



The *Tippet*

September, 2013

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



September Program: Annual Potluck at Tharps

Date: September 11, 2013

Time: Begin Gathering at 5:30 pm

Location: Tharp Home, 825 East 11th Main Street (Hwy 272, on North side of Main Street on East edge of town) Palouse Washington. 509-878-1769

What to Bring:

Chair

Food to share; consider a meat dish (no grill), salad, dessert, etc.

Your Own Beverage

Appetite

Fishing Reports

A friend or someone interested in joining Clearwater Fly Casters!

Parking: You are welcome to drop off items at the house/garage level and then park below near the garden (next street north past drive). Since it will be dark when leaving, a flashlight may be helpful.

See you there!

Presidents' Message (Kay and Lynn Youngblood)

Welcome back to our regular meetings after what we hope has been an enjoyable summer for all. The term "9/11" doesn't have many positive connotations, but for the year 2013, it's very positive to note that on that date Dave and Sharon Tharp will once again be hosting our kickoff meeting at their lovely home in Palouse. I'm sure we're all looking forward to sharing our tales of adventure since we last met, even if some of those fish stories are a bit exaggerated (exaggerations aren't the same as lies, you know). So let's all come prepared to relate one of our summer experiences and in the case of Dave Yonge, he'll be allowed two stories since he tells them so well! We look forward to seeing you soon.

CFC Summer 2013 News (Cliff Swanson)

Tim Cavileer, John Read, Steve Bush and Cliff Swanson tied flies for the annual Moscow Art Walk on June 14th. There was a large crowd with many spectators. Several people signed our interest list for the club and will receive an e-mail to come to our meetings this fall.

Paul Agidius and Cliff Swanson tied flies at US Bank for the Pullman Art Walk on July 19th. The weather was pushing 100°. Several of Bob Harwood's prints were on display. Bruce and Lavon Frazier and Doug Baldwin came by to encourage the fly tiers. A couple of club members signed our guest registry. Several others signed the registry and will be on our interest list to be invited to our club meetings this fall.



Calendar

**Sep 11, CFC Potluck,
Tharp Residence, Pa-
louse, WA, 5:30 pm**

**Oct 9, CFC Monthly
Meeting, University Inn,
Moscow, ID**

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**

On June 19-20, some club members helped Marika Dobos catch cutthroat trout so she could put radio transmitters in their abdomen and track movements in the watershed on the South Fork. The fishing was slow, but Marika did manage to get all of the available tags placed. The following members helped with this project: Cliff Swanson, Doug Baldwin, Dave Stiller and Paul Agidius. Just to keep the record straight, Paul is credited with catching the largest fish.

Some club members attended the annual steelhead smolt-tagging event on July 10. Those in attendance were Dave Stiller and his granddaughter Ali, Doug Baldwin, Cliff Swanson, Paul Agidius, Garry Evers, Joe Vaughan, along with Bruce Young from the Kelly Creek Flycasters. About 60 smolts were caught for tagging. The fish and game provided the fishing crew with a BBQ lunch cooked by the new volunteer coordinator, Bill Seybold.

The St Joe fish-out on July 12-14 was well attended by about 20 people. Those in attendance were Marc Ratzlaff, Paul Agidius, Cliff Swanson, Dave and Marion Yonge, Don Johnstone and Cyndi Kittson, Joy Lundsford, Roger Willemssen, Doug and Lillian Young, Jeremy McLain and Beth along with their children Maeli, Tucker, and Riker, Scott, Doug Baldwin, Ryan Baldwin, Steve Bush, Tim Cavileer and Joe Vaughan. Steve and Tim discovered that they did not have anything to cook their food with. They also came without any plates or silver ware. Doug Baldwin found that he had left his fishing vest at home. Fortunately for the forgetful ones, members of the club chipped in and helped with plates, utensils, cookware, fishing equipment and flies.

Backcast to May Meeting

Fishing Reports: Marc R. recently fished Spring Valley. Steve B. said that Tim and his friend went there and got skunked – report given with Tim present. John R. and Jim P. made a trip to the St. Joe and found the flows great and the fish willing. Paul A. reported that an Osprey was carrying a fish away when mobbed by two Bald Eagles – dropped the fish, which was retrieved by some kids.

Committee Reports:

Conservation: The *High Country News* has an article on the placer mining on the North Fork. Some will be shut down this summer, but there will be a good number still operating. Kay reported that the gill netting ban is being challenged in court.

Treasurer: Bruce said the club has about \$11 thousand total, with \$3745 in operating funds.

Bylaws: The board has been working to bring the club bylaws up-to-date. The proposed changes were approved by the members present.

Speaker: Chester Allen, “Fly Fishing for Sea-Run Cutthroat”

Chester commented about some of the fly tying materials that Marc R. donated for sale by the club. He said, “If you put out polar bear and seal in Seattle, you would have fights in the hall!”

Chester learned fly fishing from his grandfather. He moved from Southern California to Olympia in 1996 and was told, “Don’t bother with Sea-Run Cutthroat.” However, he tried it anyway. You can freeze fishing in rivers for salmon and steelhead during their season, or enjoy the beaches twelve months a year. You can find a beach in which to catch cutthroat that is two minutes from 100,000 people. Where to look: logs, pebbles, shells and a moving tide are indicators. A rip is a hang-out for feeding cutts and go along with 14-foot tides. Learn to read the tide tables to plan your outings. Some beaches fish best on incoming tides, and some on outgoing, but some fish well both directions.

A special time for cutts and cutt fishing is when Chum Salmon arrive in the sound in September or October, resulting in many juveniles along the beaches in spring. One can use flesh/egg patterns when the adults are present or baby chum patterns when the juveniles come out. The Sea-Run Cutthroat in Puget Sound average 12-13 inches, but there are many bigger ones. There is 2500 miles of shoreline with virtually no pressure. Peak time of year is March through July. South Puget Sound (Tacoma and south) has no big rivers, therefore it is a year-round fishery. Lots of movement and flash will catch fish, such as a hot pink Knudsen Spider, or a range of Clousers, Woolly Buggers, Woolly Worms, Crazy Charlies, etc. (See Chester’s book for some of the most common patterns and recipes.) In late summer, the sand lance are out, and flies like the Williams Point Sand Lance are used.

Twenty years ago the Puget Sound cutts were in real trouble – being overfished for table fare. A long-term effort by many resulted in catch-and-release regulations, and the recovery has been phenomenal. The “good old days” are back. The fall season is a special time, as the cutts want to go into fresh water to eat eggs and dead fish. If you can find live salmon, then fish the water below them. Fish any slack water in the rivers, as it may contain cutts as well as the occasional steelhead. The cutts move in and out of the fresh water. For example, the Cowlitz River has good numbers of Sea-Run Cutthroat at certain times when the salmon are spawning.

In winter, the cutts target skulpins and Muddlers work well. Cast into a rip, kneel and strip. The fish are very shallow and danger comes from above, so they are sensitive to the outline of the standing angler. Caution should always be used on approaching feeding cutts.

Chester thinks the Sea-Run Cutthroat fishery in Puget Sound is the best fishery in the state. He recommends a clear, intermediate line about half the time, and a full-sinking line for rainy weather or big fish. A 6-weight rod is just fine, and a 10-pound tippet will be best, as these fish are not leader shy.

Amber Lake Fish-Out



Moscow High School Fly Fishing Instruction



Fly of the Month: Knudsen Spider Orange

From Chester Allen's book *Fly Fishing for Sea-Run Cutthroat*

Picture from Pacific Fly Fishers web catalog

Hook: #6-10 Gamakatsu SS15

Thread: Black, pink or orange 6/0

Tail: Mallard flank fibers

Body: Pink or orange chenille

Rib: Pearl Krystal Flash or copper wire

Hackle: Mallard flank



This fly was developed by Al Knudsen.

Chester Allen's notes: "This is one of the oldest and best sea-run cutt flies. It imitates everything and nothing. Cheap and fast to tie, this fly comes alive in the water. I sometimes tie it with a small brass bead head to match the size of the hook. I also tie this fly in pink, black, olive, red, orange or yellow chenille and with Sparkle Chenille."

Clearwater Fly Casters
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Clearwater Fly Casters

September, 2013

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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.