



# The Tippet

May, 2015

## Clearwater Fly Casters

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

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



### May Program: 'Does oxygenation restoration in lake systems affect fish diet?', Megan Skinner, School of the Environment, WSU

Megan received a Clearwater Fly Casters Scholarship in 2014 and will report on her PhD project



Megan Skinner grew up in Vancouver, WA and began fishing for Brook Trout in the alpine lakes of the Cascade Mountains at a very young age. Currently, Megan is a PhD student and graduate research assistant in the School of the Environment at WSU. She received a MS in Natural Resource Science from WSU in December 2013. Megan also has a BS in Biology and Ecology from Western Washington University. Previous to her graduate work, Megan was a climbing and wilderness

ranger with the Forest Service on the Mt Adams District of Gifford Pinchot National Forest. When not catching hundreds of fish for her research and dissecting them for tissue samples, Megan enjoys skiing, climbing, running, and cooking.

Cultural eutrophication, or the increase in primary productivity as a result of human activity, can reduce dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in the deep water of lakes. Low DO levels are potentially lethal to sport fish species such as trout. Additionally, while trout may not be able to access deep lake water in these conditions, prey such as zooplankton and midge larva actively seek refuge from predation and are often off limits to trout. Hypolimnetic (deep water) oxygenation has the potential to fully restore DO levels in deep lake water, increasing trout habitat and access to food sources.

A trend of cultural eutrophication and subsequent decline in a trout fishery has been observed for the last several decades in the Twin Lakes of northeastern Washington. Since the 1970s land-use practices and resort development have increased primary productivity in the lakes and depleted deep-water DO levels during summer. There has been a large reduction in brook trout and rainbow trout habitat and access to prey. In 2009, Washington State University and the Confederated Tribes of the

#### CFC Calendar

**May 13, CFC Club Meeting & Auction, Univ Best Western, 5:30 Buffet; Auction 7:00 pm**

**May 16: Amber Lake Fish Out**

**May 16: Pullman Art Walk**

**June 12: Moscow Art Walk**

**June 13: CFC Elk River Outing & Casting Instruction**

**July 10-12: St Joe Fish Out**

**Sept 9: CFC Picnic**

**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 pm**

**Program: 7:30 pm**

Colville Reservation installed a hypolimnetic oxygenation system in North Twin Lake to increase deep-water DO levels; South Twin Lake remains untreated as a study control. Washington State University researchers demonstrated that trout are using restored deep-water habitat in North Twin Lake and preliminary gut content analyses indicate an increase in deep-water prey items in trout diet. Additionally, previous diet research indicates illegally introduced Golden Shiner are competing with trout for prey sources and that oxygenation may have exacerbated this competition. I will be presenting the results of a stable isotope diet study assessing how oxygenation has affected trout and Golden Shiner diet in the Twin Lakes.

## Presidents' Message (Joe Vaughan)

A few years ago I was crewing on the tall ship Lady Washington and we docked in Sausalito, CA, near the San Francisco Bay Model facility, housing a scale model of the Bay, for hydrologic studies. At a lecture there I learned about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, *discovered* by Captain Charles Moore when sailing across the Pacific. I saw pictures of dead albatross chicks and handled baggies of their stomach contents, small plastic items fed them by their doting parents: lighters, pen parts, bottle tops, pill bottles and weathered plastic fragments; sometimes snarled together with fishing line. Apparently these plastic items looks quite like squid or baitfish to such birds, but since such fare is indigestible, if not actually toxic, and obstructive, it is lethal to their chicks. Captain Charles Moore visited WSU a few years ago, and he gave a very elegant presentation about his research into plastic pollution of the ocean. Tiny plastic spheres are shipped by the carload and, with careless handling, travel with storm-water, out to sea. These, as any fisherman might appreciate, look like tiny fish eggs; very small sea creatures eat these plastic 'eggs' that are of course indigestible. Moore's organization, Algalita, leads in education on this issue of oceanic plastic pollution and also leads in promoting laws cleaning up the industrial handling of plastic beads. Plastic pollution has many diverse sources – there is no simple solution. Locally, Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute organizes streamside trash collection events, a worthy way to spend a day, keeping trash from washing downstream, perhaps all the way to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. When I go fishing, I take along a garbage bag, as many of us do, to pick up discarded trash, *especially plastic*. Because while we cannot clean up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, we can reduce what gets flushed out of our rivers. (You can catch Captain Charlie Moore's TED talk online.)

## Forward Cast:

- **May 16:** CFC Amber Lake Fishout; Lunch furnished by President Joe
- **May 16:** Pullman Art Walk; Participation by CFC fly tiers
- **June 6 & 7:** WA free fishing weekend
- **June 12:** Moscow Art Walk; Participation by CFC fly tiers
- **June 13:** ID Free Fishing Day; CFC outing and fly casting instruction
- **July 10 – 12:** CFC St Joe River Fishout; Fly Flat Campground
- **Aug 11-15:** International FFF Fair, Bend, OR, Riverhouse Convention Center
- **Sept 9:** CFC Picnic at Paul and Cindy Agidius's house

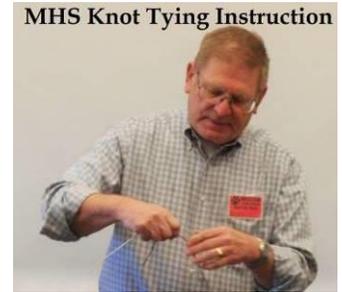
## Bounce Cast:

If you missed the opportunity to 'opt in' to share your email address with other CFC members you will have another opportunity to do so at the May 13 meeting.

The club donated a Bob Harwood print to the Palouse Student Unit American Fishery Society annual Wild Game Dinner and Auction and also to the Palouse Habitat for Humanity Beans N Jeans fundraiser. It sold for \$400 in live auction at the Fishery Society event and \$155 in the Habitat for Humanity silent auction.



Several members of the CFC club provided knot tying and fly casting instruction for Moscow High Students in their PE class taught by Robin Barnes. One class period was devoted to knot tying, two were devoted to fly casting on the high school lawn, and one day consisted of actual fly fishing at Spring Valley. Thanks to everyone involved in this very worthwhile event. Hopefully this will stimulate some students to get off their



smart phones and tablets and head outdoors to enjoy nature. Perhaps there were some future Clearwater Fly Casters in the group.



## Back Cast to April Meeting:

**President** Joe Vaughan presided at the Clearwater Fly Casters meeting.

**Welcome New Members:** John Turner, who travels from Spokane two days a week and works as a dentist at Moscow Family Dentistry; Tyler Nash and Sierra Larson owners of White Pine Gear and Fly Exchange, Moscow; and Ron Stack a guest of John Jackson.



**Welcome Guests:** Lyssa Kopke guest of Ray and Jill Dacey; Matt Dunkle, scholarship winner and his guest Danielle Berardi; Spencer Plumb, scholarship winner; Laura Livingston, scholarship winner; Alex Fremier, Laura's academic advisor; and Adrienne Zuckerman, last year's scholarship winner and tonight's program presenter of her fisheries project.

**Fishing reports:** Marc Ratzlaff and Cliff Swanson fished the St. Joe; no catching, Lynn and Kay Youngblood fished the Owyhee River; the water was very low. Fish 22 to 12" were caught on skwala patterns. Kay did catch 2 large carp. Roger Willemsen also fished the Owyhee a week later with more water and fish sipping #20 midge and BWO emerger patterns. Roger and Fred Meyer fished Elk River with big metal "flies", Panther Martins, and caught 12" rainbows. Nancy and Reid Miller returned from Cuba where they had fish for dinner; they were eating an invasive species. They weren't sure what species, but it tasted good! In February, Crystal Lewis and Linda Gardai were fishing on the Salmon River for steelhead and brought 13 to the boat with 6 keepers, the largest at 31". They also released a 35" wild steelhead. Cliff Swanson videoed steelhead spawning in the West Fork of the Little Bear Creek. Bob Buvel fished the Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River; lots of bugs, but not many fish.

## Committee Reports:

- **Membership** Chair, Paul Agidius, presented discussion from the last Executive Meeting regarding an increase in membership dues. He moved we increase the dues by \$5.00 each for individual and family

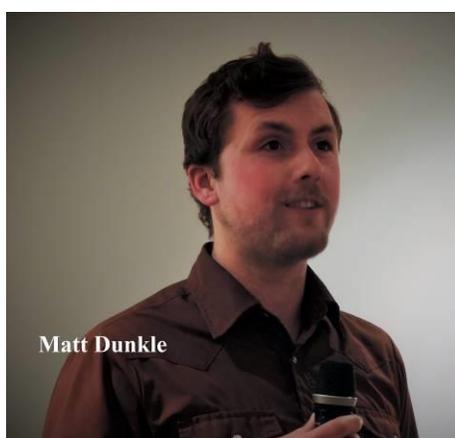
members. Student dues would remain the same at \$10.00. Cliff Swanson seconded the motion. Following discussion a voice vote was taken. The motion passed. The new dues structure will be effective beginning September 2015; the beginning of the new fiscal year for CFC.

- There have been requests to have a "fishing buddy" list comprised from the CFC membership list. Paul proposed the list be generated from current dues paying members on an "opt-in" basis. CFC will NOT sell or distribute any member or past member contact information. The "opt-in" list is for internal use only by dues paying members. Contact Paul to "opt-in" on the members only shared list.



**Special Award:** Allured-Collins past recipient, Cliff Swanson, presented this year's Allured-Collins award to Steve Bush. Steve hosts fly tying at his office monthly, is the club's FFF liaison, coordinates with Moscow High School and CFC members regarding knot tying and casting instruction for high school students, ties flies at several events promoting CFC, faithfully attends club meetings and Executive Committee meetings, keeps and maintains CFC's plaques and awards and so many other things not noted. As a past president of CFC, Steve exhibits continued leadership within Clearwater Fly Casters and the community in general. Steve - Thank you for all your contributions to CFC and congratulation on receiving this well deserved award.

**The Bill Alspach & Dave Engerbretson Memorial Scholarship: Recipients:** Matt Dunkle, U of ID, 'The Role of Pacific Lamprey in Stream Food Webs of the Interior Columbia River Basin'; Spencer Plumb, U of ID, 'Social and Economic Factors Motivating Irrigation Districts and Farmers and Ranchers to Participate in Environmental Water Transactions'; and Laura Livingston, WSU, 'Marine-derived Nutrient Pathways and Potential for Aquatic Growth in Salmon Streams'. Congratulations to all!



## Announcements:

- The tally of last month's Auction is \$3,200. This amount is divided evenly in CFC's general and scholarship funds.
- Joy Lunsford and Kay Youngblood have volunteered to begin planning our next Auction in 2017. If anyone is interested in joining them, they are most welcome to join the fun!
- Steve Bush reminded us of the FFF Fair May 1&2 in Ellensburg, WA
- Steve Bush has been contacted by Robin Barnes, Moscow High School teacher, to again instruct students in fly fishing knots and casting. The dates are April 21, 23, 28 and 30.
- Peg Kingery announced that Casting for Recovery will host this year's event on July 17, 18 and 19 at the Orvis Lodge of the Year, Flying B in Kamiah, ID. To help fund this event, a golf tournament will be

held May 16 at the Canyon Golf Club in Lewiston, ID. Cost is \$65 per person which includes 18 holes, cart and lunch. Hole and team sponsorships are available. Peg is inviting men to fish with the CFR participants on Sunday, July 19 at the Fly B.

**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:

Adrienne Zuckerman, Clearwater Fly Caster 2014 scholarship award winner, pursuing a M.S. degree from University of Idaho presented her program: 'Aquatic Food Webs and Implications for Ecosystem Restoration'. Adrienne is developing a model to predict how much and where periphyton or the "green goo" on rocks located in stream and river beds occurs in order to calculate where best to locate stream and river restoration for a variety of fish species to live and thrive. She presented a host of graphs and charts illustrating her research and findings. Nitrogen and phosphorus levels are important factors in her research located on and near the Methow River, WA. Adrienne's work is valuable not only the information she is discovering, but provides information as a basis for future research projects.

## Fly of the Month: Stump Buster

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

Hook: 4X long, size 6

Weight: Cone head brass, large and lead wire, 0.030 inch

Thread: Flat wax nylon, heavy, black

Body: Sculpin wool, white camo

Rib: Copper wire, size BR (brassy)

Tail, fin and collar: Pine squirrel strips; natural, olive, brown and black



John Barr designed this pattern. It is very popular with many anglers because of its fantastic movement. As with any good pattern, there are many variations. Kit Seaton from Billings, MT was tying his version of it at the 2012 East Idaho Fly Tying Expo in Idaho Falls, ID.

If you are having trouble hooking into a fish try changing your fly to a Slump Buster, cast, retrieve and hang on. It can have an erratic movement through the water that drives fish crazy. In shallow water use a floating line and strip it with short jerks. When you strip this fly the head comes up and it dives down between strips. In deeper water use a full sinking line, let the line sink for a bit and again strip it erratically. This movement drives the fish crazy, and they have to hit it hard. It is a matuka-style streamer. Vary the speed of the retrieve until the fish tell you what they want. Sometimes long, slow strips are the answer while other times fast and furious produces. As always be sure to go fishing on overcast days. You'll like the fun!

Clearwater Fly Casters  
PO Box 394  
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## Clearwater Fly Casters Officers & Committee Chairs 2015

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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.