin is a pristine wilderness area with little human impact. So the question is: 'why no salmon'?

**Sampling:** The white River is the only stream of the four with a self-sustaining salmon fishery (Sockeye). Conor collected numerous samples of benthic macroinvertebrates from above (upper) and below (lower) the spawning reach. He has also collected samples from Nelson Creek, the Chiwawa and Little Wenatchee Rivers which have few returning salmon. To date he has analyzed the November samples from the upper and lower reaches of the White river.

**Results:** Both the upper and lower reaches are dominated by mayflies. The lower reach compared to the upper reach had: fewer macroinvertebrates (83.25/ft<sup>2</sup> vs. 113.4/ft<sup>2</sup> upper reach) and lower biomass of macroinvertebrates (24.21 g/ft<sup>2</sup> vs. 33.71 g/ft<sup>2</sup> upper reach). In summary, these preliminary results indicate that the upper reach has more bugs, greater diversity and more biomass compared to the lower reach. Yet the upper reach has few salmon. This is directly opposed to the hypothesis that returning fish lead to more marine derived nutrients MDN's resulting in more benthic macroinvertebrates; resulting in better survival of young fish; and ultimately more returning fish – the feedback loop. These results are preliminary from one month of sampling so the overall results may change with completion of sample analysis. There is, however, one theory that may explain these results. The November sampling occurred just after the sockeye run. The large number of fish in the river may have dislodged the macroinvertebrates which were then flushed downstream. This is known as the 'carpet bomb effect'.

Conor mentioned that he would like the opportunity to present his final results to CFC after all the samples have been analyzed.

## Fly of the Month: Hackle Stacker Flag - March Brown

From the FFF website, [www.fedflyfishers.org/tying/flyoftheMonth.asp](http://www.fedflyfishers.org/tying/flyoftheMonth.asp)

**Hook:** 14 Dry Fly Hook (14-20)

**Thread:** 8/0 Brown

**Shuck:** Brown Sparkle Yarn

**Abdomen:** Brown Super Fine Dubbing

**Flag/Post:** Cream Sparkle Yarn

**Hackle:** Grizzly

**Thorax:** Dark Hare's Ear Dubbing



The Hackle Stacker is an emerging mayfly pattern developed by Bob Quigley. Bob created this pattern to fool the picky fish in the clear waters of spring creeks. Although designed for slow moving water it is as much at home on the choppy water of the western freestone rivers. This version of the Hackle Stacker Flag is tied to represent a March Brown, but it can be tied to represent any number of mayfly species.

Clearwater Fly Casters  
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## Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2014

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### Membership and Monthly Meeting:

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.