



The *Tippet*

November, 2010

Clearwater Fly Casters
www.clearwaterflycasters.com
A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



November Speaker: “Nez Perce Tribe Clearwater River Coho Restoration Project” by Zach Penney

In this presentation, Zach will briefly discuss the history and demise of Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in the Clearwater River. He will go over the early restoration attempts by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the events leading to the Nez Perce Tribe’s involvement in Coho restoration. He will then present the program’s objectives and goals, as well as the current production schemes. Zach will then end on the project’s recent success, and the challenges still faced in the restoration of a formerly extirpated species.

Biography: My name is Zachary L. Penney. I am 28 years old and a Nez Perce Tribal member. I will be finishing the fourth semester of my Ph.D. at the University of Idaho this December (2010). I am working with Dr. Christine Moffitt on a collaborative project with the Columbia Intertribal Fish Commission that is focused on the physiology and migration of Steelhead Trout in the Snake River Sub-basin. I graduated from Wallace High School in Wallace, Idaho, in 2000. I received my B.Sc. in Aquatic Resources with emphases in Fisheries and Marine Biology in 2004, from Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska. I completed my M.Sc. in Earth and Ocean Science in 2007, in sockeye otolith microchemistry at the University of Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia. Then, I served as the Clearwater River Coho Restoration Project Leader for the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resource Management from 2007 to 2009. I am an avid fisherman, both as a sport angler and for subsistence purposes. While in Sitka, I was able to accomplish a “salmonid grand slam” every year, catching Chinook, Coho, Sockeye, Pink, and Chum Salmon and Steelhead all within one calendar year!

Backcast to October Meeting

Guests: Clay Johnson, UI student; Doug Krone, Palouse; and Don Combs, retired UI

Fishing Reports: **Tim Cavileer** said he had written up a recent trip to Kelly Creek for the October *Tippet*. He said spawning Kokanee were in the stream, and the trout were feeding on the eggs. He gave **Steve Bush** a “Red Cooler Award” for his experience with a raiding bear while they were up there. Steve told how they had tied up egg patterns on the spot and caught fish. Their trip was during the last week in September.

Bill Hendrix reported on a canoe trip in the Elk Creek Arm of Dworshak Reservoir. There was a log jam that prevented travel up the creek. He put in at Dent Campground and caught rainbows and smallmouth on damselflies. Bill told about a summer trip back to Ohio, where he fished some farm ponds for the first time in over 40 years. Also, he said the St. Joe was not really too hot just now.

Calendar

**Nov 10: CFC Meeting,
Zach Penney, Coho
Salmon Reintroduction
on the Clearwater**

**Nov 30: Fly Tying Night,
Moscow Title, 6:30 to
9:00 PM**

**Dec 8: CFC Meeting,
Jennifer Bruns, Volun-
teer Opportunities to Im-
prove Idaho’s Fisheries
Habitat**

Information

**The Tippet is available
as a PDF file on our web
site. Please submit infor-
mation to the Newsletter
Editor.**

Meetings 2nd Wed:

**Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 PM
Dinner: 6:30 PM
(buffet, \$16 per person)
Program: 7:30 PM**

Bill used #20 Parachute Adams and spinners, but he had to work hard for a dozen or so fish. He had a really big one come out of the water to take a spinner, and, of course, the fly and line ended up in the bushes behind.

Dave Tharp said they had spent the past Sunday on the North Fork of the Clearwater. Nothing happened until 3 pm, when a great caddis hatch started. Seven fish came out of one run after 3:30. **Sharon** reported that she fished just out from the camper. A really big fish came completely out of the water to take her fly out of the air. **Dave** said they moved from fishing one river and decided to try the Upper Selway. They came in from Darby, Montana, but he wouldn't recommend taking big RVs in that way. He was dumbfounded by the good fishing.

Lynn Youngblood reported that he and Kay fished the North Fork for three days and caught 20+ fish per day. Kay even hooked a Kokanee on a dry fly! **Bob Harwood** hasn't been doing much of his fish-printing art recently, as he has done most everything around here. However, a Game and Fish employee had a big Bull Trout, which he had confiscated from a poacher, and he gave it to Bob to print. It was 27 inches and weighed 7 pounds. **Andy Kleinhoff** said he had been down on the "upper" Grande Ronde (but not in Oregon), and that two of them had enticed two steelhead into strikes, of which one was landed.

Announcements:

Doug Young said that our speaker Pat Micek was interested in a couple of days fishing in this area, as the club member at Kelly Creek Flycasters that was scheduled to take him had to back out at the last minute. Any club members with an interest should talk to Pat during the meeting tonight.

Bruce Frazier indicated that he had new calendars for 2011 from Willow Creek Press, and that they had sent him a sample book, which club members could look at tonight. Note: For those who missed the meeting, here is a brief description of the book from Bruce. Willow Creek Press, suppliers of our calendar, has extended an offer of a small book of photographs and verses about landscapes and fishing. The book titled 'What fly fishing teaches us' features photographs by Denver Bryan paired with writings by many authors. For example 'My biggest worry is that my wife (when I'm dead) will sell my fishing gear for what I said I paid for it.' (Koos Brandt). You may preview this book at our November meeting and sign up for a copy if you want one. The price will be \$15.00 and the club will benefit from each order. I will turn in the order to Willow Creek Press after our November meeting so we have them by the December meeting.

Cliff Swanson reported on board discussions about changing the format for our biennial auction, which is due again next spring. Possibilities include changing it to a Saturday event, with fly casting and other activities, or changing it to a fall event to bring in new members early in the club year. He asked for help with the planning. If there is interest, please e-mail Cliff at clswan12@gmail.com.

Dave Uberuaga asked if club members would be interested in stick-on signs for the back of campers or pickups with the club name on them. He will enquire about costs for next meeting.

Doug Baldwin reported that there is no recent news on the proposed transport of heavy equipment up the Lochsa River corridor. Someone said that there is a lot of this equipment waiting at Portland already.

October Speaker: Pat Micek, "Photos, Flies and Tales – Fly Fishing Vancouver Island"

Pat started his presentation by stating that he has a few addictions, including fly fishing Vancouver Island. His purpose is to share some places, starting in the north, that you can go and catch fish, without being a native. Timing is the key to success at many of the spots on the island, so he will focus on areas where timing is less an issue. He brought cards for a guide service that he helped start but has since dropped out of, as well as for the premier fly shop on the island.

Above Campbell River, there are not many roads and few people. It is a beautiful area, and the fishing is good. Pat started his specific descriptions with the Marble River, where there is a good campground. It has rainbows all year and steelhead in May through July. It used to have big Chinook, but not any longer. A bit further south, the Sayward River Area has lots of diversity in fishing opportunities. The Adam and Eve Rivers have steelhead February through April, and there is a great Pink Salmon fishery from late June through August in the area, particularly off the beach at the mouth of the Cluxewe River. The Tsitika River is tea-colored, but it is a great steelhead fishery in July-August, and good for Coho in September-October, with good fishing on dry flies.

In the central region of the island, the Campbell River is still a special place, as you can fish the water made famous by Haig-Brown and his friend van Eagen, who just died this past year. It is a Pink paradise from Late June through August,

and there are Coho in the fall. It is not much of a steelhead fishery any more, due to the mines wiping out the spawning grounds, but there are a few big Chinook in August and September. You will need cleats and a staff to wade this river.

The Gold River has winter and summer steelhead. There was a killer whale at the mouth that caused declines for several years, but it eventually died and the runs have revived. The Helicopter Run is the best, particularly in January-February. The weather can be good at this time, although cold. A tributary to the Gold is the Heber River. There are now 300 fish in this small stream, only about 10 km long, and it can be fished in a single day – lots of fun and easy access. June-July and October are the recommended months.

Coho can be accessed from Tofino by boat from 15 July until 8 August. There, the month of August is known as “Fogust”. One way to find fish is by “bucktailing” flies in the prop wash until a hook-up is made, and then by casting in this area. This fishing is best in the odd years. You can camp on islands with a boat. Weigh West in Tofino will provide boats for \$450 per day for two fishermen. On your way home, stop and try the Toquart River, where you can hike in and spot steelhead to fish to.

In the southern part of the island there are a number of very good rivers. The Nahmint River has summer steelhead but is good in February. It has a few very big fish. Pat recommends David’s Deadly Purple as the top fly for these steelhead. The upper river is a great fishery, and the lower river has an area with huge trees remaining. The water is best in June-July with expansive, open runs, and it is easy to wade.

The Cowichan River is locally known as “The Cowie”, and is the quintessential Vancouver Island river, long considered the premier fishing river. It is big water with a wide variety of fish much of the year. In winter, nice rainbows will come to egg patterns. In December-January, big browns can be caught on egg patterns and streamers, and there are sea-run browns as well as resident fish. Fishing is good below the last bridge. The river is about 23 km long. At low water, hike 7-8 miles up river from Scotts Falls (?) and use #12-16 nymphs.

Another prime river in the south is the Gordon River, which is 18 km long. There is a lot of canyon water, and there is a road along the upper river. The wading is easy. Right now, there are 400 steelhead. The Borden Special is the top steelhead fly, not just here but everywhere on the island.

Pat fishes the sloping beaches with shells at the mouth of the Sooke River for sea-run cutts March-May and August-October. Pat’s Special is the top fly. The tide must be moving for the cutts to move, or try just after a ferry has gone past. Other good flies for cutts are the California Neil, Bead Head Rolled Muddler and Cutty Jump Bug.

As a resource book on the island, Pat recommends “Vancouver Island Fishing Guide” by D. C. Reid. See the *Online Tippet* for more information Pat provided.

South Fork Sally by Wes Newman

<http://www.flypatternbook.net/sfs.htm>

Hook: Any standard Dry Fly Hook Size 12-20
Thread: Red 6/0
Butt: Red Tying Thread
Tail: Mallard Flank Fibers
Abdomen: Chartreuse Dubbing
Thorax: Chartreuse Dubbing
Wing: Mallard Flank Fibers
Hackle: Light Ginger Cock



Handouts by Pat Micek for His Talk on Vancouver Island Fly Fishing

Fly Shops

South Island

Robinsons Outdoor Store

1307 Broad St
Victoria, BC V8W2A8
(888) 317-0033

Mid Island

Nile Creek

6950 W. Island Highway Unit #2
Bowser, BC V0R 1G0
(250) 757-20952 6950

North Island

River Sportsman

2115 Island Hwy
Campbell River, BC V9W2G6
(250) 286-1017

What to Bring

Ocean Coho or Chinook (in boat)

- Rod: 7 to 10 wts. (2 rods minimum)
- Reels: Saltwater reel, 150 yard capacity or more
- Other: Ocean suit or neoprene waders, deck shoes, rubber rain jacket

Ocean Cuttys

- Rod: 4 to 6 wts.
- Reels: Saltwater reel
- Other: stripping basket

Trout

- Rod: 4 to 6 wts.
- Other: wading boots with studs, wading staff

Steelhead Winter

- Rod: 7 to 9 wts. (two handed or single)
- Reels: 100 yard capacity or better
- Other: wading boots with studs, wading staff

Steelhead Summer

- Rod: 6 to 8 wts. (two handed rod for some rivers)
- Other: hiking gear, wading boots with studs, wading staff

Vancouver Island Fly Patterns

California Neil (Cuttys and Coho)

Hook: 2 to 6 Thread: 6/0 Fluorescent chartreuse

Tail: fluorescent chartreuse polar bear hair, 4 strands chartreuse flashabou on top Body: fluorescent chartreuse diamond braid Rib: small green wire Hackle: grizzly, palmered

Bead Head or Plain Rolled Muddler (Cuttys and Browns)

Hook: Streamer size 8 – 6 bronze or chrome Thread: 6/0 red or orange Tail: light tan teal Body: silver mylar Rib: oval tinsel Under-wing: 3 strands of Krystal Flash or Flashabou Over-wing: light tan teal and deer hair (remains of the clipped head) Head: Spun Deer Hair

Borden Special (Steelhead)

Hook: Streamer or Steelhead size 8 – 4 Thread: 6/0 brilliant pink BTail: hen hackle fibers or marabou in bright pink and yellow Body: bright pink small to medium chenille Rib: silver mylar or oval tinsel or wire Wing: white polar bear or equivalent Collar: hen hackle bright pink and yellow Head: thread=

Chartreuse Clouser (Feeding Coho)

Hook: Mustad #4 or #6 stainless Throat: white polar bear or bucktail. Body: chartreuse floss or thread Wing: Chartreuse polar bear or bucktail with mixed under strands Pearl Crystal Flash. Eyes: weighted silver or red with black dot dumb bell eyes to match hook.

Pat's Special (Cuttys and Coho)

Hook: TMC 9394 (#10-#6) Thread: Black 3/0 and mono thread Tail: Red polar bear Body: Silver or holographic tinsel wrapped with silver wire Wing: Stacked (descending) olive green polar bear or like material, white or clear crystal flash, followed by white polar bear Head: black thread completes the head and may be covered with a light coat of epoxy and dotted with an holographic eye, but that isn't necessary for success.

David Deadly Purple (Steelhead)

Hook: 6 or 8 1X Thread: black or purple Head: gold bead head to match hook size Tail: purple fibers or marabou Body: purple chenille or dubbing over wrapped with purple hackle

Dangerously Pink (Feeding Coho)

Hook: 600 Stainless with hook cut and SC15 as a "trailer hook" attached with 15pd. mono Thread: bright pink Body: a short section on the shank of silver mylar over wrapped with medium oval wire Wing and Throat: under-wing of 5 strands of crystal flash; over-wing of sparse bright pink polar bear or similar material...synthetic can be used Throat: white polar bear or similar material.

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Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2010

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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 Hour 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM and Program at 7:30 PM.