



The Tippet

March 2020

Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



March Program:

“A Past Life of Chasing Steelhead, A New Life of Protecting Them” a presentation by Jerry Myers

"A lifelong Idahoan, Jerry Myers shares his journey from a childhood on a Palouse wheat farm and cattle ranch to a life of steelhead guiding and steelhead advocacy. Jerry (pictured at the right, with Terry) will discuss the beauty and value of steelhead to Idaho communities and why guiding and farming are closely related."

Backcast:

Ed Krumpe, Professor Emeritus of Natural Resource Management at the College of Natural Resources at the University of Idaho, presented “Lessons Learned in America’s Wildest Classroom” at our February meeting. The presentation highlighted the scope and complexity of the wilderness classroom and the knowledge gained by students and researchers regarding wilderness and wildlife issues. Dr. Krump (below) receives the award certificate from acting President Tony McDonnell.



Raffle Board:

A large number of excellent small flies have been donated to the club for use in fund raising. A Raffle Board was established with 50 squares commemorating the first 50 years of Clearwater Fly Casters. The successful completion of the 50 squares at the February meeting was followed later in the meeting by the drawing. The winner of the drawing, Gary Evers, pictured at the left, was delighted to win the box of flies.



Moscow Elks Vets Fly Tying and Casting Program:

The group is still looking for any used clothing or fly fishing gear you might want to donate. They are mainly in need of wading boots and waders for men and women. Even though this is an Elks program the majority of the helpers are members of Clearwater Fly Casters. If you have gear you are willing to part with, please bring the items to the next meeting of the club. Cliff Swanson will be collecting the items and passing them on to the Elks program.

Coastal Conservation Association Annual Banquet:

Each CCA chapter puts on an annual fundraising banquet the proceeds of which stay in Washington to fund CCA advocacy efforts and statewide operations. The fundraising success of the banquet relies upon the banquet committees, donors and attendees. Costs are \$65 for an individual or \$425 per table of 8 (\$53 per person). See Conservation Committee Chair Doug Baldwin for further information and to arrange for tickets or a full table. All banquet attendees become members of CCA. The mission of CCA is to conserve, promote and enhance the present and future availability of these coastal resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public. By fully supporting CCA we gain an effective voice in setting coastal fishing policies especially regarding threatened salmon and steelhead. Needless to say, let's have a good turnout for this important event! Support for CCA is becoming increasingly important as that organization fights for complete removal of non-selective gill-netting on the Lower Columbia river.

Information

The Tippet is available as a PDF file on our web site: www.clearwaterflycasters.com

Please submit information to the Newsletter Editor at f.muehlj@gmail.com

Meetings 2nd Wed (except June, July and Aug)
University Best Western Inn, Moscow, ID

Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 pm

Buffet Dinner: 6:30 pm; \$16, students \$8

Menu:

Fish and Chips: ale battered cod, baked beans, Jo-Jo's, house coleslaw, spring green salad and assorted dressings, rolls and butter, assorted deserts

Coffee/Tea/Soda

Program: 7:00 pm



Scholarships:

Clearwater Fly Casters award Scholarships each year to worthy graduate students from the University of Idaho, Washington State University and Eastern Washington University. Lewis and Clark State College students are also eligible to participate. Nine proposals have been submitted by students and will soon be evaluated and decisions made regarding awards. Scholarship Awards will be announced at the April meeting of the club. Research by these students benefits not only fish, but also enhances the economics of the Pacific Northwest.

The Clearwater Fly Casters Scholarship Fund has awarded over \$16,000 in the past 5 years to graduate and undergraduate students in studies of fisheries and fishery management.

North Idaho Fly Fishing Expo:

The North Idaho Fly Fishing Expo sponsored by the Kelly Creek Flycasters will be held March 19-21, 2020 at the Red Lion in Lewiston, Idaho.

Thursday, March 19, Fly Fishing Film night sponsored by the Lewiston Tribune

Friday and Saturday, March 20-21, Fly tying and educational sessions both days

Friday night, March 20, Banquet with Speakers Ladin Langman and Steve Ronholt of "Fishing with Ladin." Ladin and Steve will also do a session on Saturday.

Conservation Committee:

Committee Chair, Doug Baldwin, and Bob Russell met with Washington State Representatives, Joe Schmick and Mary Dye and discussed legislation currently being considered to remove gill nets from the Lower Columbia river (LCR) and in-shore waters of the state of Washington.

In 1995, Oregon and Washington asked NOAA to make recommendations to restore wild salmonids in the Columbia river system. They're response was to; 1. Get the gill nets out of the LCR (below Bonneville), and 2. Buy back licenses of LCR commercial gill netters.

In 2013, both states adopted a program to phase gill nets out of the main stem Columbia river by the end of 2017. During that period Commissioners of both states tried to unravel that agreement.

In 2018, state joint commissioners panel voted to return gill nets for the fall season (however, spring and summer runs were too low to meet brood stock requirements).

In 2019, Commissioners again voted to allow gill nets in the river for spring, summer and fall chinook runs if run projections would support it. Summer and fall chinook runs were so low they closed the river to sportsmen, a mark select fishery, while allowing non-selective commercial gill netting in the main stem of LCR.

The commissioners voted this year to allow long tangle nets for spring chinook and gill nets for summer and fall chinook even though run projections are dismally low.

Important Dates and Events:

March 11, 2020: CFC Club Meeting, University Inn Best Western, Moscow, ID Wet Fly Hour 5:30 pm, Dinner at 6:30 pm and Program at 7:30 pm. Bring a friend. Bring a student!

March 19-21, 2020: North Idaho Fly Fishing Expo sponsored by the Kelly Creek Flycasters will be held at the Red Lion in Lewiston, Idaho. (see below for details)

March 30, 2020: International Fly Fishing Film Festival. Kenworthy Theater, Moscow, ID. Doors open at 6:00 pm, films start at 7:00 pm

April 17, 2020: Coastal Conservation Association Annual banquet, Quality Inn Convention Center, Clarkston, Washington doors open at 5:30 pm

May 2-8, 2020: Fly Casting Fair, Luther Burbank Park, Mercer Island, WA

May 16, 2020: Amber Lake Fish Out

June 12-13, 2020: North Fork Coeur d'Alene Fish Out, Meet at Devils' Elbow Campground.

July 10-11, 2020: St. Joe Fish Out, Fly Flat Campground

News from Olympia 2/28/2020:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has already spent millions of dollars on numerous studies that have found seines and On February 25, [an amendment](#) sponsored by Senator Ann Rivers (R-La Center) to direct \$573,000 of state funds to a voluntary buyback of Columbia River gillnet licenses was included in the Senate supplemental operating budget ([SSB 6168](#)). The amendment replaced a WDFW budget request for the same amount of money to develop a report on a potential buyback plan and for continued studies of selective commercial fishing gears. WDFW has largely ignored direction to develop a gill net buyback since it was first included in the Columbia River policy in 2013.

The Department has already spent millions of dollars on numerous studies that have found seines and other fishing gears to be highly selective but has failed to incorporate these results into the management of these fisheries. WDFW should focus on the buyback and then outline a plan for implementing alternative, selective fishing gears for mainstem commercial fisheries. Unfortunately, the recent actions of WDFW and the Commission have gone the opposite direction as they have sought to return year-round gillnetting to the mainstem Columbia River, including the recent decision to return “tangle” gillnets to the mainstem for spring Chinook for the first time since 2016.

Diversity is the key to long-term survival

By Eric Crawford, Trout Unlimited, February 10, 2020.

Wild steelhead have many life histories, which is why rivers are healthier when wild fish return home throughout the course of a single year. An intact adipose fin means the steelhead you've caught is wild. If only it was as simple as an adipose fin. The presence of an adipose fin is universally recognized as *the mark*. An individual with an adipose fin is, with a few exceptions, considered a wild steelhead. On the other hand, those marked, clipped, or ad-intact fish, they are the hatchery ones. Although it is but a small *mark*, the presence of the fleshy fin tells more about the steelhead's story than you think.



The adipose fin tells us about where the fish was raised. In nature, or in a raceway. It also often signifies whether we can retain the fish or not. And, if you are a biologist, it will give you some insight into the diversity of the animal.

One reason we appreciate the diversity is that it allows us to fish for steelhead almost the entire year, depending on the region and watershed. Another reason is because of the resilience it conveys to the species. *To continue reading this article by Eric Crawford see:*

[https://www.tu.org/blog/wild-steelhead-diversity-is-](https://www.tu.org/blog/wild-steelhead-diversity-is-key-to-long-term-survival/)

[key-to-long-term-survival/](https://www.tu.org/blog/wild-steelhead-diversity-is-key-to-long-term-survival/)

Logging in Cayuse Creek:

Brett Haverstick with Friends of the Clearwater in Moscow is reaching out to our club to make sure we are aware that the Forest Service intends to log in the Cayuse Creek and Kelly Creek drainages. The 400-acres of commercial logging would occur off the Toboggan Ridge Rd. and also include thousands of acres of prescribed burns in both drainages.

Friends of the Clearwater have an action alert on their website. The public comment deadline is March 16. They would be happy to discuss any questions you may have about the project.

<https://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org/protect-cayuse-and-kelly-creek-from-logging/>

ANGLERS PURCHASE PRIME STEELHEAD AREA ALONG GRANDE RONDE RIVER, WITH PLAN TO PASS IT ON

By Eli Francovich
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

A prime piece of steelhead “reel estate” along the Grande Ronde River will become public property, thanks to the fundraising efforts of a group of dedicated anglers.

In late January, the Wild Steelhead Coalition purchased the 8-acre parcel featuring 2,000 feet of riverfront access. The undeveloped land, known as Turkey Run, is also adjacent to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife land already used by anglers and boaters.

The land is about a mile upstream from the mouth of the Grande Ronde.

Lynn Miller, the owner of the 8-acre parcel and an avid angler, had long allowed public access.

The Wild Steelhead Coalition



COURTESY OF FAY MILLS

Josh Mills, with the Wild Steelhead Coalition, stands along the Grande Ronde River in November 2019.

bought the 8 acres for about \$30,000 and plans to give the land to WDFW in about a year, said Josh Mills, of Spokane, a member

of the board of directors of the Seattle-based Wild Steelhead Coalition.

“They really could have sold it

for a considerable amount more. Lots more,” Mills said. “I think they could have put a couple of house plots (on it). They really put the public good over private gain.”

For Miller, public good took priority from the beginning.

When he decided to sell the land, which he’s owned for about 30 years, he went straight to WDFW.

The agency didn’t have the money to buy it at that time, so it turned to the Spokane Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club and other groups. The fly fishing club eventually partnered with the nonprofit Wild Steelhead Coalition and raised money throughout 2019.

“What was really awesome was the collaboration between all those involved,” Mills said.

As for Miller, he’s happy it will

remain open to the public calling it a “good deal.”

Growing up in Montana along the famed Madison River fundamentally altered his perspective on public access, he said.

“When I grew up, you could access that river anywhere you wanted,” he said. “You could talk to a land owner and they would say, ‘Yeah, go ahead.’”

That’s no longer the case. When he visits the Madison now, much of it is inaccessible with private land owners unwilling to grant public access.

“It was very frustrating to see,” he said.

He doesn’t want that to happen on the Grande Ronde.

“It is a world-class steelhead river when steelhead are around,” Mills said. “We aren’t making any new steelhead rivers.”

Fly Casting Fair:

Fly casters of all abilities can learn from the masters of the craft Saturday, May 2 at the Fly Casting Fair at Luther Burbank Park off I-90 on Mercer Island, WA. The day-long fair is hosted by the Washington Council of Fly Fishers International and will conclude with the council’s annual banquet at 5 p.m. at the Mercer Island Community Center located in the park just steps from the casting field. To register for the fair and reserve space in workshops go to www.wscffi.org The fair will be open to all at no charge. There will be fees for specific casting workshops and the dinner banquet.

The program is aimed at offering FFI members and the public a “soup to nuts” menu of casting information from learning the pick-up and lay-down to detailed workshops to spey demonstrations on the water. Don Simonson, a director of the Washington Council and member of FFI’s Casting Board of Governors, created an agenda to teach and inspire casters of all skill levels.

Facebook Page:

The club has a Facebook page that can be accessed by searching for Clearwater Fly Casters. Joe Vaughan will maintain the page.

Fly of the Month: “The Goddard Caddis”

This fly pattern is courtesy of Fly Fishers International. Details for tying this fly can be found on their website:

<http://fedflyfishers.org/Tying/FlyoftheMonth.aspx>

Materials:

Hook: Dry Fly Hook Sizes 8 through 14

Thread: Brown 6/0

Wing and Body: Natural Deer Hair spun and trimmed to shape

Hackle: Brown

Antennas: Striped Brown Hackle Stem



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Tier: Jerry Coviello

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Clearwater Fly Casters

March 2020

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Now on Facebook! Locate us by searching Clearwater Fly Casters

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.