

Clearwater Fly Casters

January, 2003

Tippet

President's Message

From the President's desk:

Where did all the time go? I thought I just started as the V.P., taking lessons from Jim Siebe on how to do this job. That year shot by like a weight-forward line past my ear! I have yet to meet the next Vice President, but there seems to be a mysterious list with some names on it floating about. Hopefully, we can get the top name on that list installed at the next meeting, January 8.

We will meet again at the Best Western University Inn, Moscow, ID. The menu will include Mahi Mahi and roast pork. Come hungry and prepared with some knowledge of British Columbia. John Toker will tell us about some fantastic steelheading on B.C. rivers. I had a sneak preview of some of his pictures and those fish look like they could tighten your line alright. You might even need to have your backing tied on!

Other programs that I have in mind for spring '03 include Kevin Nibur, an accomplished outdoor photographer on Feb. 12, our bi-annual auction on Mar. 12, Bob Harwood on April 9, and Carl Wolf, Montana fishing guide on May 14. I am thinking about April 26 for the spring fish-out to Amber Lake. That's a week earlier than usual, so look at your calendar and let's discuss it. I'm trying to hit that one week in April when we have spring weather.

As many of you know, the St. Joe Ranger District has proposed a habitat improvement effort on Bird Creek. Bird Creek is a tributary of the Joe that could potentially provide habitat for sculpins, bull trout, and cutthroat. They will be looking for volunteer help in July and August. Their proposal shows a couple of 10 hr days for several people to plant willows, etc. Other work will be accomplished with heavy machinery. If you think you want to contribute some time to this conservation project send me an email (bfrazier@pullman.com). I just want to get some notion of how many of you might want to do this. Realizing that conflicts will arise for some, it will still give me some numbers to talk about when I call them. Thanks to those who have already volunteered.

By the time you read this, Christmas, New Year's, and the Rose Bowl all will be past. Hope you all got some new fly-tying and fishing gear for Christmas and can tie some flies for the auction.

See you on January 8th.

Bruce Fraizer

Dear fellow Fly Casters,

I can't begin to tell you how proud I was to receive the Allured award at the December meeting, I will cherish it forever. My commitment to the Special Olympians of Moscow comes from my own personal experience with my younger brother Larry who is one of these angels of God.

Burgers & Flies began in my kitchen some 21 years ago as a way to raise money for our area athletes. The first get together raised \$25.00. It has blossomed into a special annual occasion that has raised over \$2000,00 annually for the past several years for the athletes. Although these angels of God may be challenged either physically or mentally in their lives, they are no different then you or I. They just want to compete and be the best people they can be.

Burger's & Flies is just one more financial vehicle that allows them to do this. Please join us on February 15, 2003 this year and make it the best one ever. You, as I, will be rewarded many times over for your generosity. It is one event I look forward to every year and hopefully it will continue for many years to come.

Thanks again for making my day with this coveted award. See you in February. *Joe McGurkin*

The Fly Fishing Priest

There was a priest who loved to fly fish and did so on almost a weekly basis. One year the weather patterns were such that during the week when the priest was off the weather was rainy. All year he was unable to go fishing. All week the weather would be bad until Sunday when he had to work. On Sundays the sun was always shining.

Finally the priest had reached his breaking point. He called one of the other priests on Saturday night and explained how sick he was and that he could not conduct mass the next day. The second priest agreed to cover for him.

Not wanting anyone to see him, the fly fishing priest drove 200 miles to a trout stream to fish.

An angel seeing the priest play hooky went to God and explained the situation. God agreed that something should be done to teach the priest a lesson.

The priest slowly entered the water. His first cast was flawless. His fly drifted past a log and a huge mouth came up and gulped his fly. For almost an hour the priest ran up and down the stream as he fought the monster fish. In the end he netted a world record rainbow.

Confused, the angel asked God "What are you doing?"

God Replied "Think about it. Who is he going to tell?"

(Taken from the December issue of FFF ClubWire)

1. Smash down the barb if you wish.
2. Slip on a gold bead. If you have beads with a small hole on one side and a large one on the other thread it onto the hook so the small hole is next to the eye. If, on the other hand, you have the misfortune to own beads with a big hole all the way through, then a little pre-work is needed. Thread the bead onto the hook, place a generous drop of thick head cement on the shank behind the eye and slide bead over it. Lay hook on a metal or glass surface so the edge of the hole in the bead touches the eye and let glue dry.
3. Put hook in vise, put thread on hook and wind it back to bend of hook.
4. You can break off the tip of a Chickabou feather for the tail. Squeeze the tip and tie it on so there will be gap-width long tail. Save the butt section and use it for hackle on this or another fly.
5. Secure fine gold wire at hook's bend.
6. Pick a longer feather, squeeze all the fibers together and secure it at bend with tip forward. Wind thread forward to a point about one-third shank-length back from the eye. Wrap a soft fuzzy body forward, secure and trim excess. As you wrap the body, lay one wrap next to the other without overlapping so the body doesn't get too thick.
7. Counter wrap wire rib over body to protect the delicate fibers.
8. Pick a feather with quite a bit of Chickabou (fluff) on it and trim off a little at the base. Tie the feather in by the butt and start to wrap it. The base of most feathers is thick and tends to twist. Place nail of the forefinger against the backside and hold it straight as you wrap. (This is a trick that Henry learned 40 plus years ago when tying dry flies with import hackles.) Keep wraps open so fibers will be able to move. Secure behind bead, trim (keep the tip) and whip finish behind the bead.
9. The tip of the feather, with little or no fluff, can be used to make the "standard" soft hackle version of the fly. You can see the difference in the pictures above.

Chickabou Soft Hackle

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 3906B, 10-16
Weight: Small gold bead
Thread: Brown 6/0
Tail: Chickabou
Rib: Gold wire, fine
Body: Chickabou
Hackle: Chickabou

Chickabou Soft Hackle flies really have the movement to drive fish wild. So when you start using them in some of our quality lakes be ready to be towed around in your float tube or do serious battle from your boat.

Henry suggests: Use only tail, body and rib on a size 16 fly. Don't put on hackle.

Henry took his time going back to Oregon from the Conclave. He fished 17 days using Chickabou Soft Hackle flies. On the Snake River he went after small mouth bass with size 6 and 8 hooks. Caught 30 1st day, eight the 2nd and on a side water caught 14 fish 10- to 15-inches long. He is one guy who has his priorities straight.

Dues are Due!

It's that time of year again! Please pay your dues for 2003. Yearly dues are \$20 for an individual membership, \$30 for family membership, \$10 (with student ID) for students.

We also have a sustaining membership for \$50 annually, and a life membership for \$300. Dues may be paid to the Club Treasurer, Shirley Engerbretson, at the monthly meetings, or mail directly to the Clearwater Fly Casters, P.O. Box 2149CS, Pullman, WA 99165.

Tips for Fly Tiers

Don't put down any tool you're going to need in a few seconds - it wastes time and leads to fumbling. (Ex: your scissor should stay in your hand at all times, spun around and palmed when you're not cutting something.) Don't pick up any tool you don't really need - it wastes time, leads to fumbling, and probably caused you to put something down you're going to need in a few seconds. (Ex: you often don't really need to use a bodkin when the tip of your scissor will do. You probably just put your scissor down to pick up that bodkin, too!)
John James

Glue the small white sheet magnet that some hooks are packaged with to the vise base to hold a working supply of hooks. *Robert Wieggers*

Use an opaque mat to put down under your vise to help with visibility of materials on the table. It can be used as a cutting board and also protects the table from spilled or drops of head cement. Go to your favorite *-mart and head to the kitchen section. Usually you can get a 2 or 4 pack of the flexible mats for under \$2. Self-healing cutting mats used by sewers (needle and thread folk, I mean) might be even better, 'cause you could cut on it with an exacto knife or scalpel. They are usually a nice color of green, with a measuring grid on one side and plain on the other, in a wide range of sizes. *Clyde Watson, Ian Martin*

Upcoming Events

January 8, 2003 6:00pm Clearwater Fly Casters meeting at the Best Western - University Inn in Moscow, ID.

January 15, 2003 5:30pm Conservation/Executive meeting at Rico's in Pullman, WA.

Kudos ... To John Toker for sharing with the club his BC steelheading experiences at the January meeting!

Clearwater Fly Casters 2002

President	Bruce Fraizer	(bfrazier@pullman.com) 332-7346
Vice President	Mark Cleven	(pspt@pullman.com)
Secretary/Treasurer	Shirley Engerbretson	(sengerbr@moscow.com) 882-1687
FFF Representative	George Johnson	(gjohnson@pullman.com) 334-3135
Conservation Chair	Jim Palmersheim	(jamesp@turbonet.com) 882-4502
Newsletter	Tim Cavileer	(greencat@turbonet.com) 883-4572

CFC membership dues are \$20/yr for individuals, \$30/yr for families, \$10/yr for students, \$50/yr sustaining and \$300/lifetime.

Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday, September through May at the Best Western - University Inn, 1516 Pullman Rd, Moscow, Idaho. Wet Fly time 6pm, dinner at 7pm and program at 8pm.

Chickabou Soft Hackle

Several months ago the Oregon Council, Federation of Fly Fishers received a generous contribution of Hoffman Chickabou patches from a party on the East coast. They in turn sent boxes of patches to every council in the United States. There were no restrictions on how the patches were to be used. The Washington State Council, FFF gave four patches to each FFF fly club in the state. They can be used for fund raising, fly tying classes, etc.. Since some people haven't watched Henry Hoffman tie flies at the annual shows, I decided to dig two of his flies out of storage and write about them.

These flies were tied by Henry Hoffman at the 31st FFF Conclave and Show (1996). The one tied with all fluffy Chickabou is best for lake use. The other one tied with some fluffy Chickabou and the less fluffy fibers near the feather's tip works best in gentle streams. Henry tied the fluffy one, saved the feather tip and used it for the second fly.

Henry had a fish tank to let people see how Chickabou moves in water. "Rods" (wooden dowels) with monofilament and flies attach let us move the flies through the water in various ways. When a Chickabou Soft Hackle was pulled straight through the water there was a little fluttering movement of the fibers. However, when a strip/pause retrieve was simulated there was a tremendous movement of the barbs and barbules. On the "strip" barbs would lay close to the body with a little fluttering and on the "pause" the fly would sink and the fibers would stand out from the body. Action like this attracts any curious fish.

Depending on the situation (and your inclinations) Chickabou Soft Hackles can be fished in lakes or streams with floating, sink-tip or full sinking lines. As always try different retrieves until you find what fish like.

Bob Bates - pattern courtesy of the FFF Website at <http://fedflyfishers.org>
You can direct any questions or comments to Bob at flyofthemoth@fedflyfishers.org



(See page 2 for tying instructions)

Clearwater Fly Casters

PO Box 2149 CS

Pullman, WA 99165

Our Next Meeting is ...

Wednesday, January 8th, 2003

Wet Fly Hour 6:00 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

At the University Inn Best Western
1560 West Pullman Road in Moscow, ID

Please Join us!