



The *Tippet*

September, 2011

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



September Event: Fall Fly Fishing Classic

(see page 3 and club website for details)

President's Message

Were did the summer go? Stream flows have dropped to levels that should make for some great fishing opportunities this fall. I have not had a chance to get out as much as I would have liked to but am planning on fishing a bunch this fall. There has been some talk of a mini fishout shortly after the **Fall Fly Fishing Classic**. Nothing has been set in stone, but this will probably be an impromptu outing. Give it some thought and see if there is an interest in such an event.

Plans for the **Fall Fly Fishing Classic** are falling into place. The club is still in need of items for the silent auction. If each member could come up with an item or two we can generate enough money to carry the scholarship and club events over for a couple of years. We need the club members to help and make this as successful as possible. The more we all chip in and help, the stronger our club will be.

Farmers market has been successful, even though we have not had someone there every weekend. The raffle board for the bamboo rod has only three squares left. On the other hand, the spey road has a ways to go, as there are around 150 squares left. A friend of mine has generously donated a hand-made quilt for us to raffle. So far I have sold around \$200 worth of tickets. The tickets are selling for \$2 each or 6 for \$10.

Mark your calendar for September 24th for the **Fall Fly Fishing Classic** and step up and help at the event to make our first attempt successful.

The evening event for club members is a BBQ from DJ's. Some members have already told me that they will be attending the evening event. I will be getting back to everyone and pre-selling dinner tickets. So far it looks like the price will be around \$10.

FYI, the Orvis Shop in Coeur d'Alene, as well as the Warehouse Sportsman in the East Valley Mall in Spokane, will give our club members a 10% discount on fishing items. Just tell the clerk that you are a member of the Clearwater Fly Casters club from the Pullman-Moscow area.

St. Joe Fishout

The weekend of July 15-17, members and guests gathered at the Fly Flat Campground on the Upper St. Joe River for a fun time of fishing, socializing and other activities. The water was high and the fishing spotty, but there were some good catches reported. On Saturday night, a club pot-luck was held, which was enjoyed by over thirty folks. The food was great, the spirits good, and the tall tales somewhat believable. Sylvia's jambalaya was a real hit (picture at right). See the on-line version of the newsletter for some more pictures of this event—in color.



Calendar

Sep 24: CFC Fall Fly Fishing Classic, 1912 Center, Moscow

Oct 12: CFC Monthly Meeting, University Inn, Moscow

Information

The Tippet is available as a PDF file on our web site. Please submit information 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

Backcast to May Meeting

Fishing Reports: Lynn Youngblood said he and Kay had fished Rock Creek. They practiced their nymphing technique, but they caught few fish. Also, he had a report on Dave Tharp, who was on his way to visit his 94 year old mother in New Jersey. He was prepared for a 6 a.m. flight out, but his mom called him and asked how his flight was. He patiently told her it wasn't until the next morning. However, he found out it was that day, and he had missed it!

Reid Miller had a report for Jim Hill, who couldn't make the meeting. Jim had sent an e-mail about he and his brother-in-law fishing Crab Creek with G.L. Britton, our speaker tonight. They fished on April 7th, and had good weather off and on. They caught lots of fish, mostly 18 to 22 inches, weighing around 4 to 6 pounds. They did pick up a few smaller ones in the 14 to 16 inch range. Jim sent Reid a couple of pictures for the next newsletter (see the on-line newsletter).

Also, Reid said he and Don Johnstone had just returned from fishing the Beaverhead River near Dillon, MT. On Monday, they about froze to death and were the only ones on the river that day. They caught about 25 fish between them but nothing big. Don irritated his shoulder and had to bow out on Tuesday. Reid had a great day, landing as many fish as the two of them had the first day, with a couple of really nice browns, topping out over 20 inches.

Gary Evers reported trying out his new boat at Mann Lake, where we caught several rainbows on a jig. They were really good eating.

David Yonge said he had recently gone to Belize with Don Johnstone. He and Marion were watching a TV program about fishing down there, and he said he would sure like to do that some day. Marion told him, "Why don't you just go do it?" He said he pulled a hamstring when he dove out of his chair for the computer. With the downturn in the economy, the lodges down there are giving good deals – almost affordable. Marion reported that she went to Lewiston, which was a much cheaper trip, even though she stopped by Costco.

Mike Decker went back to Amber the day after the club fishout, and he caught a lot of really nice fish. When he returned a week later, the fishing was very slow. Dave Uberuaga reported on all his good luck surrounding the Amber Lake fishout, which included some Cabela's certificates, a nice new rod for little, winning a \$500 drawing, and catching his big fish at Amber.

Steve Bush and Mark Brownell fished at Elk River, but none of their flies worked. Cliff Swanson and Marc Ratzlaff said they had fished Elk Creek Reservoir and done really well using an olive Wholly Bugger to catch some good rainbows.

Program: G.L. Britton presented "Fly Fishing Crab Creek"

Crab Creek is one of the longest creeks in the world, and parts of it hold good trout. It disappears and reappears as a spring creek, like at Rocky Ford. G.L. (Double Spey Outfitters) guides on a private ranch about 15 miles north of Sprague, which has five miles of productive stream running through it. There are native Redband Trout, and they have introduced Triploids as well. The latter do not interfere with the native fish. The Redbands can survive under low-oxygen conditions, even better than Brown Trout. As the last ice age ended, these fish were found in Mexico and Southern US, and they migrated north to the Pacific Northwest. They are the ancestors of both the Steelhead and Kamloops Rainbows.

Nearly every client they host catches at least one 20+ inch fish. They fish Crab Creek from February through June, until the water temperature gets too high, and catching the fish would stress them too much. Right now, the creek is unfishable, as the flows are unusually high. They have a camp on the ranch that can accommodate six clients. The banks have been stripped of their native vegetation by grazing, and the stream banks are still eroding due to this, but the habitat still supports good trout populations. The oldest fish are four to five years old, as determined from sending off scale samples for analysis. Spawners are skinny, due to dehydration. They re-hydrate rather quickly, by tilting their scales out to take in water. That is why their color changes after spawning.

Historically, Native Americans used this country in their travels, as it cuts the triangle formed by the dog leg in the Columbia River. They got mussels to eat from the creek and built some strange holes surrounded by stones, for what purpose is not known for sure – maybe hunting blinds or sweat lodges.

There are flora and fauna on the ranch that greatly interest G.L. There are many wildflowers, which you would not guess for such a dry country. The bird life is extensive, and there are many mammals and reptiles as well. The rattlesnakes are present but seldom seen or encountered. Mule Deer and Badgers are common, along with Coyotes. There are lots of crawdads, from which the creek takes its name.

G.L. showed the club some great photographs and gave an interesting talk. The members appreciated the fact that he included birds, wildflowers and other non-fish things in his talk.



Clearwater Fly Casters

FALL FLY FISHING CLASSIC

Saturday, September 24, 2011

10am – 4pm, 1912 Center Moscow

FREE ADMISSION

<u>Time</u>	<u>Great Room</u>	<u>Art Room - Fly Tying</u>
10:00	Nate Brumley, "Innovative Dry Flies"	Tim Cavileer
11:15	John Read, "Fishing the St. Joe"	LeRoy Hyatt
12:30	Mike Croft, "Tying Glo-Bugs"	Robert Bates
1:45	Nate Brumley, "Dry Fly Essentials"	Mike Croft
3:00	IDFG, "Potlatch River Steelhead Project"	Nate Brumley

Kid's activities, fly casting demos, men's and women's casting lessons, raffles, silent auction, local knowledge and local vendors available throughout the day. Lunch and beverages available for purchase.

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See ClearwaterFlyCasters.com for more information.



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Clearwater Fly Casters

September, 2011

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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.

Some Crab Creek fish caught by Jim Hill and his brother-in-law Chet, while fishing with G. L. Britton, our May speaker



Pictures from the Amber Lake club fishout in May—Sharon Tharp in her cold-weather gear—Dave Uberuaga admiring the picture of his “hog”



St. Joe fishout shots—Marion biking—Cliff firing up his Coleman—Yonges and Johnstones relaxing around their campfire—Dave and Gary reading the fine print—Bill and Judy at the pot-luck

