



The Tippet *December, 2015*

Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



December Program:-Jim Cox, Director of Donor Relations for Western Rivers Conservancy

Presentation: *'To Save a River You Have to Buy It'*



Since 1988, WRC has been working to conserve and protect lands on more than 55 rivers in eight western states. The presentation will focus on how WRC purchases riverlands across the West to protect and conserve vital river ecosystems and to provide compatible public

access. Included in the program is stunning photography of past and current projects including work on some of the most iconic fly fishing rivers across the West including Idaho's Salmon River, Oregon's John Day, North Umpqua and Sandy Rivers, the Yampa in Colorado, the Madison River in Montana, California's Smith River and Klamath Rivers, and Washington's Hoh River among many others. For more information check out: www.westernrivers.org

Jim joined Western Rivers Conservancy as Director of Donor Relations in 2011. He has more than 25 years' experience working professionally in the nonprofit sector. Jim is a past steering committee co-chair of the Nonprofit Association of Oregon, and is an active member of the Northwest Planned Giving Roundtable and is also a member of Trout Unlimited, Flyfishers Club of Oregon, IFFF, the Native Fish Society, and The Freshwater Trust among other conservation groups. Jim holds a Bachelor of Theatre Degree from Willamette University. In his free time, you can find him fly fishing and hiking along the outstanding rivers of the West.

Presidents' Message (Joe Vaughan)

Some of us came to fly fishing through early training in our family, which I confess I've envied. Others, myself included, took it up as adults, in my case via a class taught by Dave Engerbretson at WSU, the last section before his retiring. I got a classroom introduction to knots, rigging the rod, flies, reading the water, and a rod-in-hand introduction to casting, single and double-hauling, steeple and pile casts, and mending. Then Bruce Frazier and Doug Young included me on a trip to the St Joe and I was hooked.

CFC Calendar

**Dec 9, CFC Club Meeting,
Univ Best Western, Moscow**

**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 pm**

Program: 7:30 pm

Something my training didn't cover -- maybe I missed that class -- and I didn't know much about for a long time is fishing etiquette. I've seen two situations where this topic came powerfully to mind. Once was summer 2000 and I was in a drift boat with a guide on the Yellowstone. Our fishing for cutthroat was all about casting large dry fly patterns into within a few inches of the bank. Our guide had pulled in to let us fish a section of water near the shore below where another boat was working the bank, and I guess the other guide felt we hadn't given them enough space. At the takeout our guide was asked to come have a 'talk' with the other guides -- taken to the woodshed, we supposed. The other time was maybe three summers ago when I was fishing the Deschutes, from the bank. I was working a run that formed a deep hole with a nice eddy just downstream of an outcropping. As I fished that hole a drift boat beached just upstream on a gravel bar and all of a sudden I had a couple more fisherman casting into the same hole. And I immediately felt crowded -- and it didn't help that they were catching fish and I was not!

I found a couple articles in CFC's archives, one on fly fishing etiquette in general and another about steelheading etiquette specifically. The cardinal rule is of course not to crowd another fisherperson or do anything to spook fish in the water they are working through or moving into. This generally involves the newcomer observing the incumbent's direction of movement up or down stream and either entering the stream behind them or traveling up or down stream such a distance as to not impinge on their freedom of movement; it's also recommended to communicate your intentions, depending. The distance of separation is apparently shorter in the situation of a steelhead run, perhaps as close as 50 yards, but in trout fishing usually it means moving up or downstream to an entirely separate run, maybe farther. Anything that will spook fish is to be avoided: casting shadows on the water, bringing an overactive dog or wading so as to create a mud plume or, I would think, underwater noise. And apparently hooting and hollering when you've a fish on is considered ill mannered, an offense to which I must plead *mea culpa*.

Shooting Line:



Turnout was great on Monday November 16th for the International Fly Fishing Film Festival screening at Moscow's Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre. One hundred and Eighteen tickets were sold. The films were great, the beer was cold and the crowd had fun. Thanks to White Pine Gear Exchange and Fly Shop, Hyperspod Sports, and Rise Experience Collective for hosting, organizing and coordinating the film festival. They want to express "A huge **THANK YOU** to the expert staff at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre and Allegra Print Signs Marketing!"

And thanks to all the generous sponsors: North 40 Outfitters, Tri-State Outfitters, NRS, Hyperspod Sports, White Pine Gear Exchange and Fly Shop, Rise Experience Collective, TerraGraphics Environmental Engineering, Inc., EcoAnalysts, Inc., Craig Pope Construction, Paul Agigius, University of Idaho Outdoor Program, U of ID ORC, Friends of the Clearwater, Clearwater Fly Casters and Kelly Creek Flycasters. The sponsors provided monetary support, legwork (posting signs, etc.), selling tickets and other support. Proceeds from the Film Festival were donated to CFC's and KCF's educational programs. The contribution was \$973.08 for each club. **Clearwater Fly Casters thanks everyone involved for this unprecedented support!!!!**

Forward Cast:

There will be a drawing for a 'fly rod' or equivalent cash at the December 9 meeting. Everyone who bought a raffle ticket this year is eligible to win. This includes buying tickets the night of the drawing – the more you buy the better the odds. Only stipulation is that you need to be current with membership dues. If you are not, you can correct that before the raffle which will make you eligible to win. You do not have to be present to win. Good Luck!

Other Important Dates and Events:

Now: CFC membership dues are now due

Dec 9: Clearwater Fly Casters Meeting. Bring a friend! Bring a student! Drawing for the custom fly rod at this meeting from the raffle tickets from January to December 2015. Dues MUST be paid to be eligible to win!

April 22: Annual Wild Game Feed, American Fisheries Society – Palouse Unit

April 29-30: 2016 WA Fly Fishing Fair, Ellensburg, WA

Back Cast:

Clearwater Fly Casters Club Meeting November 11, 2015

President Joe Vaughan presided at the Clearwater Fly Casters meeting.

Guests: Bob Russell from Colfax, Jefferson He, WSU student, Chris Hipp who would like to learn to cast, Mike Ray from Moscow and Joe Dupont, IDFG speaker.

Fishing reports:

1. Bob Greenburg fished the B run steelhead on the Clearwater.
2. Lynn and Kay Youngblood fished the Joe and caught a few fish. Nice to be able to say fished in November.
3. Krystal Lewis had us all wanting to go fishing with her group! The group of 10 in the boat caught 66 tuna in the 25-65 lb range. They also fished for and caught rock bass and crab. She also fished in Provo, UT while attending Cowboy Poetry. Caught 22-24" brown trout on little mayflies.
4. Mike Ray caught steelhead on the Grand Ronde, WA. It was crowded, but less so than earlier.
5. Joe Dupont, IDFG, caught several hundred trout on Dworshack, NF and Little NF of the Clearwater. He says this was work – must be nice! He caught bull trout (largest was 28") and cutthroat and rainbow in the 17-18" range. November water temperature is in the low 50's. Fish can be found in the debris line.

Committee Reports:

- **Membership:** in Paul's absence, Lynn announced that dues are due.
- **Treasurer:** Lynn Youngblood reported Scholarship Fund is \$5,000 + and General Fund is \$3,500. 2016 calendars are now available for \$10 each. Sale of Bob Harwood prints at Coulter's Creek increased the Scholarship Fund.
- **Nominating:** Officers rotate at the new year. Holding an office is a great way to learn more about CFC, the membership and the many things CFC participates in: local, regional and national events and organizations. Office of the Vice President needs to be filled.

- **Conservation:** Doug Baldwin mentioned that on November 24 Grangeville will be the site for a comment meeting for the Lochsa Land Swap. Bonneville Power Associate breached a dike on the lower Columbia near Scappoose to restore estuaries. The estuaries are 20% of what they once were.
- **IFFF:** Steve Bush said tickets are available for the Fly Fishing Film Tour at Hyperspod and White Pine Gear Exchange. Also, back issues of Northwest Fly Fishing magazines are available if anyone would like to take. Steve reminded the club that the Vets program will be tomorrow night at the Moscow Elks.

Announcements:

1. **Casting for Recovery:** Peg Kingery, representing Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington, attended the National Casting for Recovery Convention this past October 23-25. It was a great opportunity to network with volunteers, and learn new recruiting and retention ideas. And also, learn how to cultivate donors. There were medical sessions regarding medications and the recovery process in relation to emotional aspects of breast cancer.



2. Reminder to **purchase raffle tickets**; 6 for \$5.00. December is the raffle ticket drawing for a fly rod. Make sure you dues are paid so you can be eligible to win the rod! Help make the raffle a success by donating an item!

Program Notes:



‘Fall Fishing the Clearwater – The Future’

Joe Dupont, IDFG fisheries biologist and past President of the American Fisheries Society, is on a fact finding mission. IDFG is in the midst of another rule cycle and he is interested in CFC's thoughts about different proposed rule changes. As background, Joe presented information regarding the Clearwater drainage for species of steelhead, coho and chinook salmon. The Clearwater is world renowned as a steelhead fishery. Salmon numbers of coho and chinook have been increasing. Charts and graphs illustrated the numbers of steelhead and salmon coming up the Columbia. There is an overlap of when each species of fish are present in the Clearwater River: steelhead from July to December, fall chinook from September to October and coho from September to mid November.

Based on Joe's research, satisfaction of a good fishing day for a boat fisherman, in general, is to catch fish. Satisfaction of a fly angler is not to be crowded or to engage in "combat fishing". Joe and his team are trying to minimize conflict between boat anglers, wade anglers and guides. With 3 species of fish to catch, conceivably the river would be more crowded. Joe presented a survey with numerous options for seasons and sections of the river open for the various species. He will summarize CFC's survey results and report his findings to us. IDFG is trying to seek the best opportunities, with conservation of resources, for the majority of all members of the angling community.



Fly of the Month: Turkey Nymph

From the IFFF website, <http://fedflyfishers.org/Tying/FlyoftheMonth.aspx>

Hook: Daiicche 1310 short shank, size 18 (The shank has the length of a #20)

Thread: Uni thread, 8/0, Camel

Tail: Wood duck

Rib: Copper wire, fine

Abdomen: Cinnamon turkey tail fibers

Thorax: Peacock herl



Here is an effective pattern that Don McFarland was demonstrating at the 2013 East Idaho Fly Tying Expo. Don is from Boise, Idaho, and he ties at several shows, fairs and expos in the Northwest part of the United States. Don said that he uses it on the Owyhee (Oregon) and Boise (Idaho) rivers. He even had a picture of a monster fish that his friend caught using a Turkey Nymph that Don had tied. OK how does he fish it? Most of the time he suspends it from a strike indicator. The length of leader between the strike indicator and the fly depends on how fast the water is moving. In still water or very slow moving water make the length a little less than the water depth. In moving water make it two times the water depth. If it is run-off time you don't have a chance so go home or to a nearby lake. Keep your eye on the strike indicator. If it does anything strange, tighten the line and see if there is wiggle. That is what I did years ago on the Madison River in Montana. I was casting so the fly would sink and drift alongside of a rock. My strike indicator stopped, and my first thought was "hang-up." However, there was a wiggle when I tightened the line. Eventually, a nice foot long rainbow came to hand and was released. If the strike indicator moves sideways you can be pretty sure you have a fish. I say "pretty sure" because nothing is a sure thing when you are fishing. In lakes or ponds if the strike indicator goes down it might be a fish. If it stays down it is probably a weed. Fish will usually spit out phony food. If you look away to pour coffee or get a sandwich the strike indicator will go down, and when you look back it will be coming up. I start with the strike indicator about a foot above the bottom in lakes and adjust until I catch fish. Try casting downwind; then cast crosswind.

Clearwater Fly Casters
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December, 2015

Clearwater Fly Casters Officers & Committee Chairs 2015

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Membership and Monthly Meeting:

CFC membership dues are \$25/yr for individuals, \$35/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.