



Feb. 2006

Clearwater Fly Casters The Tippet

Special Spring-Summer Events

CFC Regular Meeting. Feb. 8.
Bring raffle items!
Speaker. Zach Funkhouser.
Burgers and Flies. Feb. 18.
Amber Lake Fishout. May 13.
St Joe Fishout. July 14-16.
Gold Center Cr. Restoration Project. July-August 2006
Fall BBQ. Sept 13. HarHar Acre. Dave and Sharon Tharp.

Tippet Talk

President Tim has Zack Funkhouser on tap to speak on Ascension Bay in Mexico. Tim's sanity readings includes Phenological Fly and Essential Trout Flies | p. 1.

CFC Business. CFC had \$ 6143 in Dec 05, up from \$4, 143 in Jan 05. New member welcoming activity proposed. Adopt St Joe. Hwy. for clean up?! | p. 2.

Fishing Report. Steelhead fishing slow. B. Harwood caught Golden Eldorado last summer. | p. 2.

N. Jersey-N. Dakota beginnings lead to Palouse Connection | p. 3.



Doc Spratley, Fly of The Month | p.4.

From The Presidents Desk

Hi Clearwater Fly Casters,

Zach Funkhouser will be our speaker this month and his program on fishing Ascension Bay, Mexico will certainly be one you will not want to miss! Zach is the current president of the Kelly Creek Flycasters and teaches fly fishing and fly tying for Lewis/Clark State College and the National Wild Turkey Federation. He has been fly fishing for nearly 20 years and is active locally in conservation and management issues.

Ascension Bay, Mexico

"Unless you have been there, it is nearly impossible to imagine a place like Ascension Bay. Sitting within Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, this vast bay offers an expanse of flats, hidden lagoons, mangrove islands, turquoise shallows and reefs that divide beautiful white sand beaches from the open sea. Passing like clouds over the flats are permit, bonefish, tarpon and the occasional snook. Barracuda and other species roam the shallows ... then are gone. In this program Zach Funkhouser will show pictures of the Bay, its fish and the accommodations at the Cuzan Guest House. Come see why many salt waters authors have declared Ascension Bay one of the best destinations on earth to catch a "Grand Slam"... a bonefish, permit and tarpon, all in one day." – Zach Funkhouser.

Burgers and Flies 2006 is scheduled for February 18th, 2006 at Craig Lewis's Mt View Road home just south of the Troy Highway heading out of Moscow. Don't miss this fun afternoon and evening of fine food (burgers) and some awesome tying (flies) to raise money for the Idaho Special Olympics. Joe McGurkin has a number of special items lined up for the evening's auction, so come prepared with your hooks, vise and wallets!

I've been keeping sane this winter by reading a couple of fly fishing and tying books. The first book, the *Phenological Fly: A method for meeting and matching the super hatches of the west*, by Bob Scammell, is short but packed full of interesting and unusual ideas. In it, Bob describes the chasing of super hatches throughout Alberta, Montana and Idaho by using the emergence of wildflowers streamside as indicators. I'm not known for one to chase hatches, let alone, super hatches, but I like the idea of keying in insect emergence with streamside flora. Bob makes a good case for keeping a fishing journal to note what's happening on along the stream. If you're interested in finding hatches, this book provides some well-known flora indicators to match a number of key hatches in our area. A great little book!

The other book is *Essential Trout Flies*, by Dave Hughes. In this book you are encouraged to tie a core set of flies based on style so that if you learn to tie a particular style, you can tie any of the multiple variations. A second suggestion is to organize your flies around a two core-box system: a compartment type for dries and a foam-sided one for nymphs. Organizing your flies this way gives you the assurance that whenever you head out the door, if you only grab these two boxes, you'll never be at a loss for something that will appeal to the fish. Presenting those flies in an enticing manner is a whole other matter!

Cheers,

Tim Cavileer

Tim Cavileer

'Prevaricator Supreme'
Clearwater Fly Casters

Backcast

Executive/Conservation Meeting. Present: T. Cavileer, G. Woodhouse, G. Murray, C. Swanson, S. Bush, R. Bush, D. Tharp, G. Hinman, D. Bell.

Board Meeting Date and Time. Either needs to be changed during Feb. through May as Tim as conflict. No action taken.

Adopt a Hwy. St. Maries-St Joe Rd. proposed.

Guest/new member welcoming. Proposed: Greetings committee to explain CFC, take them fishing. CFC Members either bring your proposals to the next board and general meeting or e-mail Tim C. or Glenn W. with your ideas.

Salmon Season may not happen in ID because of low numbers.

Guests. Norman and ?? Faller, J.D., Ben Columbi, Scholarship Recipient, and Zac Sexton, speaker.

Fishing Reports. D. Yonge, Clearwater slow, G, Woodhouse and A.J. Morris; G.Ronde slow for steelhead. B. Harwood caught Golden Eldorado Bass in Paraguay in May-June. J. McGurkin ice fished at Elk R. with 10 year-old for awhile-no fish.

Scholarship recipient Ben Columbi thanked CFC for scholarship and will give presentation at later date. See Jan. 2006 Tippet for his resume.

Zac Sexton spoke on his "Cuttathon" a fishing trip that began in the dark at 6:00 am at Livingston, MT. on the Yellowstone R. and ended the next day 27 miles upstream. His purpose was to raise funds and awareness for diabetes and endangered Yellowstone cutthroat trout. He caught 41 whitefish and 2 trout.

Financial report. S. Engerbretson's records showed that CFC began 2005 with \$4,143 and ended with \$6,143.

Raffle. CFC will donate a few items for fly tyers and fishing each month to increase interest in raffle drawings and perhaps increase funds from this activity.

Business Meeting

Raffle. Thanks Donors: Cliff Swanson, Harrops Flies; Tim Cavileer, 6 McMurray Flies, 6 Red Wire Griffiths Gnats; Bob

Harwood, CFC Coffee Mug; CFC, Fly Tying Tools and Boxes. **Congratulations Winners:** Roxanne Bush, McMurray Flies and CFC Cup; Tim Gresback, Fly Box; Steve Bush, Fly Tying Tool, John Read, Fly Box; Dave Yonge, Flies and Fly Tying Tool; George Hinman, Fly Tying Tool; Glenn Woodhouse, Fly Tying Tool, J.D., Flies.

Bear Creek Steelhead. Results from spring, 2005 estimated **266 adults** returned to Big and Little Bear creeks and spawned as high as the city of Troy in the W. Fork of Little Bear Creek. IDFG will install weirs on Little Bear and Big Bear Creek, to count the number of returning adults in 2006. A screw trap in Big Bear Creek near Kendrick High School will estimate the number of smolts leaving the creeks.

Initial estimates indicate approximately **14,000 juvenile steelhead left Big Bear Creek this past spring.** Passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags were place in over 2,000 of these fish to estimate survival during migration. Survival of these fish to Lower Granite dam was approximately 65 percent. Juvenile fish were also tagged during the summer

in Little Bear, Big Bear, Corral, and Cedar Creeks. These fish will be detected at the dams in the spring of 2006. **Opportunities exist for CFC members** to fly fish for smolts in 2006. C. Swanson and G. Murray participated last year. Contact: Matt Bruns, IDFG, Lewiston.

Federation of Fly Fishers is sponsoring an international fly tying Competition-fund raiser from **February 1, 2006, until midnight April 30, 2006.** There are 39 separate categories to enter a fly. In addition to the "Judged" competition where specific flies must be tied for comparison, there will be a "Peoples' Choice" competition where tyers may submit the fly of their choice in any of the 39 categories. These flies will be posted on the FFF website where the people will get to vote for their favorite patterns.

Awards include beautiful 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place medallions in each of the 39 categories, and prizes totaling over \$11,000 including Orvis, Thomas & Thomas, Loomis, and Winston fly rods, Islander and Abel fly reels, the famous Oasis tying benches, the incomparable Wasatch custom tools, among many other valuable prizes. For more information. <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/begin.php>. **IF you have any questions, please contact Ron Cordes (troutbeck@ida.net) Glen Murray, Editor**

2006 Speaker Schedule

Feb. 8. Zach Funkhouser. Ascension Bay Mexico. Fishing, Accomodations, Beauty.

March 8. Dave Ames. Fly fishing guide and author.

Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2006

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CFC membership dues are \$20/yr for individuals, \$30/yr for families, \$10/yr for students, \$50/yr sustaining, \$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 6:00 pm, dinner at 7:00 pm and program at 8:00 pm.

Burgers and Flies 2006

Directions. Going east on the Troy Highway, turn right (south) on Mtn View to the end of the road. Look for the Lewis residence. We will be in shop out back.

What to Bring. Fly tying gear, money for the auction, and a great attitude!

What's provided. Burgers, beer, pop, and a great atmosphere!

Contact. Joe McGurkin. (208) 882-7798
mcgurkin@moscow.com



From beginnings in Trenton, New Jersey and Crosby, North Dakota to a Palouse connection, Dave and Sharon Tharp now share many life adventures.

Dave arrived on the Palouse from New Jersey on Jan 1, 1972 to attend the UI as a student in animal Science. In 1973, he joined the Peace Corps and went to Peru to work with dairy cattle in the Andes. Upon his return to the Palouse in 1975, he bought a car repair business, Imported Car Service, in Pullman, that he operated for 30 years, retiring in May 2005. In his spare time, Dave coached a soccer team in Palouse and Pullman for 14 years and his team won a state championship in 1998.

Sharon arrived in Pullman in a Toyota in 1985 to attend WSU. Little did she know that her mechanic would become her best friend and husband 15 years later! After one year at WSU, Sharon returned to Seattle and acquired a Masters degree in forestry at the UW and then returned

to Pullman so her daughter could finish her education at Pullman High School. When her daughter graduated from high school, Sharon joined Peace Corps. For a year and a half, Sharon worked in Haiti planting trees on a reforestation project and after being evacuated during a military coup, she went to Ecuador. In Ecuador, she worked on eco-tourism projects, collected tree seed and set up tree nurseries. Returning to Pullman, Sharon worked as a park ranger, a landscaper and then became the Community Improvement Representative for Pullman, retiring in August 2005. (She didn't want Dave to have all the fun!)

For seven years, Sharon initiated city beautification projects and spent hours picking up garbage, pruning overhanging vegetation and working with the community to improve the city. She was often seen in downtown Pullman taking care of the hanging baskets or the one acre of flower beds. When Dave and Sharon met, one of their first projects was to build a greenhouse and a sunroom as they both share a love of plants and flowers and now enjoy organic lettuce and flowers year around between fishing trips.

In 1972, Dave took the first fly fishing class offered by Dave Engerbretson. Prior to this, Dave was a bait and spin fisherman. After this class Dave hiked up to lakes near Redfish Lake and tied on a fly using his recently acquired knowledge and proceeded to really catch them! As the day went on he realized they would bite anything including a cigarette butt. Reality set in when he tried his new found skill on the river- no longer was he 'hot stuff'!

Dave was introduced to the CFC by George Johnson. As Dave puts it, "**much to the later dismay of the membership!**" and the rest is history. Dave has been a member of the CFC since 1985, served as Vice president-President in 1989-90. He has become the auctioneer for the biennial CFC auction where his antics have been known to draw out high prices from even the conservative bidders. He also serves as the 'unofficial CFC Historian', librarian, and has been active in many conservation efforts including 'adopt a stream', tree plantings, and river clean-ups.

Sharon had a fly rod for nearly 10 years, but couldn't figure out how to use it until she met Dave in 2000. Dave initiated her first float boat and fly fishing experience on the Elk Creek Reservoir so she could catch fish instead of bushes which was great. Her first year fishing and rafting the St. Joe, however, was a more difficult fishing experience. Sharon's favorite memory, among hundreds with Dave, is on the Selway, camping, fishing, skinny dipping and enjoying a most beautiful river. On their first raft trip, Sharon was really impressed with Dave because he rowed the Puma and Sharon and their dog sat up front fishing- I'll bet he doesn't do that for John Read, his other buddies, or even for Sharon anymore!!

Dave's favorite memory is about to happen each time he goes fishing. He remembers a CFC fishout at Elk river and John Read was there. Someone from St. Maries invited them to fish his private pond, anytime. Early the next morning, Dave went to the pond and there was John Read getting ready to fish. This started a life long fishing partnership and friendship. Dave especially enjoys cutthroat fishing because of the environment in which they live. Clean water, great scenery, solitude, and more!

Sharon's favorite river is all of them-she just loves being on rivers. She likes any dry fly that she can see and floats nicely on the water. She enjoys biking along a river and stopping to fish spots others might not get to- especially Dave!

Dave and Sharon met in 2000, went to New Zealand in 2001, expanded their property, built a greenhouse and shop, fished numerous lakes and rivers and found they were very compatible in many ways- hard to imagine that from Dave's part!---- but in spite of that they were married on June 22, 2002 and had nearly 300 guests at their wedding-one of their fondest memories. With both retired, they are now really enjoying camping, fishing, exploring geologic landscapes, wildlife, and attending Blues Concerts. At home, Dave ties flies, his favorite the "Bear Paw", Sharon plays the piano and they both enjoy the many outdoor flower beds on HarHar acre.

Doc Spratley (By Bob Bates)

Every year Dr. Spratley and several of his friends went fishing in British Columbia, Canada. They caught a lot of fish with it, and it was his success that led to its widespread acceptance. Most of the lakes had large caddis flies, so perhaps the fish thought it was a caddis pupa.

Most fly anglers I know use it with full sinking fly lines, but sink-tip and floating lines have a place in the right situations. Let the line and fly sink to near weed beds and then start a slow retrieve. If nothing happens at first, vary the retrieve and depth until you connect.



1. Attach thread near bend of hook, and tie on a gap length tail of grizzly hackle fibers.
2. Tie on oval tinsel at the bend of the hook, and move thread to a point 1/4 shank length back from the eye.
3. Attach yarn at the 1/4 point and wind thread rearward over yarn to a point about two tinsel widths in front of the tail. Return thread to tie in point.
4. Then wrap yarn forward to the tie in point, secure and trim excess. All instructions say make the body thin.
5. Start the rib forward by first taking two wraps of tinsel in the small space between tail and back of body. Then spiral tinsel (five turns) to front of body. Secure and trim excess. Most tiers simply make four or five spiral turns and omit the two starting wraps that were part of the original pattern.
6. Tie on a soft grizzly hackle with fibers almost long enough to reach the hook point.
7. Wind it as a normal collar. Then pull fibers down and wind backward with thread so fibers point rearward. Don't tie all fibers solidly into a beard, but leave some pointing to sides.
8. Select a ringneck pheasant tail that has a good portion of reddish brown color, pull the fibers outward from the stem to even the tips, and cut off a few fibers (about a half inch along the stem) for a sparse wing. Tie the wing in over the hackle, trim butts on an angle and wind thread toward eye making a smooth ramp. Return thread to wing tie in point.
9. Tie in several peacock herls by the tips, clip excess herl, and wind thread to within one eye-width of the eye.
10. Wrap herl forward producing a head with a diameter a little larger than the body. Secure herl and trim excess.
11. Form a thread head and whip finish. Complete the head with a drop of cement.

From FFF Website

Hook: Mustad 9671 or 9672, or equivalent hook, 8-12
Thread: Black 3/0
Tail: Grizzly hackle fibers
Body: Thin, black yarn
Rib: Fine oval silver tinsel
Hackle: Soft grizzly hackle, full collar
Head: Peacock herl

Variations include orange body with brown hackle and brown body, gold tinsel with brown hackle. An orange body is said to be best for cutthroat trout.

**Clearwater Fly Casters
PO Box 2149 CS
Pullman, WA 99165**

Our next meeting is:

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

**At the University Inn Best Western,
1560 West Pullman Road in Moscow, ID**
Executive/Cons. meeting 5:30 pm
Wet Fly Hour: 6:00 PM
Dinner: 7:00 PM

Please join us!

