



The Tippet

May, 2012

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



May Program: Rick and Sam Hedding, "Smallmouth Bass on the Fly"

The first Smallmouth Bass that Rick caught in the Grande Ronde on a fly came from the lower river in 2002. He was swinging for an early steelhead and much to his surprise the hard pulling fish was a nice 2 pound smallmouth. Three skyward jumps and a few solid runs left a lasting impression. The next June he started exploring the canyon section for good bass prospects that might lead to additional guiding opportunities. What he found was nothing short of remarkable. The presentation by Rick and his son Sam will be primarily on the Grande Ronde, but much of the fishing is the same for the Snake, with a few exceptions.



Rick Hedding moved to Washington from Alaska in 1990. After finally catching his first steelhead on a fly in the fall of 1993, he became consumed with fly fishing the Grande Ronde. The small and intimate size of the river coupled with the spectacular scenery kept him coming back time and time again, fish or no fish. The next 7 years he spent every day off fishing the Ronde. He got his first drift boat in 1995, and he started exploring and fishing the lower canyon stretch. He was on a mission to learn every run, slot, and gravel bar that could hold a steelhead. After a few seasons he had his "go to" spots that consistently produced fish on the fly. The fateful day came in the summer of 1999, when he was laid off from his full-time job. This was the open door he needed to start his lifelong dream of becoming a steelhead fishing guide. Now, he spends over 100 days each season chasing the mighty Steelhead, but also the Smallmouth Bass that populate this river!

Presidents' Message (Kay and Lynn Youngblood)

Kay and I missed the last meeting due to a commitment in the Midwest.....an event that we enjoyed a lot, BUT we missed seeing you all at the meeting and were very sorry to miss Jim Hill's presentation about fishing in and around Glacier National Park. We've tried that area once and hope to go back some day, so we'll be looking for updates from Jim and Cheryl about their ongoing experiences. I still recall Kay catching a nice rainbow on the western boundary of Glacier. While we are 99% catch and release, if we catch a nice rainbow we will occasionally keep it, thinking we are helping our favorite West Slope Cutthroats by doing so, but for some reason on that day we had mercy on that 16 inch bow that would have made a nice campsite dinner for us.

As I write this message, we have just returned from the Amber Lake Fish-out where 20 or so CFCers made a day of it. So there should be plenty of stories to tell, and I'm looking forward to hearing about smallmouth fishing on the Grand Ronde from our speaker. Hope to see you there! (Note: See Page 6 for some Amber Lake pictures.)

Calendar

May 3: CFC Fly Tying Night, Moscow Title, Humpy (featured fly)

May 9: CFC Meeting, Rick and Sam Hedding, "Smallmouth Bass on the Fly", University Inn, Moscow 5:30 pm

June 9: ID Free Fishing Day, Elk River Outing

July 10-14: FFF Conclave, Spokane

July 26-29: CFC St. Joe River Fish-Out

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 April Meeting

Guests: Dan Davenport of Moscow, Joy Lundsford with UI, Jim Hill's son Eric, and George Ball with WSU.

Fishing Reports: Crystal reported that she and Linda had participated in the "Women with Bait" event down at Riggins. It was great fun, and even the "bait boys" caught fish.

Reid Miller said he had joined Lynn and Kay Youngblood down on the Owyhee, where they had enjoyed two glorious days of fishing – great weather and very nice fish. Lynn and Kay had to return on the third morning, and Reid was going to fish that day, however it started to rain just after the Youngbloods left, so he packed up and headed back instead. Half way up White Bird Grade, he spotted the Youngbloods' pickup stranded on the road. Kay had a premonition that Reid might just come along and rescue them. They got towed to Grangeville, and Reid was able to bring them on home to Palouse.

Steve Busch said he had been up to Coffee Pot Lake, where there were some really nice hatches going on. With a boat, you are able to get away from the crowd. With small chironomid patterns, he had good fishing.

Marc Ratzlaff had been to New Zealand, where he got washed out on the South Island. On the North Island, he had fished a famous channel (Oahu Channel?) and caught some nice rainbows on streamers. One 16 inch fish must have weighed four pounds, a fish fatter than he had ever seen before.

Committee Reports:

FFF: Steve Bush said that the FFF Fair will be in Spokane on July 10-14 at the Convention Center. He and Paul Agidius attended a meeting in Spokane recently. They are looking for volunteers to man registration and for other functions, which will result in free admission that day. Otherwise, it will cost \$20. The club can have a table at the fair, if desired. They are also looking for sponsors for the event. The WA FFF annual event will be at the fairgrounds in Ellensburg on May 4-5. This Friday, the student chapter of the American Fisheries Society will hold a pot luck at the 1912 Building to raise funds to support the club. Finally, the Henry's Fork Foundation is having a raffle with some really great fishing trip prizes, and Steve has tickets.

Conservation: Doug Baldwin reported that ID Fish and Game is considering a land purchase that would put the lower reaches of Charlie Creek in public hands. They are having a meeting Friday, and he will write a letter on behalf of the club.

Scholarship: Liza Mitchell will be here at the May meeting to receive her check and tell us a bit about her research.

Program: Doug Young reminded the members that Rick Hedding and his son Sam will be the program at the May meeting, presenting on fly fishing for bass.

Fly Tying: Tim Cavileer said that the tying night will be the Thursday before the meeting in May, and the featured flies will be Humpies.

Paul Agidius announced that the Idaho Wildlife Summit will be Aug 24-26 in Boise, and that they will be considering regulation changes on The Joe. The club authorized the president to write a letter expressing that we favor no changes in the regulations.

Program: Jim Hill, "Fly Fishing Glacier National Park"

Jim showed a map of Glacier (Detailed map on Page 5) and indicated that he would focus on three areas of the park, where he had the most experience fishing: the McDonald Lake area, the Two Medicine area, and the Logan Pass area. They are all great areas, where you can hike a bit and get away from the crowds to some good fishing. He will not talk about the large primitive areas in the north and south central parts of the park, as they are not readily accessible.

The fish of interest include West Slope and Yellowstone Cutthroat, Eastern Brookies, Rainbows, Kokanee and a few others. He uses a 5-weight rod, 8-9 feet long, with a floating line. A sinking line would be useful in some of the lake situations. Jim does not use waders, float



tubes or a boat of any kind. No lead is allowed in the park, either as weights or on the flies. Jim showed some of his “killer flies”, including one streamer, improperly called an Edson Tiger, because the colors are a bit different. It appeared to have a white deer hair tail, a peacock herl body, a red throat, and bucktail tan and white wing. Also, Jim recommended fishing dark Woolly Worms. The other flies he presented were small nymphs in various colors, some of which looked like chironomid patterns.

For a family outing, with not too long of a hike, Jim liked the Two Medicine area at the Southeast Corner of the park. You can drive to Two Medicine Lake and get a boat that will take you up to the upper end of this lake. Then, you can hike a couple miles to Upper Two Medicine Lake to fish for brookies. There are some nice, deep holes where small streams enter the lake, and these are the best spots. They hiked in with their triplet grandkids at age three, with only minor wailing on the way out.

The McDonald Lake area includes Avalanche Lake, with a reasonably short hike in that is suitable for a family outing. This is a very popular area, so you need to get there early in the day to beat the crowd. Also, you need to hike around and fish the far end of the lake. There are West Slope Cutthroat here, probably the purest strain in the park. Some efforts are now underway to improve the purity of the strains in the various parts of the park. From this same area of the road, you can also hike to Trout Lake, but it is 5.5 miles of trail with a big ridge in the middle. You have to go up and over both going in and coming back out. There are 14-18 inch Yellowstone Cutthroat in this lake, that can be fished from various log jams. Woolly Worms work really well here.

Another hike Jim recommends starts at Sperry Chalet, where you can overnight, if you make reservations a year in advance! The hike is in to Lake Ellen Wilson, where there is some good fishing. For a more-strenuous hike, you can go on over the Continental Divide to Gunsight Lake and hike on to the road, where you can catch a free shuttle back. Of course, this lake can be reached by a six-mile hike in from the road east of Logan Pass. Gunsight Lake has big rainbows, and it can be fished from the north side using the Edson Tiger.

One of Jim’s favorite fishing spots is Hidden Lake, which is a three mile hike from Logan Pass. At the lake, the trail crosses the inlet creek. The south side has a big patch of huckleberries, which can be a bear attractor at certain times. There are good drop-offs on both sides of the lake. Jim has best luck sight fishing on this lake. He recommends finding the fish before going after them.

Jim recommends mid-July to mid-September as the prime times. After Labor Day, the crowds are gone, but the weather can be iffy – some years wet and some years just beautiful. Also, the road over the top is often closed in September for road repairs. The eagles congregate on McDonald Creek in November, as the kokanee move upstream to spawn. Jim has not been there that late.

Mini-Auction: Dave Tharp auctioned off Jim’s Glacier Park flies and two Bob Harwood prints. Doug Young got the flies. Marc Ratzlaff and Steve Bush took the prints.

Raffle: Winners included John Read, Steve Gardai, Krystal Lewis, Linda Gardai, Gary Evers, Chris Lewis, Paul Agidius, Nancy Miller and Doug Baldwin.

Fly of the Month: Humpy

by Skip Morris <http://flyanglersonline.com/flytying/fotw/120699fotw.php>

Hook: Standard dry fly, #10-18

Thread: Same color as floss and size to match hook

Body: Single-strand floss

Tail: Moose body hair

Hump and wings: Natural elk hair

Hackle: One grizzly and one brown

See the web site above for tying instructions and notes by Skip Morris.



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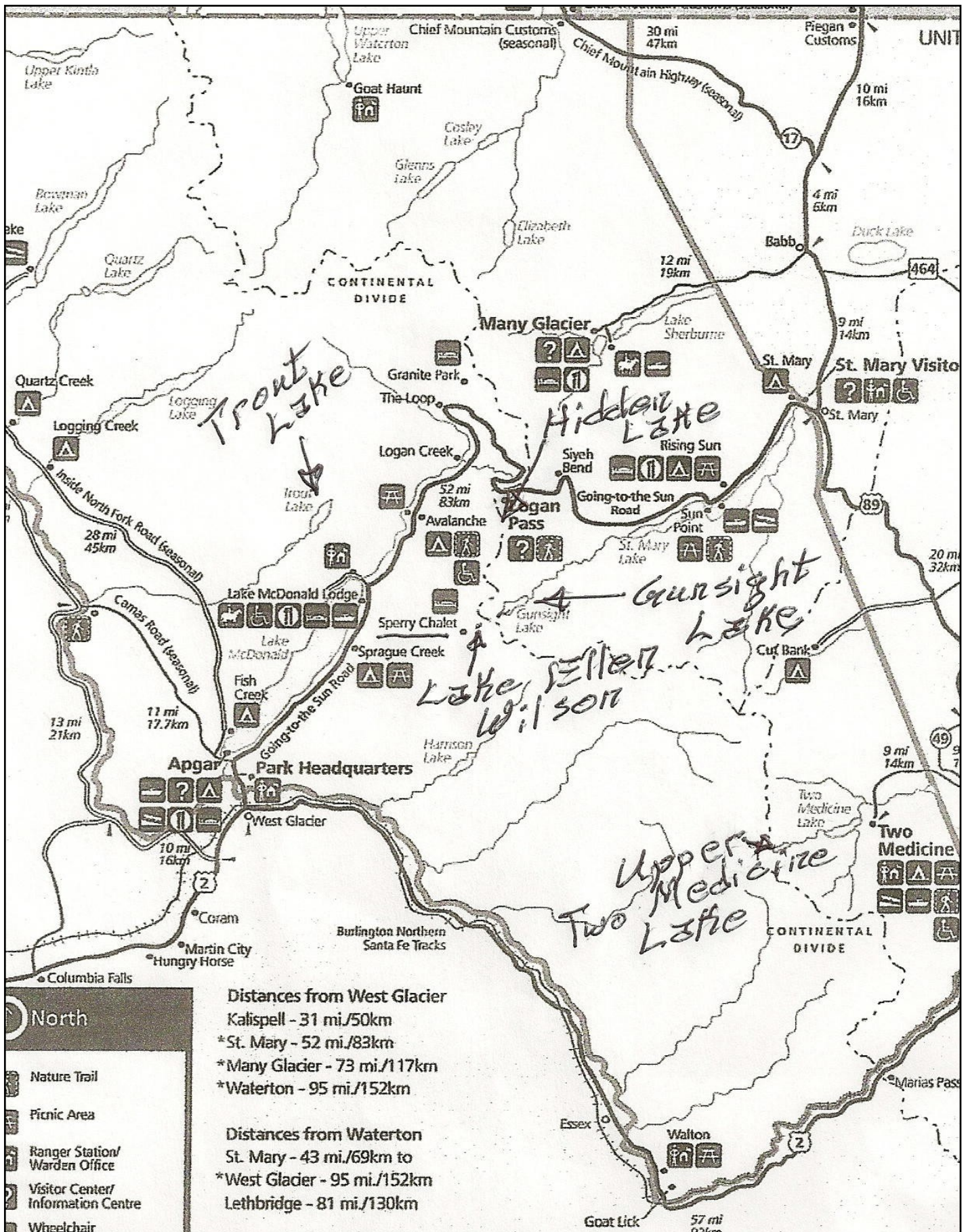
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CFC membership dues are \$20/yr for individuals, \$30/yr for families, \$10/yr for students, \$50/yr sustaining, \$300/lifetime. Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday, September through May, at the Best Western University Inn, 1516 Pullman Rd, Moscow, Idaho. Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM and Program at 7:30 PM.

Jim Hill's Map of Glacier



Pictures from Amber Lake



Clockwise: Lunch Hosts Kay and Lynn, The SEL Crew, Cliff at Lunch, Pontoon Boat Fisherman, "The Pie"