



Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



December Program: Thomas Biladeau will present “Salmon Reintroduction in the Blocked Area: Preparing a Home in the Hangman Creek Watershed”

Thomas Biladeau is a Habitat Restoration Biologist and the Technical Lead for Salmon Reintroduction for the Coeur d’Alene Tribe. He has worked in Pacific Northwest Fisheries for over 20 years for multiple fisheries managing agencies including the Tribe, State of Idaho, and the Federal Government. His current work is focused on restoring stream and floodplain habitats throughout the Coeur d’Alene Tribe’s aboriginal territory for the inevitable return of anadromous fish.

Throughout history, the Coeur d’Alene and Spokane tribes relied on runs of anadromous fish in the Spokane River watershed. Once termed as “June hogs,” the summer run of chinook salmon adapted to spawn in the large substrate of the Spokane River frequently exceeded 70 pounds when harvested. These iconic fish, along with prolific runs of spring chinook and steelhead, were completely extirpated following the construction of hydroelectric dams in the Spokane River in the early 1900’s. The construction of Grand Coulee Dam in the 1930’s blocked the remaining runs of anadromous fish to the upper Columbia River, resulting in a loss of culture and sustenance for all of the Upper Columbia indigenous communities. Since 2014, the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) have pursued a regionally accepted phased approach to reintroduce anadromous salmonids to the blocked area. Phase 1, completed in 2019, identified potential donor stocks, habitat availability, modeled productivity, and potential risks to reintroduction. Upon determination that reintroduction is feasible, the UCUT has now initiated the process of testing that feasibility with an adaptive and stepwise implementation plan incorporating pilot research studies and interim passage projects.



Within the Hangman Creek watershed, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe is actively rehabilitating the landscape to prepare for the return of anadromous fish. Described historically as a cool, clean, and productive stream with vast floodplains and prolific beaver activity, Hangman Creek provided extensive spawning and nursery habitat for salmon and steelhead within the Spokane River watershed. In addition to abundant fish and wildlife, the fertile soil concurrently supported productive agriculture operations in the adjacent uplands. Over the last century however, resource extraction and human development have reached a point where the natural ecosystem can no longer support a sustainable population of salmon or steelhead. Throughout much of the watershed, flood plains and wetlands are actively drained to provide access for agriculture operations, and the adjacent uplands have some of the highest rates of topsoil loss in the region. Much has changed in the watershed following the complete extirpation of anadromous fish due to the development of hydropower. Current efforts to reintroduce salmon and steelhead in the blocked area have highlighted the urgency to restore a "home" for salmon that resembles what was historically abundant. Restoration strategies build upon transitioning away from active agriculture operations within the floodplains and into restoring natural ecological processes. Specific restoration actions are focused on restoring hydrologic function throughout the adjacent landscape, while improving habitat diversity and resilience given projected climate change scenarios.



To Join the Zoom Meeting on December 8th at 6:30 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87428354858?pwd=OUdGbkdQQ2djUi9qaFM4N1huWDI3dz09>

Meeting ID: 874 2835 4858

Passcode: 413033

Information for joining the zoom meeting is the same as earlier virtual meetings via zoom and will remain the same for any future virtual meetings of the club. The Zoom meeting will open at 6:30 pm.

Agenda: December 8th Meeting

1. Introductions and fishing reports at 6:30 pm.
2. January meeting 12th meeting of the club will be held via Zoom. Due to the pandemic and virus variants the Executive Committee decided to delay the start of in-person meetings.
3. Discussion of eventual return of in-person meetings at Best Western in February. If we begin to hold in-person meetings, should we require "proof of vaccination?"
4. Presentation of the slate of officers for 2022 and solicitation of nominations from the floor.
5. Joe Vaughan will introduce Thomas Biladeau who will present "Salmon Reintroduction in the Blocked Area: Preparing a Home in the Hangman Creek Watershed."
6. Question and answer period.
7. Adjourn.

General Club Information

- **Slate of officers for 2022 as proposed by the nominating committee:**
President: Kay and Lynn Youngblood
Vice President: Steve Bush (Steve would become President for 2023)
Secretary: Tony McDonnell (Tony would continue as Secretary)
Treasurer: Lynn Youngblood (Lynn would continue as Treasurer)
- **Committee assignments:**
Conservation: Doug Baldwin
Historian: Dave Tharp
Webmaster: Cliff Swanson
Tippet: Fred Muehlbauer
FI: Steve Bush
Program: Joe Vaughan
Membership: Paul Aggidius

Backcast

During our November virtual club meeting Tim Gerlitz presented "Fall Fungi of the Inland Northwest" and described the joys of mushrooming. Tim talked about mushroom hunting in North Idaho and the importance of correct mushroom identification.

Important Dates and Events:

December 8, 2021: CFC Club Meeting via Zoom (open at 6:30 pm). A spokesman for the Coeur d'Alene tribe will address their efforts to reestablish a summer chinook run in northern Idaho. Information for accessing the meeting can be found on page 1 of this Newsletter.

January 4, 2022: Executive Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm at Paradise Creek Brewery in Pullman. Members welcome to participate in the deliberations of the Executive Committee and offer their ideas and perspectives on the operations of the club.

January 12, 2022: CFC Club Meeting. The presentation at this meeting is to be determined and will be highlighted in the January issue of the Tippet. This meeting will be via Zoom.

Membership:

Membership Chair, Paul Aggidius, indicated some members have not paid their dues for the 2020-2022 membership period.

Given the fact that we are unable to hold general meetings due to Covid-19, it was agreed that membership dues paid in 2020 will also cover dues for 2021. Thus, members will have two years of membership for the cost of one year of dues.

Members are encouraged to renew their membership by sending a check for their dues to Lynn Youngblood, P.O. Box 394, Pullman, Washington 99163. **CFC membership dues are \$25/yr. for individuals, \$35/yr. for families, \$10/yr. for students, \$50/yr. sustaining, and \$300/lifetime.**

Conservation Committee

Conservation Committee Chair Doug Baldwin has no new information on litigation regarding continued gill netting on the Lower Columbia. Governor Inslee has requested a pause in the litigation.

Fly of the Month: “The Karluk Flash Fly”

The Karluk Flash Fly, more simply referred to as a "Flash Fly," is one of the most widely used and successful flies in Alaska. Its origin was fostered around Kodiak Island's Karluk River, but its range has become limitless as anglers find it useful wherever it's fished. And, although its greatest following may be with the silver salmon crowd, it has proven to be very versatile and effective for many of the gamefish fly anglers typically pursue.

As the name implies, the fly is the epitome of FLASH. It's made with a body, tail, and wing of bright flashabou, with an accented collar of dyed hackle at the head. The original pattern consists of a silver body and red collar, although several variations have emerged over the years, which may rival the original at any given time. The boundaries of this pattern may only be limited by the tier's creativity. And, regardless of color combinations, the intense flash and movement of the materials seem irresistible to fish, time and again.

Materials:

Collar - Red saddle hackle

Tail - Silver Flashabou

Under-Body - .020 - .030 lead wire (optional)

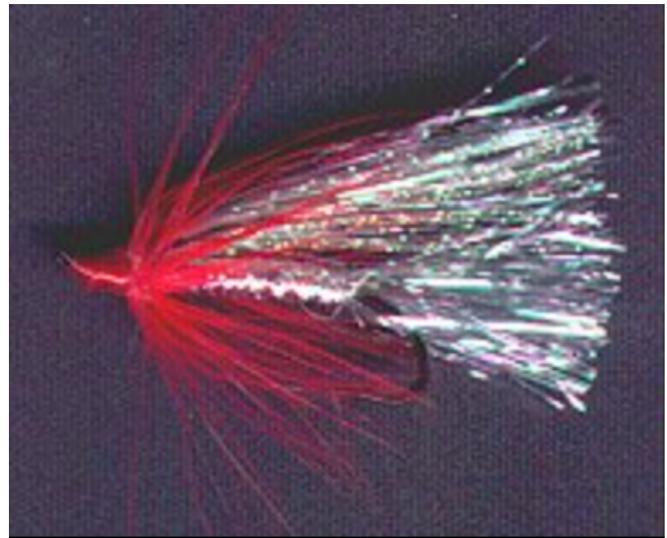
Body - Silver Flashabou

Under Wing - Pearl Crystal flash

Over Wing - Silver Flashabou

Thread - Red 3/0

Hook - Mustad 36890, 34007 size 1 – 4



Tying:

1. Wrap tying thread from the hook eye to the bend to form a base.
2. Wrap lead from above the hook point to one-quarter inch behind the eye. Secure.
3. Tie in a six-inch clump of Flashabou near the hook bend with approximately one half-inch extending rearward to form the tail. Bring thread forward.
4. Leaving the tail material secured near the bend, wrap the Flashabou forward to just behind the eye to form the body. Wrap this down with the excess material extending forward over the eye.
5. Tie in one-inch piece of Crystal flash one-eighth inch behind the eye on top of the shank to extend rearward forming the underwing.
6. Pull back the excess Flashabou from the body, which was secured behind the eye. Secure this in a rearward fashion to form the overwing. Trim the overwing, underwing and tail to be nearly the same length.
7. Tie in the saddle hackle behind hook eye, then palmer in place making several wraps. Tie off.
8. Using three fingers of non-thread hand, pull hackle barbs rearward, then wrap thread back onto the base of the hackle to hold in rearward pointing direction.
9. Whip finish.

Note: This pattern varies from the original with the addition of the Crystal flash underwing.

Tied by Brad Hanson

Photo by B. Hanson ©2002

Clearwater Fly Casters
PO Box 394
Pullman, WA 99163

The Tippet

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December 2021

Clearwater Fly Casters Officers & Committee Chairs 2020

President	Open	
Vice President	Open	
Past President	Karen Zacharisen	Zacharisen60@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lynn Youngblood	kaylynn4341@gmail.com
Secretary	Tony McDonald	mcdonnell@frontier.com (208-883-9757)
FFF Representative	Steve Bush	moscowtitle@moscow.com (208-882-4564)
Conservation Chair	Doug Baldwin	dougbaldwin318@gmail.com (509-334-1630)
Membership Chair	Paul Agidius	pagidius@moscow.com
Program Chair	Joe Vaughan	josephvaughan9@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Fred Muehlbauer	f.muehlj@gmail.com (509-338-7010)
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. When the Pandemic is behind us, meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through May. Meetings are 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.