



# The Tippet

February, 2014

## Clearwater Fly Casters

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

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



## February 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 has 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.

He worked for years with Charles Wellner and Nancy Savage on Research Natural Areas, 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 is from 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)

I’ve been thinking about my membership in CFC and what makes me want to belong to this club? I know, it’s personal preference and what works for me isn’t everyone’s cup of tea but I think the club offers a lot of perks and has a lot going for it. What I like the most is the camaraderie with other members at our meetings and special events. It’s fun and rewarding to socialize with people who have a common interest in fly fishing. This has developed into new friendships and opportunities for fishing adventures which for me are very important. I also enjoy the programs at our general meetings and have found them to be very informative. We’ve had some great ones over the years. The variety of presentations ranging from scientific to practical

### Calendar

**March 13, CFC monthly meeting, Speaker: Conor Giorgi, Eastern Washington Univ, “Benthic macro-invertebrate response to spawning sockeye salmon in the White River, WA”**

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

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

Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 PM

Buffet \$16: 6:30 PM

Program: 7:30 PM

has been great. I want to know more about fish biology, ecology and conservation as well as where and how to catch them. I think it's great that we provide scholarships for college students working on fishery projects. This is an excellent way to show our support for the discipline and it also presents valuable connections with local universities. Other reasons I like belonging to CFC is our involvement in conservation issues and education. Last year I participated, along with others from the club, in teaching Moscow High students basic introductory fly casting skills. We received good feedback and perhaps as a result of our efforts some students will continue an interest in fly fishing. I haven't been involved with fly tying but it's on my bucket list. I used to tie some flies and hope to get back to it. We have experts in the club so what a great opportunity to learn or relearn the skill. Oh yeah, I really like happy hour and the buffet too!

The ultimate question is 'has my membership in CFC made me a better fisherman'? Well let me just say that last fall on a trip to Montana I caught fewer fish than Paul and Steve and 100% more than Cliff (and don't let Cliff's math fool you).

## Backcast to January Meeting

**President** Roger Willemsen presided at his first Clearwater Fly Casters meeting as president.-P---

**Guests:** No guests, but new member Bob Greenburg was present.

**Fishing reports:** Dave Younge caught his biggest steelhead, 38". Dave estimated it took 20 minutes to bring him to the net while fishing on the Clearwater. The pattern he used is called "beats me". In addition, while Dave was in Orlando, FL visiting the grandchild, he and his son went to the Titusville/Indian River area on the east coast and caught a nice red fish.

Lynn Youngblood reported that he caught about 40 8" and smaller perch while ice fishing at Chatcolet.

**Recognizing Past Co-Presidents:** Roger Willemsen recognized Lynn and Kay Youngblood's 2 year Co-Presidential term presenting them each with a John Read beautifully handcrafted wooden fly box engraved with Clearwater Fly Casters logo and their names. Kay recognized the Executive Committee and stressed the club success is a team effort.

**Committee Reports:** Doug Baldwin, Conservation Chair, provided updates on mining and Western Rivers Conservancy. Doug noted that Sportsman Warehouse in Lewiston no longer discounts to CFC members but is stocking fly tying materials as requested by our members. Contact Doug if there is a tying material you are seeking.

Cliff Swanson mentioned that Idaho Fish and Game is coordinating an outing at Spring Valley on February 1st. He also said that bluebird boxes workshop is this weekend in Juliaetta. Cliff has contacted universities regarding the CFC scholarship.

Lynn Youngblood, Treasurer, reported the club has about \$7,500 in the scholarship fund and a little less in general account with a total of about \$12,000.

**Allured-Collins Award** will be presented at a later time.

**Mini-Auction** was conducted by Dave Younge for the fly box, donated by Steve Temple, filled with a wide variety of well tied flies. Cliff Swanson secured the fly box with his final bid of \$80.00; proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund.

**The Raffle** was conducted. All raffle tickets will be kept for the custom rod raffle in December.

## Announcements:

- There will be an Executive Meeting March 4. The next regular meeting will be March 12, 2014
- Executive committee voted to renew CFC membership in Trout Unlimited
- IDFG is seeking volunteer anglers to help collect adult hatchery steelhead for brood stock on the South Fork Clearwater River, beginning February 24. Contact Bill Seybold, IDFG, 208-799-5010
- March 21-22: NIFFE 2014 - North Idaho Fly Fishing Expo. Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center, Lewiston
- May 3-4: FFF Washington Fly Fishing Fair, Ellensburg, WA



## Program Notes: Steve Temple, "Secrets of the Clark Fork"

**Speaker Steve Temple** from Superior, MT spoke about guiding on the Clark Fork River, primarily from the Superior area to the Flat Head River. As a review, Steve said the Clark Fork is about 310 miles long and is not a tail water. This river has lots of "mood;" low water, winter and run-off that influences water flow, temperature and bug populations. Steve guides full or half day float trips with all amenities included.

Steve pointed out that St. Regis, per the town's banners, is the Fly Fishing Capital of the West. Plenty of moose, bear and eagles are seen as well while fishing. One of the first stone fly hatches is the skwala, a large bug with a black butt. Salmon fly, another stone fly, is also seen during the spring. The golden stone fly are found post run-off and generally found under rocks as nymphs. Blue Wing Olive (BWO) and Pale Morning Dun (PMD) are also found. The fish also key on caddis, size #16, about the last hour of summer evenings. Caddis, size #2, is a good choice at the end of fall. Summer is the time for hoppers. The "pink" hopper is a hot bug in September. In general the flies that are good are: BWO's (mayflies), black stone patterns and caddis.

Typical Cubic Foot per Second (CFS) for the Clark Fork for best fishing is 4,000. Run-off and off color water is around 20,000. During run-off, nymph fish the back waters where the fish are hiding. When nymphing, Steve suggested a product called the 'uni-bobber' for an indicator in lieu of yarn. Summer is dry fly fishing. June is rainy; but good fly fishing due to cloud cover with hatches occurring all day. Steve likes to fish early to avoid the heat. August and September feature attractor patterns such as Turk's Tarantula. June is the best time to fish the St. Regis. During run-off, many fish escape from the Clark Fork to the St. Regis River.

Steve described a variety of float trips such as Forest Grove to Superior, a full day float or First Creek to Superior, a half day float. Steve recommended the Sloway launch, a site with a remote campground accessible with a 4X4, or floating 10 miles to St. Regis. He also suggested a float from St. Regis to 14 Mile or Ferry Landing. Each of the launches were illustrated with photos and where in each photo to find the fish based on river conformations and flow. Steve said the Ferry Landing to Cascade was "technical" water due to the boulder run.

This past summer, the Clark Fork was the lowest Steve had seen with the CFS at 1,600. He recommended using a thermometer. With low CFS and high water temperatures, fish will be on the bottom or in riffles to find cold and oxygenated water. Also, fish with double flies, for example a hopper-dropper. Also, pay attention to the seams and foam is home to bugs.

Steve also recommended places to dine and cabin lodging. The presentation was interesting with great photos, suggestions of where to and how to fish the Clark Fork. Questions followed the presentation with Roger presenting Steve with our CFC plaque of piscatorial prowess.

## Fly of the Month: Prince (Nymph)

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

**Hook:** Daiichi 1180, sizes 6 – 14

**Weight:** Optional, can use a thin lead wire for weight

**Thread:** Black 6/0 or 8/0

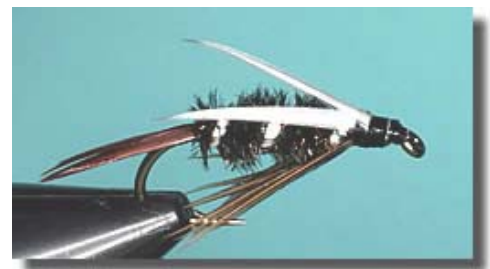
**Tail:** Goose biots, brown

**Rib:** Silver oval tinsel

**Body:** Peacock herl, 3 or 4 pieces

**Beard:** Pheasant tail fibers

**Wing:** Goose biots, white



This nymph was developed by Californian Doug Prince in 1941. He tied the original pattern with black ostrich herl, and it survives to this day as the Black Forked Tail. It uses black biots for the tail. However, nearly every Prince (Nymph) in books and fly shops is tied with brown biots and peacock herl. It is sometimes called the Brown Forked Tail. Most anglers consider this a moving water fly, but can use it with success in lakes.

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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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**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.