



The Tippet

February 2021

Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



Zoom Meeting

The club will hold its first Virtual Meeting via Zoom on February 10, 2021 starting at 6:30 PM with fishing reports and a few brief committee reports. The Zoom meeting site will be opened at 6:00 PM to allow time for members to logon and become familiar with the system.

The formal presentation entitled "**Snake River Waterkeeper: What We Do & Why We Sue**" will be a discussion of cutting edge advocacy for clean water, the Snake River dams, and vanishing salmon & steelhead runs by:

BUCK RYAN, J.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SNAKE RIVER WATERKEEPER

To Join the Meeting Follow Directions Provided by Zoom:

Either click on the link provided or enter the Meeting ID and passcode into your Zoom app. The Meeting can also be accessed by mobile phone as indicated below.

Topic: Clearwater Fly Casters Monthly Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87428354858?pwd=OUDGbkdQQ2djUi9qaFM4N1huWDl3dz09>

Meeting ID: 874 2835 4858

Passcode: 413033

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,87428354858#,,, *413033# US (Tacoma)



Clearwater Fly Casters

February 2021

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 874 2835 4858

Passcode: 413033

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbfyzzkG3>

General Club Information:

May Potluck. Dave and Sharon Tharp have graciously offered to hold a potluck event at their place in Palouse sometime in May. The event will be subject to restrictions regarding Covid-19. Further information on this potential event will appear in the March and April Tippets and also mentioned at our Virtual meetings via Zoom.

Scholarships. Cliff Swanson reported that two scholarship applications have been received from students at the University of Idaho and he hopes to receive additional applications from Washington State University, Eastern Washington University and Lewis Clark State College. February 20th is the cutoff and all applications will have to be in on or before that date.

Fly Casting Instruction. Robin Barnes of Moscow High School is requesting assistance with Fly Casting instruction and hopes to begin in early May; however, everything is tentative due to Covid concerns.

Calendars. Steve Bush has two calendars available for sale at his Moscow office. Two versions of the calendar are: "This is What Fly Fishing Teaches Us" and "The Art of the Fly."

Next Executive Committee Meeting. Our next Virtual Executive Committee meeting will be March 3rd at 6:00 pm. Any member wishing to participate in the upcoming meeting of the Committee should contact Fred Muehlbauer for information needed to access the meeting via Zoom.

Membership

Membership Chair, Paul Agidius, indicated we currently have only about 14 members who have 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 wishing to take advantage of this option while renewing their membership should send 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.**

Important Dates and Events:

February 10, 2021. Zoom Meeting starting at 6:00 PM with members logging on to the meeting, fishing reports followed by a presentation by Buck Ryan.

May 1, 2021: Amber Lake Fish Out

May 2021: Potluck at Tharp's in Palouse, WA (Date and time to be determined and subject to Covid-19 restrictions)

June 18-19, 2021: North Fork Coeur d'Alene Fish Out, Meet at Devils' Elbow Campground.

Fly of the Month: “Tunghead Hot Spot Pheasant Tail Jig”

In episode five of his Facebook Live series “Tying with Tom,” Tom Rosenbauer taught his audience how to tie a great nymph for fishing deep, especially in the early season. Tied on a barbless jig hook with an oversize bead, the Tunghead Hot Spot Pheasant Tail Jig is a good imitation of most mayfly nymphs. Because of the jig hook, the fly rides hook-point-up, so you can fish it right along the bottom with fewer hangups.

Here’s the recipe:

Materials:

Hook: Tactical jig hook or any jig hook, sizes 12-18

Bead: Copper slotted tungsten bead

Thread: Brown, 6/0

Tails: Coq de Leon fibers

Rib: Fine gold wire

Body: Pheasant tail fibers.

First Thorax: Sparkle Chartreuse Dubbing

Second Thorax: Hare’s ear fur



Time for the Snake River dams to go (*Posted by Trout Unlimited*)

"It is our collective opinion, based on overwhelming scientific evidence, that restoration of a free-flowing lower Snake River is essential to recovering wild Pacific salmon and steelhead in the basin."

So reads a **REMARKABLE LETTER** recently sent to the governors of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana by 10 of the finest and most-respected salmon and steelhead scientists in the world.

The letter continues, "Every Snake River salmon and steelhead population is listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), with recent returns consistently below the threshold needed to avoid extinction. Pacific lamprey, another anadromous species of major significance to tribes and the freshwater and marine ecosystem, have also declined precipitously."

The salmon populations in Idaho were so abundant that in the 1950s, before the construction of the four lower Snake River dams, recreational anglers on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River could catch and keep up to two salmon a day over a season that stretched *months*. That all changed when we inserted the concrete monoliths that are the lower four Snake River dams smack dab in the migration corridor of these remarkable fish that connect the mountains of Idaho to the waters of Pacific Ocean.

Today, populations of salmon in the Middle Fork-some of the finest salmon habitat in the world-are at about 1 percent of their historic numbers. This is even though we have spent over \$17 billion as a nation to help recover Snake and Columbia river steelhead and salmon.

The dams' advocates often argue the salmon's problems are overharvest, poor habitat and hatcheries. Harvest, however, has been sharply curtailed. Idaho brags five-star wilderness-quality habitat. Hatcheries can manufacture fish in concrete tanks but create a false sense of abundance (comprising 80 percent of the fish in some years) and hurt wild fish.

Lately, some have tried to point to ocean conditions as the reason for the decline of Northwest salmon. Climate change *is* affecting the ocean, and conditions are deteriorating in both fresh and salt water. As the scientists' letter says, "Ocean conditions fluctuate" and salmon have evolved with changing ocean conditions for eons. And while modifying the ocean is not within our immediate control, we have modified their migratory path. The Snake River Basin in Idaho contains the best remaining spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead in the lower 48. The fish need safe access to these habitats so that populations can thrive when conditions are good and survive poor ocean conditions.

The scientists say that "dam breaching is the essential cornerstone of a comprehensive, effective recovery strategy." They also point out that "the weight of scientific evidence demonstrates there is no chance of restoring abundant, healthy and harvestable Snake River salmon and steelhead with the lower Snake River dams in place."

As with most conservation issues, we do not have to choose between recovering salmon and maintaining and improving the socio-economic well-being of those whose livelihoods depend on the dams.

The scientists conclude their letter by asking for the four governors' "leadership to develop a comprehensive solution that includes removing the lower Snake River dams so that the extraordinary potential of the Snake River Basin for people and fish can be realized."

With a little leadership and creativity, we can extend irrigation infrastructure to withdraw water from a free-flowing river. We can replace barge traffic on the reservoirs behind the dams with rail. We can find replacement power to make up for the relatively small amount provided to the region by the four lower Snake River hydropower dams. We can create economic opportunity for the towns dependent on the reservoirs. We can make improvements to the power grid to assure the reliability of affordable power to cities and towns across the Northwest.

We can use our creativity and ingenuity to make whole all the various communities of place and communities of interest dependent on the four lower Snake River dams. The one thing we cannot do is expect Snake River salmon to flourish when they have to pass through 140 miles of predator-filled slackwater reservoirs

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Clearwater Fly Casters Officers & Committee Chairs 2020

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Vice President	Open
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Webmaster	Cliff Swanson clswan12@gmail.com

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. 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.