



# The Tippet

March, 2014

## Clearwater Fly Casters

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

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



## March Program: Conor Giorgi, “Benthic macroinvertebrate response to spawning sockeye salmon in the White River, WA”

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 will discuss results of his research in tonight’s presentation.



My thesis research is designed to determine the factors limiting salmonid production in the upper Wenatchee River watershed. The current theory is that tributaries of the upper Wenatchee River (Nason Creek, the Chiwawa, White, and Little Wenatchee rivers) are nutrient limited and not producing the food-base necessary to support healthy numbers of rearing anadromous fish. Historically these tributaries experienced prolific salmon runs. Returned adults and their carcasses brought large amounts of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous from the ocean to these rivers. As salmon populations have declined these nutrient inputs have also been dramatically reduced.

The goal of my research is to determine how salmon spawning effects the invertebrate community in terms of composition and production; which bugs make up the community and how much bug biomass is produced. To accomplish this I am estimating benthic invertebrate production in two reaches of the White River. The White River is the only stream of the four with a self-sustaining anadromous fishery; it is home to the largest run of sockeye salmon in Washington State. My study sites are upstream and downstream of the spawning reach, allowing me to assess the influence of spawning salmon. I will also sample invertebrates from the other three tributaries (Nason Creek, the Chiwawa and Little Wenatchee rivers) to determine densities in these streams and compare to densities observed in the White River,

In many aspects I take after my father (some fortunate, some less so), he is the one who introduced me to this illness. It all started when I was a wee lad, venturing to the streams on the west slope of Cascade Mountains for weekend sojourns. As my brother and I grew older my dad opened our fishing territory. Our weekend adventures still persisted but were now supplemented with annual summer expeditions. Since I was 11 we have explored the rivers of our corner of the country. From the plains of Montana to the craggy Pacific coast we have hiked through, stumbled across, tied-on, fell-in, landed, lost, celebrated,

### Calendar

March 12, CFC monthly meeting

Mar 19: CFC Fly Tying, Moscow Title, 6:30-9 pm

April 9, CFC monthly meeting, Speaker: Tadd Wheeler, U of ID, “The influences of salmon derived nutrients in mountainous central Idaho”

May 10, Amber Lake

July 11-13, St Joe Fishout

### 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 2nd Wed, University Best Western Inn, Moscow, ID

Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 PM

Buffet \$16: 6:30 PM

Program: 7:30 PM

commiserated, and swilled on the banks of famous and obscure waters. Sometimes our exploits took us a bit further from home and well out of our comfort zone. And I'm fortunate to say that it continues to this day, literally, we just got back from a week in southern Mexico chasing bonefish around the flats of the Yucatan.

This sport isn't just a whim but my motivation (directly and indirectly) for most aspects of my life. It's a tradition I hope to pass on and share, as well as preserve for others.

## Presidents' Message (Roger Willemsen)

We recently had a number of new and returning members join/rejoin Clearwater Fly Casters. I certainly want to welcome Greg Applegate, Ron Jones, Larry Wriggle, Bob Greenberg and Leonard Askum. Welcome aboard gentlemen! We also generally have a number of guests attend our regular meetings some of whom may be potential new members. I encourage everyone to create a welcoming and open ambience at our meetings. If you see someone you don't know, introduce yourself, invite them to sit at your table and perhaps offer to buy them a drink during wet fly hour. Some of our members, new and 'old', could benefit from fishing with more experienced fly fishermen. Next time you know a day or so ahead that you'll be out, consider inviting another member. We get set in our ways, and in our fishing buddies. Expand the circle. Who knows, you might learn something when you least expect it.

As a reminder, our Executive Committee meetings are open to all members. I certainly encourage you to attend. You the members make the club and we value your input and suggestions. We generally meet the Tuesday two weeks prior to the regular meeting at Thai Ginger, Pullman but check the website to make sure.

## Backcast to January Meeting

**President** Roger Willemsen presided

**Guests:** No guests were present.

**Fishing reports:** Paul Agidius measured an 18" rainbow at Spring Valley. His measuring device was inaccurate, for the fish was only 15". Still a nice fish for Spring Valley!

Lynn Youngblood reported that he caught several perch 9" or smaller at Chacolet. His fellow ice fisherman caught a 39" northern pike weighing about 13 pounds.

### Committee Reports:

Doug Baldwin, Conservation Chair, reported that the Elwha dam has been removed and the over fifty percent of Glines Canyon Dam has been removed. The Elwha River now flows freely from its headwaters in the Olympic Mountains to the Strait of Juan de Fuca for the first time in 100 years. Native chinook and steelhead are now going upstream to spawn. The stated goal of the Elwha River dam removal is to restore healthy populations of *wild* salmon and steelhead to the watershed. Yet despite an overwhelming body of evidence confirming the harmful impacts of hatcheries, state, federal and tribal governments have agreed upon a plan that relies heavily on hatchery supplementation. Faced with the single greatest opportunity to restore wild salmon, they've opted for business as usual, perpetuating a failing paradigm of replacing native fish with a man-made alternative. Wild Fish Conservancy and other organizations have filed lawsuits against hatchery supplementation. Club members are encouraged to donate via the supplied form or on line at [www.wildfishconservancy.org](http://www.wildfishconservancy.org)

Cliff Swanson, Scholarship Chair said CFC has received 3 scholarship applications to date. All applications are due by February 16th. Update: 4 applications have been received.

Steve Bush, Federation of Fly Fishers Chair, provided the following information on the tables:

- Brochures for the East Idaho Fly Tying Expo, April 25-26 2014 at Idaho Falls at the Shiloh Inn. Steve plans to attend. More information is available at [srcexpo@gmail.com](mailto:srcexpo@gmail.com)
- FFF at Ellensburg, WA will be May 3-4. Tim Rajeff, founder of Echo Rods and Air Flow Fly lines will be the guest speaker. For information; [www.washingtoncouncilfff.org](http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org)

- The International FFF Expo will be in Livingston, MT on August 5-9 2014. More information at [www.fedflyfishers.org/FlyFishingFair.aspx](http://www.fedflyfishers.org/FlyFishingFair.aspx)
- Club members are encouraged to join FFF and enjoy the many benefits of this fine organization. Membership cost is \$35.00 available online at <http://fedflyfishers.org/Membership/Join.aspx>
- The North Idaho Fly Fishing Expo (NIFFE) will be at the Red Lion, Lewiston...it is FREE! The dates are March 21-22. Guest speaker is John Shewey. More information at [www.Niffe.org](http://www.Niffe.org)

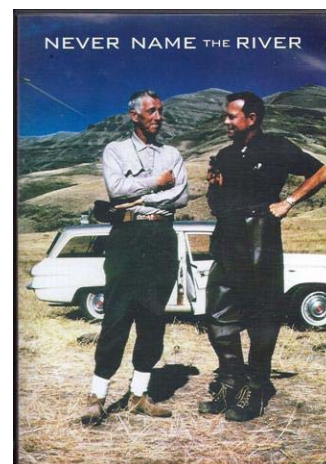
**The Raffle** was conducted. All raffle tickets will be kept for the custom rod raffle in December. Members are encouraged to bring "different" raffle items to supplement and support this raffle.

## Announcements:

- Fly fishing photo note cards are available. \$5.00 donation per card for CFC Scholarship Fund.
- CFC Past President's plaque has been enlarged and updated by Steve Bush. Thank you Steve for taking care of this plaque.
- Columbia Basin Dryside Fly Fishers, at their annual banquet March 25, is raffling a Sage Approach Combo valued at \$500.00. Raffle tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00. For more information contact Tera at [tda1030@hotmail.com](mailto:tda1030@hotmail.com)
- Palouse Habitat for Humanity CFC silent auction donation for Beans N' Jeans fundraiser, is May 3, SEL Event Center, Pullman. Several members offered items for our "basket" such as tied flies in a fly box and more. This donation promotes CFC and helps fund Palouse Habitat for Humanity.
- Half price meals for students at CFC meetings to promote attendance and involvement was approved by unanimous vote.
- AFS Palouse Student Wild Game Potluck & Auction is April 11, 1912 Building

## Program Notes:

Unfortunately, guest speaker Fred Rabe, was ill. CFC hopes to have Fred present his program later this spring. In his absence the program featured a DVD titled "Never Name the River" referring to the conception, installation and inaugural conclave meeting of the Federated Fly Fishers in 1965 in Eugene, Oregon. It was an interesting archival story of national fly fishing leaders such as Lee Wulf joining forces with members of the McKenzie Fly Fishing Club in Eugene, OR to create the organization of FFF as we know it today.



## Fly of the Month: Crackle Back

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



**Hook:** TMC 200R size 8 to 14  
**Thread:** Black 8/0  
**Shell Back:** Peacock Herl  
**Body:** Yellow or light green floss  
**Hackle:** Brown

The Crackle Back is a very versatile fly that is a great attractor pattern that can be fished both as a nymph and a dry fly. We do not see this fly that often in the west, but Ron Fisher of Billings, MT says that it is a popular fly back east. The fly was created by Ed Story of Feather Craft and can still be seen in their logo today.

Clearwater Fly Casters  
PO Box 394  
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## Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2014

President	Roger Willemsen	<a href="mailto:rw.willemsen@gmail.com">rw.willemsen@gmail.com</a>
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Past Presidents	Kay & Lynn Youngblood	<a href="mailto:keaylynn4341@gmail.com">keaylynn4341@gmail.com</a>
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Webmaster	Cliff Swanson	<a href="mailto:clswan12@gmail.com">clswan12@gmail.com</a>

### 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.