



The Tippet

May, 2014

Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



May Program: Fred Rabe “Relationship of Aspen Beaver Ponds and Brook Trout in the Rocky Mountains”



Fred Rabe does volunteer work with the Friends of the Clearwater. For the past seven years, he collected data on the Lochsa and North Fork of the Clearwater River roadless areas in hopes that these areas become wilderness. He’s produced short booklets describing the natural history of each site visited.

Over the years Fred has studied aquatic life in high lakes, reservoirs, streams, vernal pools and beaver ponds. He’s published numerous articles on aquatic ecology and two books, *Exploring High Mountain Lakes in the Rockies* and *The River of Green and Gold* which is a story of a pristine wilderness dramatically affected by the discovery of gold in the Coeur d’Alene River drainage.

Fred worked for years with Charles Wellner and Nancy Savage on Research Natural Areas (RNA), small tracts of land set aside for education, research and reference sites. 49 Meadows, a proposed RNA by Friends of the Clearwater, will be briefly discussed.

His graduate education was at Colorado State, University of Colorado and University of Utah. He taught general ecology and invertebrate zoology at the University of Idaho for 25 years.

Beaver are keystone species since they shape the landscape, create wetlands and change the physical, chemical and biological conditions of running water. They are more closely associated with aspen than any other animal. Growth, condition and possibly longevity of brook trout are affected by age and condition of beaver ponds. Plant community succession in nearby peatland is influenced by the presence and absence of aspen and beaver ponds.

Presidents’ Message (Roger Willemsen)

Spring is in the air and our thought turn to – fishing of course! I fished the Owyhee in March. It was a little slow, probably due to the lack of my abilities, but I did manage to catch a few nice browns. This was the first time I really depended on sight fishing and it was a lot of fun. Speaking of fun, join other CFC members and guests at Amber lake for our spring outing on May 10. Lunch will be prepared by yours truly. Don’t let that scare you away, some people say

Calendar

Apr 29/May 1, 6, 7: Fly Fishing Instruction, Moscow HS

May 3: Habitat for Humanity Beans N’ Jeans Dinner & Auction, SEL Center, Pullman

May 3-4: FFF Washington Fly Fishing Fair, Ellensburg, WA

May 6: CFC Executive mtg

May 10: Amber Lake Outing

May 21: Fly Tying, Moscow Title, 6:30 – 9 pm

May 14: CFC monthly meeting

July 11-13: St Joe Outing, Fly Flat Campground

**Additional events at:
www.clearwaterflycasters.com**

Information

**The Tippet is available as a PDF file on our web site:
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 Dinner \$16, Students \$8: 6:30**

Program: 7:30

I'm a good cook - how bad can I mess up burger, beans, chips, salad and dessert anyway? That's a rhetorical question! But don't be dismayed, Kay Youngblood is bringing one of her famous pies!

May 14 will be our last regular meeting and Tippet until September. But, the fun is just beginning! We have fishing at Amber Lake on May 10, as previously mentioned, and the St Joe outing is July 11 – 13. Our next meeting will be the club picnic in September. Stay tuned to our web site for more details. Remember, *"The angling fever is a very real disease and can only be cured by the application of cold water and fresh, untainted air"* Theodore Gordon. We are so very fortunate to live in the northwest with many streams and lakes to cure our angling fever. I hope you all have an excellent summer and great fishing!

Backcast to April Meeting

President Roger Willemsen presided at the Clearwater Fly Casters meeting.

Guests: Marika Dobos, American Fisheries Society (AFS) and Brian Hart, guest of Doug Baldwin. Additional guests noted in Scholarship Awards and Program section of notes..

Fishing reports: John Read was at Amber Lake last week and caught about 20 fish on chironomids. Reid Miller fished 1 week in the Yucatan, Mexico and caught bonefish, tarpon, but no permit. Fred Muehlbauer and Andy Kleinhofs went to Quinault River, Olympic Peninsula, WA, but it was blown out. Roger went to the Owyhee River and caught brown trout on small blue wing emergers.

Fly Fishing Instruction for Students at Moscow H.S.: Steve Bush has been in contact with Recreation Class teacher, Robin Barnes, to teach knot tying, fly casting and fly fishing at Spring Valley Reservoir. Dates are April 29, May 1, 6 and 7. Class times are 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. If anyone is interested in participating, please let Steve or Roger know.

Special Award: Cliff Swanson introduced the Allured-Collins Award recipients for exemplary contributions to Clearwater Fly Casters. The deserving winners are Bruce and Lavon Frazier. Cliff presented the club plaque with their names engraved on the newest brass plate. **Congratulations!**



Scholarship Awards: Roger announced this year's Scholarship Award winners. There were 2 awards presented since both showed excellent merit. They are Megan Skinner, WSU and Adrienne Zuckerman, U of I. Megan was accompanied by Mat Hilgers and Adrienne was accompanied by her advisor, Alex Fremier. Megan and Adrienne both presented brief power point presentations about their studies. They will each present their projects next year at a CFC meeting.

Announcements: Jill Darcy promoted the Robotics teams. They need 25K to go to the national competition to be held in St. Louis, MO. Our own Dave Tharp is actively engaged in this organization with his team attending local, state and national competitions this year. For more information, check online at cyborg4061.teamr.com

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:

CFC Program Chair, Fred Meyer, introduced Idaho Fish and Game Lewiston District Officer Barry Cummings. Barry's presentation was entitled "Enforcement's Role in Fish and Wildlife Management: A Snapshot." Barry, was accompanied by fellow IDFG officers Eric Crawford and Tony Imthorn.



Barry presented a quick chronology of the early goals and objectives of wildlife laws and how they have changed over the years. With the demise of bison, bird and fish populations the collective "we" realized that resources are not unlimited. Historically many of the original wildlife laws were enacted, but enforcement was not. Several notable dates were presented. The IDFG Commission was established in 1939, thus marking this year as their 75th anniversary. In 1978, IDFG Officers were determined to have peace officer status.

Currently, IDFG concerns are associated with budget issues. There has not been an increase in funds for eight years. Effective officer enforcement is restricted in such areas as reduced patrol mileage and a hiring freeze. Wildlife crime has changed the technology associated with enforcement. It was suggested by a CFC member that we need to educate the legislature.

What is the role of wildlife management? Fish and game is having a positive impact on our national resources. Barry sited 43 elk unlawfully taken in our region. It is estimated that this number represents only 1-3% of the actual number. Realistically, as many as 860 elk were taken unlawfully. "Party Hunting" when a group of hunters share tags or bag limits as well as baiting game are not uncommon, but unlawful. The illegal salmon figure Barry estimated was 5,000 fish. The persons illegally taking fish and game are stealing from the public and the natural resources of the environment.

This year, Barry taught the topic of the evening's presentation at U of I. He challenged the students to interview persons between certain ages to see if anyone had violated fish and game regulations. The results indicated that the students had no difficulty finding these individuals.

The exchange of information during the question and answer portion of the program was very engaging. A CFC member asked "how do you change the mentality of persons unlawfully taking fish and game"? Barry's response was to involve people at an early age in respecting wildlife laws. The average area an officer patrols is 1,100 square miles. Question regarding female conservation officers in IDGF; Barry noted there are currently 4 female out of 85 total field officers and 1 female out of 7 recent hires.

The program highlights the past and present issues and concerns within wildlife law enforcement encouraging each of us to take an active part in the lawful preservation of our resources.

Fly of the Month: Tang

From the FFF website, www.fedflyfishers.org/tying/flyoftheMonth.asp

Hook: 14 nymph Hook

Thread/Body: 6/0 cream

Tail/Back/Legs: pheasant tail fibers

Rib: small gold wire

The Tang is not available in fly shops or on line. Kit Seaton developed this fly to add color into the common Pheasant Tail Nymph. Red and hot orange have always been popular colors on the Stillwater River, Mt. So, the first color he experimented with was hot orange. When people started to ask what he was fishing with, he had no name for the fly. A friend, Doug Haacke, named the fly. Since the original was hot orange, he suggest Tang after the orange flavored drink made popular as the drink of astronauts. This is one of the simplest flies that you will ever tie, but it is extremely productive. It only has three ingredients. The version pictured is a Baetis imitation.



Clearwater Fly Casters
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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 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.