



The Tippet

April 2020

Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



April Club Meeting and Program Cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic

The scheduled speaker for the April meeting, Michael Parrella, Dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Idaho may be called upon to make a presentation at a future club meeting.

Back Cast:

Jerry Myers (pictured at the right with Paul Agidius), a lifelong Idahoan and steelhead advocate presented “**A Past Life of Chasing Steelhead, A New Life of Protecting Them**” at our March 2020 meeting. He described his experiences on a Palouse wheat farm and cattle ranch and drew parallels between farming and guiding. Paul attempts to read the citation on the Certificate of Appreciation presented to Jerry following his outstanding presentation.



Message from the Executive Committee:

Due to the dangers of transmission of COVID 19 and recommendations to self-isolate, Club meetings are hereby cancelled for the remainder of the academic year and will resume, depending on conditions, in the fall. Also, club Fish Outs are hereby cancelled until further notice.

An enjoyable video that might be in lieu of cancelled club meetings features Terry Meyers, our last CFC speaker and his wife Terry, in their quest for year around steelheading. For viewing click on

<https://youtu.be/hoayCnXw8ho>

The video is a short 50 minutes long and a number that corresponds to our 50th year of club existence. We would appreciate receiving any feedback club members may have on the video. Send comments to Tippet Editor at f.muehlj@gmail.com

International Fly Fishing Film Festival: **Rescheduled**

Patagonia presents the International Fly Fishing Film Festival at Kenworthy Theater here in Moscow on October 26, 2020. The festival consists of short and feature length films

Important Dates and Events:

Coastal Conservation Association Annual banquet, Quality Inn Convention Center, Clarkston, Washington – **Rescheduled for November 6, 2020**

May 16, 2020: **Amber Lake Fish Out**, **Cancelled until further notice**

June 12-13, 2020: **North Fork Coeur d’Alene Fish Out**, Meet at Devils’ Elbow Campground. **Cancelled until further notice**

July 10-11, 2020: **St. Joe Fish Out**, Fly Flat Campground. **Cancelled until further notice**

International Fly Fishing Film Festival **rescheduled** for Oct. 26, 2020 at Kenworthy Theater in Moscow, ID. Doors open at 6:00 pm, films start at 7:00 pm

produced by professional filmmakers from all corners of the globe, showcasing the passion, lifestyle and culture of fly-fishing. This is a must see experience. Doors open at 6 pm with the show starting at 7 pm. The evening also includes raffle items and possibly a silent auction. Raffle items donated by club members for the event are gratefully accepted. For additional information about the event contact Steve Bush. Tickets: \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door.

Coastal Conservation Association Annual Banquet: Postponed until fall

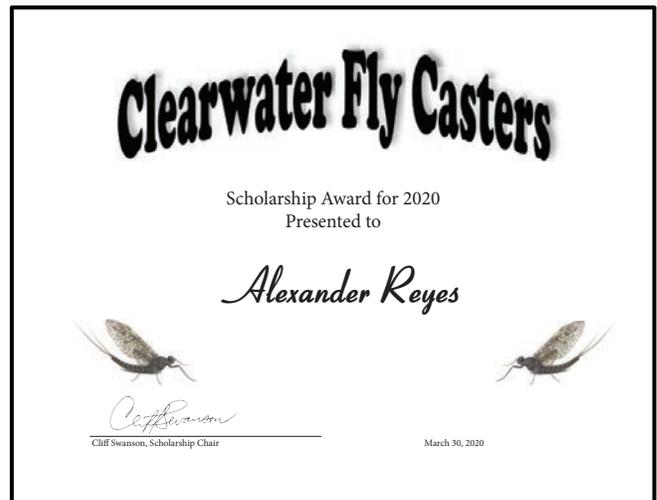
In the utmost of caution for members, CCA has decided to reschedule the CCA Hells Canyon fundraising banquet and for **Friday, November 6th.**

The mission of CCA is on marine conservation and on removing non-selective gill nets from inland waterways, increasing hatchery production, reducing pinniped predation on salmon and steelhead, and restoring fisheries across the state and region. Your support is important as we continue this vital work. We look forward to seeing you at the banquet in November.

Scholarships:

Bill Alspach & Dave Engerbretson Memorial Scholarships are awarded annually to one or more students at Eastern Washington University, Lewis-Clark State College, the University of Idaho, or Washington State University.

2020 Awardees are Megan Heller, MSc at U of I, for her study of Bonneville Cutthroat in Bear Lake and Alex Reyes, PhD at WSU for Food web studies in Omak Lake, WA dominated by Lahontan Cutthroat trout. We look forward to hearing their results at a future meeting of the club.



Conservation Committee:

From CCA: "Earlier this month, funding for several important pro-salmon and pro-recreational fishing initiatives in the state supplemental operating budget were passed by the legislature. Thanks to you, other CCA members, and our great coalition partners, we were able to secure several important wins:

Funding to improve state salmon hatcheries to benefit Orca whales and fisheries (with a focus on a potential new hatchery on the Cowlitz River); ensuring WDFW has funding and direction to maintain recreational fisheries in Puget Sound and the Columbia River; funding to control sea lion predation of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead; and funding to implement the first phase of a Columbia River gillnet buyback."

Moscow High School Fly Tying and Casting Program: **Cancelled**

Fly of the Month: "Blow Torch Nymph"

This fly pattern is courtesy of Fly Fishers International. Details and steps for tying this fly can be found on their website: <http://fedflyfishers.org/Tying/FlyoftheMonth.aspx>

This pattern was created by Devin Olsen the Euro nymph/competition genre. Simple, pattern, hook rides upside down with the jig hook and slotted bead head. Also, the slotted bead weight is above the hook shank to help the hook ride upside down with the hook point up.

Materials:

Hook: Daiichi 4647 Jig Hook Sizes 8 through 16

Thread: Fire Orange 6/0 or 8/0

Bead: Copper Slotted Bead to match the hook

Weight: .015 Lead Free Wire (6 to 8 turns) behind the bead

Tail: Fire Orange Antron Yarn not to extend past the bend of the hook **Rib:** Holographic Small Green Tinsel

Body: Peacock Ice Dubbing, you can use peacock

Collar: Fire Orange thread coated with either UV Resin or Head Cement

Hackle: Hen well marked fibers



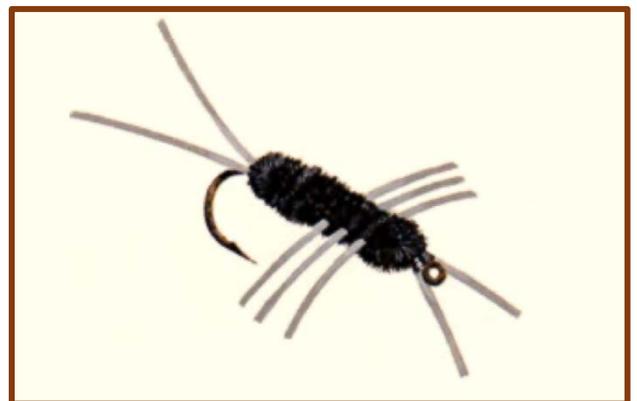
An extra Fly of the Month: "The Rubber Legs/Girdle Bug"

This fly pattern is courtesy of Fly Fishers International. Details and steps for tying this fly can be found on their website: <http://fedflyfishers.org/Tying/FlyoftheMonth.aspx>

How can a wary fish distinguish a live underwater fly from a dead (or fake) fly that is being carried along with the current or stripped in by an expectant fly fisher?. One answer would be legs, or more specifically legs that are moving in a life-like fashion. Hackle, particularly soft hackle used on underwater flies is intended to create that illusion of life. The soft hackle from a partridge or quail, tied long and flowing does this job pretty well.

Moreover, these are natural materials and acceptable to more traditional fly tiers. Tying flies with materials from the hair and feathers of nature's wild critters is a noble undertaking and it fits with the ecosystem world view of many fly anglers. Silk and wool are acceptable because of their natural origins.

However, we live in a world made better by chemical manipulations, so we are told. Indeed, there is a man-made leg material thought by many to be better for fly legs, especially on imitations of big insects like giant stoneflies and dragonflies. It is more available, generally cheaper, easier to tie with, can be changed to almost any color pattern and is almost indestructible. This miracle material is rubber, or more accurately, the thin strands of rubber like those in a rubber band. These rubber strands are available in most fly tying supply stores and you can get thousands of flies out of the bundle of rubber found in a common bungee cord, costing less than two bucks. Rubber legs are common in the most popular big flies for trout, like Girdle Bugs, Bitch



Creek Nymphs, Yuk Bug, Madam X, Ugly Rudamus, most spun deer hair bass bugs and a host of panfish flies, including the favorite cork body poppers.

Why are rubber legs so popular or effective? Unlike barbules of a feather, the rubber strands used in fly legs do not taper and hence a long rubber leg has a lot of weight or mass far out from the point of attachment. That mass tends to be very unstable and it moves almost on its own. While this mini-physics lecture is unnecessary, it adds to the view we fly anglers have of ourselves as scientific.

Finally, for those traditionalists who find rubber legs unacceptable, rubber is a material

perhaps almost as old as silk, with archeological data to suggest that the native people of central America were using it for over 3,500 years.

While there are literally hundreds of flies with rubber legs, the following instructions are for the Girdle Bug. The name of this fly is based on the source of the rubber for the legs.

MATERIALS:

Hook: 2X long hook, sizes 2-12

Thread: Black

Tail: Two strands of "rubber hackle" white or any color desired. Some tiers segment the rubber strands with a marker creating a grizzly pattern and Orvis actually sells some barred rubber strands.

Body: Black, green, brown or even yellow chenille, or two of these colors.

Ribbing: A fine silver or gold tinsel (optional)

Legs: Three sets of rubber strands tied to stick out sideways from the body and spaced evenly so as to divide the body into 4 segments.

Antennae: Same as tail.

TYING STEPS

1. Select two segments of rubber strand material about $1 \frac{3}{4}$ the length of the hook shank. Tie them directly on top of the hook so that they form a "V" tail extending beyond the end of the hook shank about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the hook shank length.
2. Wrap the thread over the rubber leg material up to about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the hook eye. 3. Select three segments of rubber strand material about $1 \frac{1}{4}$ times the length of the hook shank. Lay these at right angles to the hook shank and tie in with a criss-crossing thread. Position the three sets of legs at equal intervals along the length of the body (a common pattern for a Girdle Bug), or alternatively concentrate them near the front, as in a "Rubber Legs" pattern.
4. If you wish to weight the fly, tie in a segment of thin or heavy lead wire just behind the eye (depending upon weight desired) and wrap it from the front to the back. Leave room to finish the head.
5. Wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook and tie in the ribbing and the chenille. If a two-tone fly (as in the Girdle bug) is desired tie in both colors of chenille.
6. With a single color fly wrap the chenille forward and tie it off behind the eye (leaving room for the head). The chenille should not interfere with for a dark upper body and a yellow underbody, wrap the thread back to the bend and lay the yellow (second color) chenille under the body. Wrap the thread forward followed by the ribbing.
7. Tie off chenille, ribbing, whip finish the head and apply cement. 8. Go and catch some fish.

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Clearwater Fly Casters

April 2020

Clearwater Fly Casters Officers & Committee Chairs 2020

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Vice President	Open	
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Webmaster	Cliff Swanson	clswan12@gmail.com

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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.