



The Tippet

February, 2016

Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



February Program:-Andy Abrams, Rise Experience Collective <http://riseexperiencecollective.com/>

Video: '*The Roadless River*'



I grew up in Moscow, Idaho. When I was a kid, my Dad took me camping and fishing on the north fork of the Clearwater River. As I grew up, I stopped going there, thinking I had better things to do.

When I moved back to Idaho in my late 20's and began fly fishing again, it was like I had re-connected with an old friend. The problem was none of my other friends were interested in fly fishing. Many of them were artists, musicians, writers, photographers. I could not get them to go fishing with me.

One day, after some bribery, I finally got one of them to go fishing. When we got to the river I was so excited to share this experience with my good buddy! He fished for about 20 minutes, and decided he would rather sit by the river and write poetry. He said the river air cleared his mind. That is when the idea of a collective first took root in me.

After this, I decided to approach my friends with a different proposition: "Come with me, and use your talents to capture the experience of enjoying the wild rivers, wild fish, and wild places of Idaho and the Pacific Northwest so we can share it with others!" This idea resulted in a lot more company on my fishing trips, and formed the basis for Rise Experience Collective.



Presidents' Message (Joy Lunsford)

The Clearwater Fly Caster's Club continues to grow - our membership is at an all-time high! This is a special welcome to our four new members who joined last month. I'm super-excited about several women that have recently joined as fly fishing has been male-dominated in the past. YAY!

We have lots of exciting events planned for later this year including the Amber Lake and St Joe outings, fly tying, casting and fishing instruction for members and the community, and a women's only fly tying class.

I welcome ideas on how to make the club even more fun and interesting than it already is!

CFC Calendar

Feb 10: CFC Club Meeting, Univ Best Western, Moscow

Feb 17: Fly Tying, 6:30 pm, Moscow Title, Moscow, ID

May 7: Amber Lake outing

July 16: St Joe Fish-out

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

Shooting Line:



A new Trout Unlimited chapter, Clearwater/Snake Chapter, was “spawned” at their recent organizational meeting. Michael Wells is chapter president and several CFC members are officers and/or are on the board. Additional information is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/clearwatersnakechaptertu/>.



Forward Cast:



The 2016 Fly Fishing Film Tour is coming to Moscow, ID. The showing will benefit the Casting for Recovery Northern Idaho/Eastern Washington Chapter. All proceeds from movie ticket and raffle ticket sales will go directly to CFR and will help host their 2016 retreat for women battling or recovering from breast cancer.



Location: Kenworthy Performing Arts Center, Moscow Idaho

Date & Time: Feb 8: Doors open @ 6:00 pm Movie starts at 7pm.

Cost: Tickets are \$10

ID Fish & Game is seeking input to help develop the 2016 spring Chinook Salmon rules in the Clearwater Region at a series of three public meetings. During the meeting biologists will discuss last year's Chinook season and possibilities for the future. As always, input from anglers is important to help insure the Chinook Salmon run is managed in a manner that is most satisfying to all who participate in this amazing fishery. There will also be free pizza and a few short presentations regarding Chinook Salmon and also steelhead. Pizza will be served at 5:30 pm with presentations following shortly. The meetings will be held in Orofino, Riggins and Lewiston. The Lewiston meeting will be **February 24** at the Idaho Fish and Game Office, 3316 16th St. Those unable to attend can provide comments to Joe DuPont (208-799-5010) or joe.dupont@idfg.idaho.gov.

Important Dates and Events:

Feb 10: Clearwater Fly Casters Meeting. Bring a friend! Bring a student!

Feb 8: 2016 Fly Fishing Film Tour, Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre, Moscow, proceeds donated to Casting for Recovery

Feb 17: Fly tying at Moscow Title

Feb 24: ID Fish & Game Chinook Salmon input meeting, 5:30 pm, ID Fish & Game Office, Lewiston

March 18-19: North Idaho Fly Fishing Expo (NIFFE), Clearwater River Casino and Event Center, Lewiston.

April 22: Annual Wild Game Feed, American Fisheries Society – Palouse Unit, 1912 Building, Moscow

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

May 7: Amber Lake Outing

May 13-14: The Western Rocky Mountain Council of FFF Expo, Best Western, Coeur d'Alene, ID

June 11: ID free fishing day

June 11 &12: WA free fishing weekend

July 16: St Joe Fish-Out

Back Cast:

Clearwater Fly Casters Club Meeting January 6, 2016

President Joy Lunsford presided at the Clearwater Fly Casters meeting.

2016 Election of Officers: Slate of officers as presented by the Executive Committee are:

President: Joy Lunsford

Vice President: Open

Treasurer: Lynn Youngblood

Secretary: Kay Youngblood

Jill Dacey moved the slate of officers be approved. Motion passed.

Committee chairs for 2016 are: Membership; Paul Agidius; Conservation, Doug Baldwin; FFF Representative, Steve Bush; Tippet Editor, Roger Willemsen; Webmaster and Scholarship, Cliff Swanson; and Programs, Fred Meyer. Committee chairs are not elected.

Guests: Jane Freed, Belinda Rhodes, Mike Howard, Bob Russell, Bert Brehm, Steve Pettit, Eddie DeLa Rosa from Elk's Vet group, Bob Hasenoehrl, Jared August and at least 6 -8 others who arrived after the buffet dinner to hear the program.

Fishing reports:



1. Fred Meyer went steelhead fishing January 28th on the Clearwater. He had six "hits" bringing one 6 lb hatchery steelhead to the boat..
2. Dave Yonge reported the St. Joe River is frozen. He did catch a steelhead on the Clearwater; about a 11-12 pound wild steelhead.
3. Marc Ratzlaff and Cliff Swanson went ice fishing on Moose Creek. They each caught fish, about 13". Thanks to Steve Bush for providing the auger.



Announcements:

1. Film Festival by Costa will be Monday, February 8th at the Kenworthy with proceeds benefitting the Casting for Recovery retreat. The films will be different than the two recent fly fishing presentations. Tonda Lark is the primary sponsor with Gritman Hospital possibly a co-sponsor. Doors open at 6:00 with films beginning at 7:00. Tickets are \$10, which includes 1 raffle ticket. Additional raffle tickets will be available for 6 for \$5. You do not need to be present to win the raffle prizes.

2. NIFFE (North Idaho Fly Fishing Expo) in Lewiston will be March 18-19. CFC member Charlene Douglas is again NIFFE Chair. She is also on the Kelly Creek Fly Casters Board and is also Director of North Idaho Casting for Recovery. Hillary Hutchinson will be the Expo speaker. Charlene has packets of information seeking NIFFE sponsors, vendors and donation forms for items such as nets, rods, boxes of flies, etc.

3. Thank you note from George Hinman for the flowers sent by CFC in the passing of his wife was read by Joy.

4. Kay distributed a sign-up sheet for persons interested in fly tying, casting, and adult education on fly fishing. CFC is gathering names to create our data base for persons interested in certain activities. Stay tuned!

Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer:** Lynn Youngblood
 - a. Lynn Youngblood reported CFC has total assets of about \$10,000 with the scholarship fund at about \$6,500. The Scholarship Fund was increased by \$250 since Steve Busch, December rod winner, returned his winner's check to CFC's Scholarship Fund. **Thank you Steve!**
 - b. Executive Committee received an invitation to support the Northwest Fly Fishing Academy. This is a co-ed, ages 12-16, youth camp that focuses on conservation and a broad spectrum of fly fishing activities. The NFFA is seeking \$500 donations, with the youth paying \$300 for a total of \$800 for a weeklong experience. Doug Baldwin, CFC Conservation Chair, offered testimony of a friend's child that was on a "bad path." This camp turned him around and he is now employed as a fishing guide. The club approved Executive Committee's recommendation to donate \$500.

Raffle

Thanks to everyone who brought items for the raffle. Here are some ideas for things to bring: fly tying materials, hooks, etc. Also, fishing items such as tippet, leaders, fly floatant. Perhaps books that you have read and are ready to pass on, or other interesting items relative to fishing. Baked goods, jams or jellies are options too! The raffle tickets that you purchase are kept for the December drawing for the custom rod.

Program Notes:

'Steelhead, a Truly Diverse Resource'



Steelhead trout life-cycle.

Brett Bowersox, fisheries biologist for Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG), presented a program on 'Steelhead, a Truly Diverse Resource'. Understanding the life history of steelhead is the first step in appreciating this magnificent fish. From the time they spawn - their eggs, incubation, emergence, juvenile stage, smolts, growth and maturation in the river, as they travel to the estuary and ultimately the ocean - steelhead run the rigors of nature to survive.

Brett illustrated his presentation with graphs and statistics, among them from Lower Granite Dam. Adult steelhead migrate upstream to their spawning rivers July through December. Migration peak time is mid-August – September/October.

Lots of information about Steelhead and other anadromous fish can be tracked with a PIT tag (passive integrated transponder) inserted in the fish's body cavity. The PIT tag is an electronic tag measuring 12 mm long by 2.1 mm in diameter. It can be coded with 35 billion unique codes. As the tagged fish migrates to and from the ocean it can be detected with an array of antenna positioned in a stream and/or at the dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers providing information embedded in the tag on its history and migration. Additional information can be determined from the scales of fish collected from fish traps. Like a cross section of a tree, the scales have growth rings. The rings are smaller and closer together when the fish is in fresh water, due to slower growth. Once the steelhead reaches the ocean the space between the rings is larger since the fish is growing faster.

Juvenile steelhead may spend up to 7 years (the average is 2 years) in freshwater before migrating to estuarine areas as smolts and then into the ocean to feed and mature. Juveniles leave the rivers in this area in April, May and June to begin their annual migration. Adult steelhead may spend 1, 2, or 3 years in the ocean. The average is 2 years. Most (77%) of the steelhead returning from the ocean are female. Why? They make the journey to get big in order to produce more eggs. Size does matter! Most male steelhead also make the ocean journey but some are "resident" fish. Studies have shown that the male resident fish do fertilize eggs of female returning fish. Size of the resident fish depends upon the river system in which they are located.

There are not many repeat spawners in this area; perhaps only 1% due to the arduous trip from the streams of interior Idaho to the ocean and back to Idaho again. Steelhead in coastal streams make the short migration run 4-5 times and are bigger due to more time in the ocean.

Brett's presentation enlightened us all regarding the technology, time and dedication that is given to the research in understanding and preserving this treasured resource.



Fly of the Month: Gurgler

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

Hook: Dry Fly Hook (I am using a size 6)

Thread: Orange (color to match the foam)

Tail: Red Calf Tail (any color you like)

Rear Hackle: Orange (use any color you would like)

Palmar Ribbed Hackle: Orange

Body: Foam

Shell: Foam

Hackle: Brown and Grizzly mixed

Creator: Jack Gartside

Guest Tier: Jerry Coviello



I always like catching panfish on the top using a popper, but after taking a class with Jack Gartside, I wanted to take this fly and tie it for top water popping on my local stream in my neighborhood. Not many people fish the Neshaminy Creek as it comes out of Lake Galena (Pennsylvania). The stream is a warm water, and has bass, carp and sunfish. There is nothing like catching a few of these fish with this Gurgler on a one weight in the summer.

The Gurgler can be tied for fresh or saltwater fish. For this "Fly of the Month" entry I am tying it for freshwater on a dry fly hook.

**Clearwater Fly Casters
PO Box 394
Pullman, WA 99163**

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Clearwater Fly Casters Officers & Committee Chairs 2016

President	Joy Lunsford	joyelunsford@gmail.com
Vice President	open position	
Past President	Joe Vaughan	josephvaughan9@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lynn Youngblood	kaylynn4341@gmail.com
Secretary	Kay Youngblood	keaylynn4341@gmail.com
FFF Representative	Steve Bush	moscowtitle@moscow.com (208-882-4564)
Conservation Chair	Doug Baldwin	dougbaldwin83@gmail.com (509-334-1630)
Membership Chair	Paul Agidius	pagidius@moscow.com
Program Chairs	Fred Meyer	fw49meyer@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Joy Lunsford	joyelunsford@gmail.com
Webmaster	Roger Willemsen	rw.willemsen@gmail.com
	Cliff Swanson	clswan12@gmail.com

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.