



The *Tippet*

September, 2012

Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



September Event: Potluck Supper at the Tharp Residence in Palouse

The Clearwater Fly Casters will congregate for a potluck supper at the Dave and Sharon Tharp residence in Palouse at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, September 12. The location is at the junction of Main Street and Lynd Road on the east edge of Palouse. Please park below the house on the north side.

Since no food will be provided, please bring a main dish and either a salad/vegetable dish or a dessert to share. Water will be provided, otherwise bring your own drinks. Table service will be provided. Bring chairs, as we will be outside for this event. This is an opportunity for members to share stories from their summer fishing adventures, so think about some good ones that we can put in the *October Tippet*.

Presidents' Message (Kay Youngblood)

Not unlike many of you, I'm sure, Lynn and I are wondering what happened to summer? Part of the reason why it may seem to have been shortened is because we have done less fly fishing this summer than in the past, but we had great alternatives, so we shouldn't complain. We were too sorry to have missed the Fishout on the Joe, but a trip back to the Midwest for a couple of weddings precluded us from being there.....and also interfered with normal fishing activity. But we had about as good a time for a three-week period without fishing as one could imagine. And we did some scouting around Yellowstone on the trip back that we hope to put to the test yet before the snow flies.

While we did miss the Fishout, Lynn and I, along with Cliff Swanson, Paul Agidius, Dave Tharp, Doug Baldwin, Steve Bush and Dave Evans represented CFC at the International Fly Fishing Fair in Spokane, where we sold some of Bob Harwood's wonderful prints and made lots of new friends. And then just this past week, Cliff Swanson and I were privileged to represent CFC at University of Idaho's Health and Recreation Fair where we made lots of contacts with interested students.

We're anticipating our annual kickoff activity at the Tharps' residence in Palouse this next week...really looking forward to seeing you there. Tight lines.....

Backcast to May Meeting

Guests: Chuck Knight of WSU Information Technology and Norm Whittlesey from the WSU Ag College.

Calendar

Sept 12: CFC Potluck, Tharp Residence

Oct 10: CFC Meeting, University Inn, Moscow 5:30 pm

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**

Fishing Reports: Cliff Swanson said he had witnessed for the first time steelhead spawning in a small creek near Troy and will post his videos on You Tube. Mike Decker said that he had killed them at the Amber Lake Fish-out on Water Boatman patterns up in the lily pads. Marc Retslaff reported fishing Pyramid Lake for Lahonton Cutthroat and catching four nice ones the last day, using his step ladder.

Doug Baldwin caught one at the fish-out and a couple yesterday at Amber. Bret Bowersox said that sturgeon fishing was good in Hells Canyon. Jim Palmersheim said that the shore lunch at Amber was the “best ever”. Dave Tharp had a great time at Amber, and the fishing was good at Coffeepot, but watch out for the rattlers. Norm Whittlesey hooked a fish at Williams Lake recently, but an osprey dove on it, repeated and broke the fish off, and carried the fish away on its third attempt. Andy Kleinhoff wonders how the Triploids are doing in Amber – the ones with the clipped adipose, which must be released back into the lake. Nobody seemed to have an answer for him.

Committee Reports:

FFF: Steve Bush attended the WA FFF in Ellensburg. There were over 90 tyers present in 53 spots, and the program was great. There were casting lessons and contests, lectures, etc. It was a fine two-day event, and club members should consider attending next year. The annual FFF Fair (formerly “Conclave”) will be in Spokane July 9-14 this summer. Registration is \$25. He said that CFC is considering having a table up there, and asked for a show of hands for volunteers to man the table – several members so indicated.

Membership: Paul Agidius said a few members still owe dues for 2012, and he would be available to collect.

Conservation: Doug Baldwin said the WA Fish and Wildlife purchase of prime land on Charlie Creek is now complete. The CCA-sponsored legislation on reporting lost nets is now law in WA, and he recommended that members join this organization. Jim Palmersheim suggested that CFC join as a club, and the Presidents will look into this.

Program: Doug Young indicated that nothing is yet firm for next fall.

Announcements: Nancy Miller said there was to be a native plant sale at the 1912 Building on May 26. Mike Decker asked for help with his June event for novice fly fishers at Elk River.

Scholarship: Cliff Swanson introduced Liza Mitchell and presented her with her scholarship check to support her work related to salmon recovery. She explained the basic idea of her research, which will be conducted in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. It relates to the impacts of nutrients from dying salmon after spawning on the headwater streams.

Cliff Swanson and Kay Youngblood attended the U of I Health and Recreation Fair on August 28th. While they were there they promoted the club’s activities, meetings and our annual club scholarship. Kay did the majority of explaining to the onlookers while Cliff tied flies to generate some interest from the students. They gathered a page of emails and addresses so that the club can contact them for meetings and activities. While they were there, Liza Mitchell, the current scholarship winner, came by our booth. She was excited to see us at the fair. She also tied her first fly with Cliff’s help, a yellow stimulator.



Program: Rick Hedding, Northwest Steelhead Fishing.com, “Grande Ronde Smallmouth Bass on the Fly”

The Smallmouth Bass fishing with a fly rod has changed Rick’s view of the Grande Ronde River. He now guides there during the summers. Early in the season, late May and through June, the big smallmouth are found in The Ronde, but they drop back out by the first of July. If the run-off is not too heavy and early enough, there may be some good days to fish them during this period. Last year was not so good, but most years provide at least some opportunities. At least one of each five years, the run-off is early, and these big fish can be targeted.

A key is getting the fly to the bank, as this is the zone to find the fish. A second key is to use big flies, to discourage the small fish from hitting. Smallmouth eat steelhead smolt, and they are not native fish, and they make great shore lunch and fish tacos. Rick encourages anglers to keep them.

The best fishing is 5-10 pm, and in general fishing is best in the shade. Although he floats all sections of the river from the Oregon State Line to the mouth, he prefers the State Line put-in to Bogans, as there are fewer anglers in that stretch.

Rick has developed a mouse pattern that he claims is deadly on the big smallmouth. He calls it "AL" the mighty mouse. It is tied on a size 2 hook (T8089), using flat nylon thread. It has a red rabbit strip tail and winter coat Mule Deer hair body. He recommends a 6-7 wt rod, 9-10 ft long. The leader need be no more than six feet of 12 lb Maxima tied onto WF7F AirFlow (braided core) line. For the big ones in June, he uses big, articulated leach patterns, to provide the fish a "big meal".

Best floating conditions on The Ronde are when the flows are 3-5 thousand cfs. In the summer, the wildlife are down on the canyon section, from Bogans to Shumaker. Overnight trips are fun too. Wade fishing is great on the Snake, particularly the rip-rap sections below Clarkston. There are some good areas on The Ronde as well. Below State Line, there are some small dikes out into the river that hold many smallmouth. This is a great river for a pontoon boat too.

Rick's Trip Raffle: Rick donated a trip for two anglers to the club. Mike Decker's bid of \$350 took the prize.

Monthly Raffle: Winners included Jim Palmersheim, Cliff Swanson, Krystal Lewis, Linda Muehlbauer, Nancy Miller, Andy Kleinhofs, Dave Evans, Bob Harwood, Rene Hedding, Steve Bush, and Bret Bowersox.

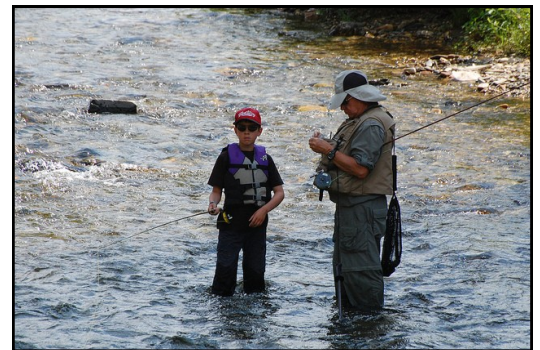
Some Summer Fishing Pictures



**Elk River
Instruction**



**St. Joe
Fishout**



Fly of the Month: Edson Tiger Variant

by Jim Hill

Hook: #6-12 nymph

Thread: Black

Tail: Mallard flank feather (or duck quill)

Body: Peacock herl

Beard: Red deer hair or calf tail

Wing: Bronze Mallard Flank (or fine hair or synthetic, brown over white)



Notes: Can be tied weighted or unweighted.

No lead allowed if fishing in Glacier National Park.

Clearwater Fly Casters
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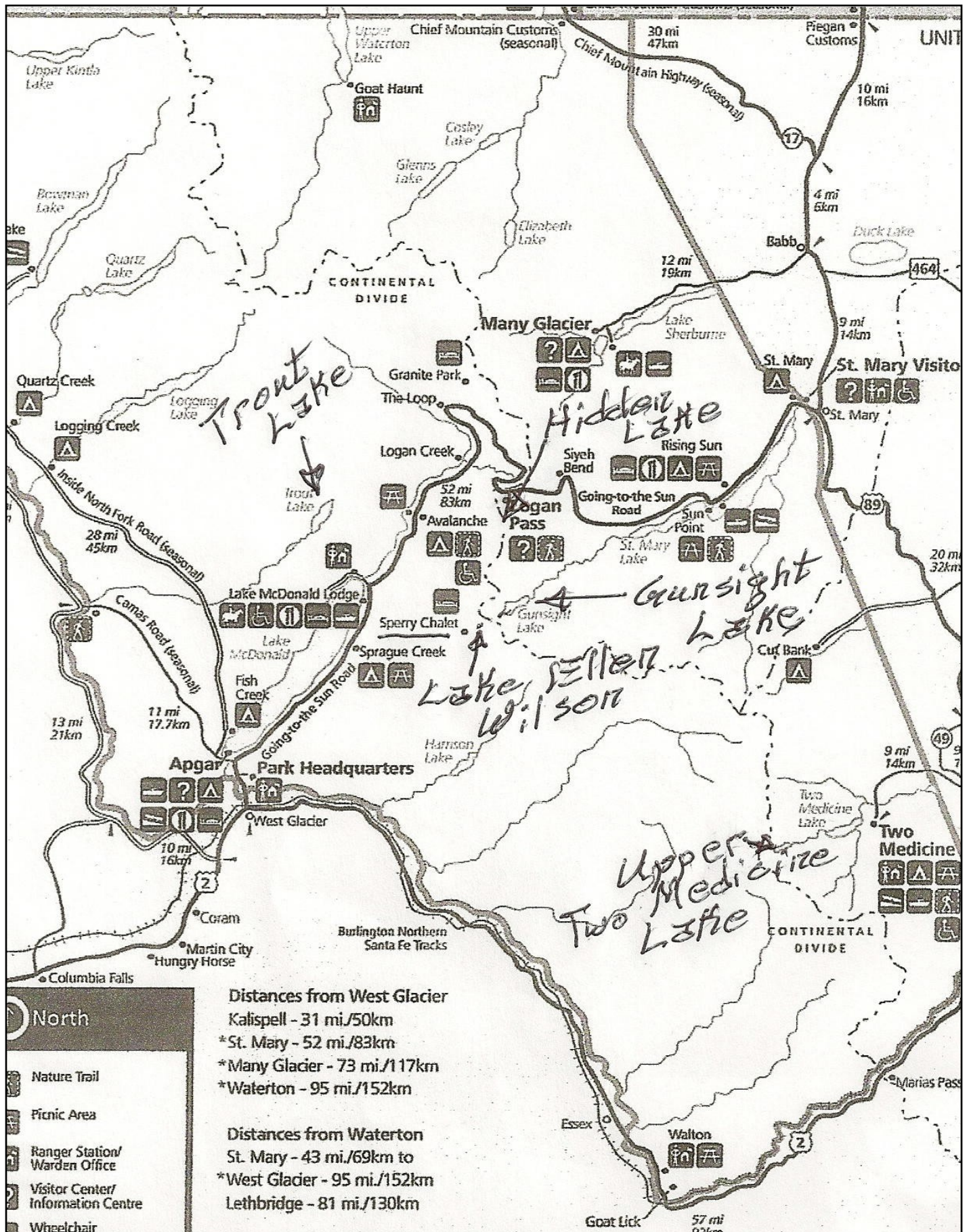
September, 2012

Clearwater Fly Casters Officers 2012

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Past President	Cliff Swanson	clswan12@gmail.com
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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"