



The Tippet

December 1999

President's Message

Wow -- my year as CFC president zipped by faster than a spooked fish on a sunny day. Seems like not too long ago we were listening to Jim Baker from the Sierra Club speaking to us on his passion, the "Snake River Salmon Recovery" or Curt Mack's talk on the reintroduction of wolves in Idaho. One of my favorite highlights was Craig Lannigan's great multi-media production on the different techniques for fishing the Montana lakes for those football-sized fish (I actually experienced this first hand in Montana with Craig and friends.). Gene Trump's expertise on warm water fishing expanded my fly fishing and tying techniques to fish for other families other than salmonidae. Likewise, thanks to Jim Schollmeyer and John Shewey I will never look at another bug or a piece of steelhead water quite the same again.

Mostly, it's not just the speakers that I remember the most...it's the great times with the members at all the club gatherings and the meetings themselves. The conversations during the "wet fly" before the meetings (you probably noticed the meetings always started a little late) and the always great-to-hear fish reports/stories are still my favorite aspects of the meeting. In addition, how could I forget this year's auction and the money we raised for the Bill Allspach memorial fund, or our "I'm speechless" Steve Allured award winner, Dave Tharp. These times are priceless and really make the CFC a unique group. In fact, if Brian McNeill (our next prez) didn't already have his tenure so neatly planned I might up for another year...oh well huh!

Again, I want to thank you for all the participation and the funds donated to CONFLUENCE Art and the Trout Fly exhibition. Without your participation, this project would not have been a success.



Get ready! Bring on the slides, the photographs and especially the stories. This month's meeting will be the "Show and Tell" meeting. We will have a chance to hear about your great summer and fall "Excellent Adventures". First, we will hear from Krista Nichols our first recipient of the Bill Allspach Memorial Scholarship fund. Krista will introduce her research on determining the genetic differences between rainbow trout and steelhead.

Jim Palmersheim

Backcast (November meeting)

Guests

Dennis Gemmel of Moscow joined us as a guest of Don Shearer (new member who recently joined the club in September). Don introduced Dennis and assured the club "not to worry", that Dennis' fishing skills make even Don look good! Not to worry Dennis you're in good company.

Fishing Reports

Lots of steelhead being reported caught for the month of October.

Marv Slind caught not one, but two steelhead mid-October, his first in over three years. The catches were especially sweet because he caught them on a Bill Allspach's spey rod using a pattern designed by Bill himself, the "Beats-me". Marv invoked visual confirmation from Jim Palmersheim, but Jim claimed he thought Marv was just tying his shoe. Twice. Way to go Marv! Nice weaseling Jim!

Bob Harwood also reported catching a steelhead and displayed his gyotaku print as evidence!

Gary Evers reminded folks that like the Boy Scouts, we always need to be prepared and make the most of opportunities. Seems that when the hunting didn't pan out on a recent trip he broke out a pack rod he had brought along and proceeded to catch several rainbow trout and cutthroat.

Joe Ford followed up by adding that he was in the wrong place at the right time and had to settle with watching several steelhead roll on the Snake. A lost opportunity because he didn't bring along a rod after finishing up planting shrub on Shultz bar. Perhaps Gary can help you plan your next outing Joe!

While *Bob Clark* didn't mention catching any fish, he did reported seeing Marv and a couple of Idaho Fish and Game folks working on the trail building project this past summer at Kelly Creek. A hearty round of thanks to Marv and those who helped make the trail safe and accessible for us all!

Old Business

New member / Old member "get-your-annual-dues-in-on-time" incentive. President Jim Palmersheim brought us up to date on efforts to make paying your annual dues less painful this year. Last meeting Jim announced that the club would hold a raffle for a custom built 4wt graphite rod to be built by Bob Clark of Lewiston. A raffle board has been made and will be available starting at the next meeting to members only. Members who pay their annual dues by the February
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Clearwater Flycasters 1999 Officers

President Jim Palmersheim
Vice-President Brian McNeill
Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Engerbretson
Conservation Chair John Read
FFF Representative George Johnson
Newsletter Editor Tim Cavileer
editor's email: tcavileer@uidaho.edu

Virtual Tippet (CFC Website)
<http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~slind/cfc/cfc.html>

CFC membership dues are now \$20/year for individuals, \$25/year for families, \$10/year for students.

Meetings on 2nd Wednesday, Sept - May, at Shermer's Restaurant, 300 S Grand, Pullman, WA

Wet Fly time at 6:30pm, dinner at 7:00pm and program at 8:00pm

Clearwater Flycasters PO Box 2149 CS Pullman, WA 99165

meeting will get a free chance to put their name on one of the squares on the board. Additional chances can be purchased at \$5 a piece. The winner will be drawn at the February meeting.

Conservation report. Due to the change over in leadership of the conservation committee, no conservation report was given at the November meeting.

New Business

Conservation Committee. A new conservation chair (John Read) stepped up to fill in the spot long held by Marv Slind. The conservation committee will continue meeting at Rico's (5:15pm till ?) in Pullman the Wednesday following the regular club meeting. John plans on enlisting the help of club members and asks them to spearhead areas of special interest. There's lots of action on the political landscape, both in Idaho and Washington, and John could use some help to keep tabs on items of interest that affect us all. If you read or come across any conservation issues of interest to club members please contact John at jread@moscow.com.

New Newsletter editor. After filling the position for nearly ten years Joe Ford is stepping down and taking a well-deserved rest from being the Tippet editor. Taking his place is Tim Cavileer of Moscow, Idaho. Tim hopes to continue the fine tradition of producing a quality newsletter for the members of the club. In addition to the longstanding snail-mail Tippet (paper copy) and the Virtual Tippet (web copy) <http://www.wsu.edu/~slind/cfc/tippet.htm>, Tim hopes to develop an email and an

enhanced Adobe Acrobat portable document format (pdf) version for club members. Tim can be contacted at tcavileer@uidaho.edu or (208) 883-4572.

New Secretary/Treasurer elected. History was made in the club during the November meeting with the nomination and unanimous election of Shirley Engerbretson as secretary/treasurer for the Clearwater Flycasters. This is the first time the club has had a female officer in any of its elected or volunteer positions. Shirley will be taking over these duties from long-time servant Denny Cartwright. Well done Shirley! Shirley can be reached at shirle1@hotmail.com or (208) 882-1087.

Vice president 2000. Nominations and discussions were postponed till the December meeting so that interest and availability of several candidates could be ascertained (can you say "coerced"?).

Monthly raffle. There were lots of winners at November's meeting with Steve Bush, Maralyn Moore, Bob Clark, John Read, George Hinman, Al Gartner and Dave Ting each taking something home with them. On the other hand that "something" seemed to be turkey feathers more often than not, so I suspect there won't be a shortage of wing cases for this year's crop of gold rib hare's ear nymphs!

November's Speaker

November's speaker was well-known flyfishing author and photographer *Jim Schollmeyer* from Salem, Oregon. Jim treated us to a presentation on hatches that occur throughout the Northwest, starting

with the first-of-the-year midges for spring fishing to late fall and winter hatches of blue wing olives (BWOs). Jim not only told us of the hatches but offered some sage advice for many of our near-by western waters. Jim has offered to sell his books directly to club members with the club receiving 20% of the proceeds. For a complete list of books available and to make arrangements and payment see *Shirley Engerbretson*. This is a great way to justify all those fly fishing titles that will find their way under your tree this Christmas. A few of Jim's Schollmeyer titles to consider:

Trout Flies of the West

Jim Schollmeyer, Ted Leeson

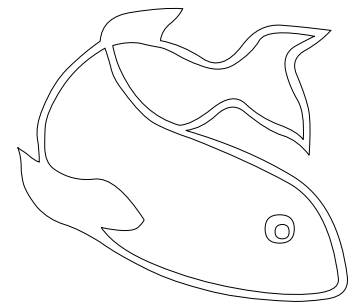
Trout Flies of the East:

Best Contemporary Patterns from East of the Rockies

Jim Schollmeyer, Ted Leeson

The Fly Tier's Benchside Reference

Ted Leeson, Jim Schollmeyer



Straight from the Tying Bench

QUALITY, UNIFORMITY AND SPEED (by Jim Cramer of the Russian River Flycasters of Santa Rosa, CA)

Fortunately for the beginning tiers, the ultimate judges of your efforts are fish with pea size brains and they are very forgiving (but not always). The sense of satisfaction and accomplishment that comes with the fish's approval will sustain many a novice tier through the learning process. The next level of tier satisfaction comes when one's skills are recognized by his or her fellow anglers. Quality, Uniformity and Speed are the three goals for which all tiers should strive. The good news is that they go hand in glove with one another, almost.



Quality in a fly is the aggregate of the quality of the materials used, the assembly of the materials (which also controls the durability), neatness, and proportion. Skimp on any one of these and the quality of the fly is reduced.

Uniformity is easy to understand. All of your flies should look alike as far as possible. When you can reach into your box for a #16 Adams without even thinking about sorting through for the best looking one, then you have probably achieved this goal. Over time each tier will develop his or her own style and their flies will have a distinctive look, much the same

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(Quality, Uniformity and Speed continued)

as one's hand writing does. Beware, your flies can be uniformly bad, out of proportion, or all having the same tying flaws. This is not the uniformity for which we are striving.

Speed is something that will come as you gain experience but only to a Point. If you don't specifically think about and practice increasing your speed, you will reach a comfort point and stay there. Maybe your comfort speed is half a dozen flies an evening. If you tie for relaxation and want one each of six different flies maybe that is good enough. However, with a little effort in organizing and some technical skills I'll be discussing in the future not only will your speed increase dramatically but so will the quality and uniformity.

Now for some tips. All instructions will assume that you are right handed, if not reverse hands and we'll save words. I also know that the readers vary from novice to accomplished tiers so bear with me as I try to include something for everyone. Take what you can use and disregard the rest. The opinions are my own.

TIP #1: Get a hackle-sizing gage and pre-sort your hackles. If you divide them into envelopes as to size, quality and type, wet or dry, you will improve all three aspects of your tying. Small gages that clamp in your vise sell for about \$4.00. After many years of plucking my hackles directly from the neck for use I decided to pre-sort the hackles from several necks. After the sorting, not only did I achieve my objective of more uniform flies; I got a crash course in judging the quality of hackles, necks, and a real appreciation of value received for dollars spent. Not all necks and not all feathers are created equal! Other rewards were reduced tying time and reduced storage space, especially important to those who travel with a tying kit. If you don't now gage and sort your hackles, I urge you to try it once. Even if you decide that

you would rather leave the feathers on the skin, sorting a few necks will teach you a lot about judging their quality.

P.S. I don't pre-sort saddle hackles because the feathers are generally much more uniform in size and I can often get several flies from a single feather.

TIP #2: This tip is so simple that it hardly seems worthwhile and many of you may already do it but for those who don't, here it is. First I assume that you already wear your scissors while you tie; if not, learn to do so. Now scissors don't always need to be used as clippers, there are two other ways they can be used to cut. With the blades part way open they can be pushed against a taut material to cut it. This is especially useful when tapering a streamer wing of synthetic or soft material. A single blade of your scissors can be used like a razor blade to cut the thread after whip-finishing with no fear of inadvertently cutting some of the hackle.

TIP #3: This tip is for new tiers. Fasten the thread to the hook. Now pull on it until it breaks. Do this several times until you have a good feel for how much tension you can put on the thread. Also pull on it in different directions to see where the break occurs. Repeat this process every time you change thread sizes or brands until you gain a feel for it. In general you will want to tie at close to maximum tension for best results. There are exceptions to this, which I'll discuss in the future.

TIP #4: Magnetize the tips of your tying scissors by rubbing the against a permanent magnet. You can then use them to help pick up small hooks and flies. Enough for this time - see you next month.

(Taken from the FFF Clubwire)

Announcements

- ☑ Order your favorite Jim Schollmeyer book through the club and 20% of the cost will go towards CFC club fund raising efforts.
- ☑ Bring your slides, photos, fishing stories to share at the December meeting!
- ☑ Newsletter Submissions. Got a favorite fishing photo, story, or fly you would like to share with the club? Want to write a conservation article, review a book, or describe your latest fly fishing innovation here? Is there a particular topic you want to see covered? If so, contact me (Tim Cavileer) at tcavileer@uidaho.edu or (208) 883-4572 for more details.
- ☑ Renew your CFC Y2K membership by February 2000 and get a free chance at a custom-built Bob Clark 4wt graphite fly rod.



Jim Palmersheim holding a nice cutt on a recent trip to British Columbia with Dave Engerbretson.
(Photo by Dave E.)

Upcoming Events

- * December 8, 1999 Monthly Meeting at Shermers, Pullman, WA
- * Feb 9-13, 2000 International Sportsmen's Expo, Seattle, WA
- * March 25, 2000 NW Fly Tying Expo, Eugene, OR



Conservation Corner

- ▶ Joe Ford passed on to club members a conservation issue from the Methow Valley Fly Fishers. The Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, at the request of NMFS, has closed trout fishing in the Methow Valley River system commencing year 2000. NMFS is asking for sanctuary rivers or parts of river systems where there will be no fishing over endangered species. The club has recommended: 1) Make the lower 17 miles of the river below the Gold Creek bridge a sanctuary for outgoing smolts and returning adult salmon and steelhead, 2) make spawning and rearing areas above the Waymen Bridge on the Methow, above Falls creek on the Chewuck and above the War Creek bridge on the Twisp rivers, off limits sanctuaries and 3) make the remaining/middle area of the Methow river and lower areas of the Twisp and Chewuck catch and release, single barbless hook or fly fishing only. For more info contact Ben Dennis, President Methow Valley Fly Fishers, flyrodbranch@methow.com (509)996-2784.
- ▶ The "Four-H Working Paper" has been released and presents a menu of recovery options that address the four major factors impacting salmon survival throughout their life cycle: Hydropower, Habitat, Harvest and Hatcheries. The paper is a product of the Federal Caucus, which includes the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bonneville Power Administration, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and other federal agencies working to develop a coordinated, long term recovery plan for listed stocks of Columbia basin salmon and steelhead. A public information meeting has been scheduled on Wednesday, December 15, 1999. Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Location: Double Tree Downtown Hotel, 322 N. Spokane Falls Court, Spokane, Washington. More info at (<http://www.bpa.gov/Power/PL/federalcaucus/fcannouncements.shtml>).

The Supervisor

HOOK: Daiichi 2441(light), 2421 or Partridge M (heavy)
TAG: Silver
TAIL: Fluorescent yellow hackle fibers
RIB: Silver oval tinsel
BODY: First quarter Fluorescent orange, red or hot pink floss followed by Claret Black or purple seal fur, mohair, or SLF dubbing
WING: Black squirrel tail
HACKLE: Small purple schlappen or guinea



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