



The Tippet

March 2023

Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



March 8th Program: “Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute”

Presented by

Tom Lamar

We are pleased to have as our guest speaker, Mr. Tom Lamar. Tom has been the executive director of the Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute since 1990. Under his remarkable direction and leadership, PCEI has “launched multiple efforts to increase citizen involvement in numerous environmental issues” and initiatives including the Rose Creek habitat restoration project. As a well-qualified candidate for his position, Tom holds an M.S degree from WSU in Environmental Science (1985) and a “Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and Anthropology from the University of Delaware (1982)”. In addition, “Tom has been a Latah County Commissioner since 2015, served on the Moscow City Council for more than seven years and taught Conservation Leadership at the University of Idaho”. Additionally, “he has studied the medicinal use of plants by the Shipibo Indians (of the Amazon Rain Forest), participated in the Central American peace organizing in the 1980’s, worked with the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, as an advocate for pesticide exposure victims, and is currently serving on the Idaho Climate-Economy Impacts Assessment Advisory Board”.



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 Wednesday of the month (except June, July and Aug) University Best Western Inn, Moscow, ID

Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 pm

Buffet Dinner: 6:30 pm,

Members: \$21, Students \$10

This month’s Menu:

Mediterranean Chicken: Chicken with rice with caramelized onions, mushrooms, garlic, garbanzos, topped with a balsamic reduction, served with a side of feta cheese, garlic green beans, mixed green salad & assorted dressings, fresh baked rolls, dessert, coffee/tea/soda

Back cast:

The Club auction for 2023 was a great success and provides needed funds for the Scholarship program and some regular club activities. The auction grossed over \$10,000 with a net income of over \$9,000. Many thanks to all club members who contributed items to the auction and also for their assistance before, during, and after the event. Auctioneer Will Godfrey during the live auction entertained with many stories and his auctioneering chant. Photos below from left to right; tables of participants, Marc Retzlaff and John Reed at the 'Cash and Carry' table, auctioneer Will Godfrey, dessert auction table, Bucket raffle table, and silent auction tables.



A Message from President Steve Bush:

On February 8th we held our Biennial Auction. There was a very good turnout of Club Members and Guests. Auction Co-chairs, Karen Zacharisen and Kay Youngblood, did an outstanding job gathering items for the Silent and Live Auctions. We owe them a big thank you for their hard and dedicated work. Will Godfrey expertly handled the Live Auction and also added some of his own items to supplement the Auction. With the help of numerous Club Members, we raised over \$9,000 at the event! With half of those funds going to the Scholarship Fund Account, we are able to award scholarships for the next two years. The Executive Board received and reviewed three applications for this year's scholarship, with all three applications coming from the University of Idaho. All three applications were outstanding this year. If you would like a copy of the applications, please let us know. Now that March is here, it's time to think spring and the possibility of open water, you'll need to consider finishing restocking your fly boxes.

General Club Information:

Scholarships: Cliff Swanson received three applications for the Bill Alspach & Dave Engerbretson Memorial Scholarship. The applications were evaluated at the recent club Executive Committee Meeting and three Scholarships of \$1500 each were awarded to the three students, with one of the three Scholarships provided by an anonymous donor. The three recipients of the Scholarships will be announced at the March club meeting and will be invited to present their work at one of our future meetings.

Habitat for Humanity Table: The Beans & Jeans fundraiser will be held the evening of April 15th at the Sweitzer Event Center in Pullman, Washington. Our club is attempting to purchase a table at the event for \$500 and is seeking current members (four couples) who would like to support that effort. Anyone interested in joining the club table should contact Kay Youngblood. Kay said that she has prepared a fishing creel stuffed with assorted gifts (including a certificate for one of her “famous” huckleberry pies) for the silent auction. In addition, she will be making another pie for the dessert dash which she will also donate in our club’s name.

International Film Festival: Since we have already made a deposit prior to the Covid pandemic, it was agreed to hold this event in the spring of 2024.

Hats: We have a few hats left at \$15 each. They are available at club meetings, but the price may increase with a new order.

Conservation Committee Report:

Disappointing Recent Commission Decisions

At their January meeting, the Washington Commission voted to allow the higher 20% impact on wild Chinook in Willapa Bay. This is despite a policy indicating that the maximum rate should be 14%. The primary reason, and likely the only reason, to have the higher rate is to continue the usage of non-selective gill nets in Willapa Bay.

The Commission also voted to delegate authority to Director Susewind to negotiate concurrence with Oregon on Columbia River fisheries, specifically directing him to negotiate from the Washington policy. This means, if the Commission got what they instructed, there would be expanded use of gill nets in the Columbia River and a massive decrease in recreational fishing opportunity. This is despite the \$14.4 million buyback which calls for a significant reduction in gill netting. You can watch a 2-minute video of the Commission's decision by [clicking here](#).

Unfortunately, it appears that WDFW staff and their Commission are fighting harder than ever to decrease selective recreational fishing opportunities and expand the usage of non-selective gill nets.

Update on Senate Bill 5297

[Senate Bill 5297](#), designed to ensure that \$14.4 million in taxpayer money for the Columbia River buyback program was not wasted, will unfortunately not be advancing through the Legislature this year. At the bill hearing earlier this month, 90% of the people who signed up were in support of this bill (1,398 supported & 164 opposed). Thank you to everyone who took action on this important legislation. Also, a special thanks is owed to the bill sponsors, for tackling this important conservation issue. CCA will remain active on this, and several other issues, throughout the remainder of the legislative session which is scheduled to end April 24. Look for Action Alerts and updates in future e-newsletters.

Fishing Reports provided by Silver Bow Fly Shop, Spokane, WA:

1. Same again this week, pretty ideal late season conditions right now for the Grande Ronde, Snake, and Clearwater Rivers. Levels are good on all three and water temps for this time of the year. If you're nymphing the usual stone and egg (or bead) combo will be go-to. If you are swinging, a sink-tip and something like an intruder, reverse marabou, loop leech, etc will be go-to. Good time to go! Gunna be a bit cold and icy here for a few days! Sub-freezing temps will have the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River freezing up again, shouldn't last too long though with warmer days in the upcoming forecast. It's a good time of the year to stock up on fly tying supplies and fill your boxes, swing on by and check out our huge selection of fly-tying materials!
2. After the cold front hitting the region, the fishing should bounce back on the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. For most of February the river has been fishing. It is pretty much nymphing and streamer fishing, there are some midges hatching but it'll be a few weeks before any dry fly fishing really picks up. I would still toss in a few midge dries in-case you do find a pod up feeding. Look for deeper slower runs to be ideal with colder water still. Double nymph rigs (stones, worms, midge pupa, small perdigons, hot spot or hot bead nymphs, etc) or streamer fishing (sparkle minnows, leeches, kreelex, conehead buggers, sculpins) will get it done. Rocky Ford or Crab Creek are your main winter opportunities right now other than the Spokane River, NF Coeur d'Alene, and steelhead fishing.
3. With the colder temps Rocky Ford and Crab Creek will be best options aside from the Spokane River. Rocky Ford is generally scuds, midge and/or baetis nymphs, or stripping streamers. Some dry fly activity can occur here with bwo's or midges this time of the year. Crab Creek will be nymphing with small stones, worms, small attractor or jig style nymphs (hot beads / hot spot styles especially), or smaller streamers like sculpzillas, conehead bugger types, etc.

Important Dates and Events:

March 8, 2023: CFC Club Meeting at University Inn Best Western, Moscow, ID. Wet Fly hour at 5:30 pm, Dinner at 6:30 and program at 7:30 pm. Bring a friend, bring a student!

April 4, 2023: Executive Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm at the Paradise Creek Brewery in Pullman.

April 12, 2023: CFC Club Meeting at University Inn Best Western, Moscow, ID. Wet Fly hour at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30 and program at 7:30 pm. Bring a friend, bring a student!

April 15, 2023: Beans 'N' Jeans, Habitat for Humanity. In Person Event. SEL Event Center, Pullman, WA. 5:30 PM. For additional details see page 6 of this issue.

May 19, 2023: Amber Lake Fish Out. Meet at Amber Lake parking lot or boat launch area.

June 15-16, 2023: North Fork Coeur d'Alene Fish Out, Meet at Devils' Elbow Campground.

July 14-16, 2023: St. Joe Fish Out, Meet and camp at Fly Flat Campground

Fly of the Month: "Fan Wing Ant"

(Courtesy of Fly Fishers International website)

Edition: February 2023

why you are seeing a fan wing on the Steelhead Ant we present here. It is easy to tie producing a pattern attractive to the angler as we've always had a few squirrel tails in our tying materials but a gift from Gretchen's father (Bill Evans) in the mid 90's changed that situation for us, big time. "I've got a few squirrel tails for you," he commented as we were leaving for home after a Sunday afternoon dinner. He placed a sizeable package in the car trunk and off we went. When we got home and opened his package, we discovered more than a hundred, prime fox squirrel tails. We were stunned! What in the heck were we going to do with all of them?

As you might expect squirrel tail fibers started sneaking their way into many of our patterns. We found it to be a really good substituted for deer/elk/moose in many of our dry-fly patterns. It also was a good under wing for the strip-wing steelhead flies we often used on some of the streams we haunted in central Idaho.

After a particularly productive day on the Clearwater River Al noted the fly seemed to lose its appeal after the strip wings had been torn from it leaving the squirrel tail fibers exposed. The fly looked ok while inspecting it in hand, but it just didn't have any motion in the water. On the positive side it didn't foul around the hook bend like marabou will, but it looked dead in the water column. What could we do to the squirrel wing to give the stiff fibers motion?

On our drive back to Bozeman we brain stormed ideas for making the fibers "work" in the water and really didn't identify a solution. We concluded the squirrel tail was best used on dry flies and left the problem unsolved. Several weeks later Al's cell phone rang just as he was pulling the drift boat out of the water after floating clients on the lower Madison River. It was Gretchen. "I've got the squirrel tail problem solved," she advised him excitedly.

When Al got home Gretchen showed him a fan-wing streamer constructed from the squirrel tail fibers. The wing would collapse during the strip part of a retrieve then pop open during the pause – at least it did in the bathtub at home. Would it do the same on the river? Would the fish find it attractive?

Al wasn't scheduled to work the next day, so we headed for the Yellowstone River to give the wing style a test drive – it's funny, we certainly don't have a problem finding an excuse to go fishing. The flies we tested that day were a roaring success! The fish gave us a "thumbs up" so to speak and that's well as the fish.

Tying Video: [CLICK HERE](#)

MATERIALS

Hook: Size 2/0 to 8, steelhead

Thread: White, red

Tag: Small silver tinsel

Tail: Red golden pheasant fibers or dyed crest feathers

Butt: Peacock

Body: Red floss

Wing: Fox squirrel tail fibers, fanned

Hackle: Brown pheasant body feather

Cheeks: Jungle cock nails

Head: Thread and glue (regular or UV)



BEANS 'N' JEANS






Palouse **Habitat for Humanity**[®]

Join us for this Fundraiser and help build the **2023 Habitat home in Palouse!**

Online Silent Auction
April 8-15, 2023
palousehabitat.org

In Person Event
April 15, 2023
SEL Event Center
5:30 PM

 Auction website live now - click here! Or click on blue buttons below.

-  Buy individual ticket(s)
-  Sponsor the event (table of 8)
-  Preview Online Auction April 8-15
-  Register - get all the updates!
-  Donate an Item

Clearwater Fly Casters
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Clearwater Fly Casters Officers & Committee Chairs 2023

President	Steve Bush	moscowtitle@moscow.com (208-882-4564)
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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 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.