



The Tippet

April 2023

Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



April 12th Program:

“Reducing the Enormous Learning Curve of Fishing the Puget Sound”

Presented by

Collin Sprengle

This presentation aims to reduce the enormous learning curve of fishing the Puget Sound. We'll discuss targeted species, picking locations and the right gear, useful flies, casting presentation, and how to avoid an existential crisis while on the water. Mastering the Puget Sound will set you up for success in just about any future fishery.

Collin, pictured at the right, learned to fly fish from her dad on the North and Middle forks of the Snoqualmie River. She didn't even know you were *allowed* to fish the Puget Sound until she joined a local women's fishing program, at which point she discovered what an incredibly challenging, beautiful, and unique fishery it can be. After running a women's program of her own out of Gig Harbor Fly Shop and guiding the Puget Sound, she is now working on her Masters in English at Eastern Washington University and trying to learn how the heck to fish the Spokane River.



A Message from President Steve Bush:

Here it is April, and we are still having snow at night and white yards in the morning! When will winter allow us to begin to enjoy Spring? Apparently, there is still time to tie a few more flies and fill up your fly boxes and then get them organized for different patterns for when the rivers become fishable. Everyone has their own idea as to when that might be. I know you can still ice fish on the reservoir at Elk River if that is of any interest to you.

Moscow High School Fly Fishing Classes are scheduled for April 11th and 12th, then again on April 18th and 19th. The first days (11th and 18th) are indoors instruction where we could use some help from someone willing to discuss rods, reels, lines, flies and a bit of Entomology. The second days (12th and 19th) are designed for teaching students to cast a fly rod. Club members are encouraged to participate as each class has about 25 students and it is helpful to break into groups of 4 or 5 students per instructor. If you are willing to help out, please be at the Moscow High School office at 8:10 AM each day. For more information, call me at (208) 882-4564.

The Associated Fisheries Society of the Palouse is holding their Wild Game Feed Dinner at the 1912 Building in Moscow on April 21st starting at 5:30 PM. You will receive a discounted price for the dinner if you bring a dish to share. It is a fun evening where you can purchase raffle tickets or bid on Live Auction items. Hope to see you there!

Back cast:

Tom Lamar, pictured at the right, discussed the operations and goals of the Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute, and his role as Executive Director, at our club meeting this past March. The mission of the Institute is to increase citizen involvement in decisions that affect our region's environment, promote ecological health, actively participate in conservation, preservation and restoration of environmental sensitive lands, natural areas, and unique ecosystems. The institute provides a forum for the free exchange of views on matters of concern to the public.

General Club Information:

Moscow High School Fly Fishing Classes: Volunteers are needed to assist with fly fishing instructions at Moscow High School starting next week. Classes are scheduled for April 11th and 12th, then again on April 18th and 19th. Classes on April 11th and 18th are indoors and will concentrate on discussions of fly rods, fly lines, knots, and flies. Classes on April 12th and 19th will be outdoors and will concentrate on fly casting. Additional information on this activity is provided in the President's Message. Members available to assist should contact Steve Bush at (208) 882-4564.

Scholarships: Cliff Swanson received three applications for the Bill Alspach & Dave Engerbretson Memorial Scholarship. The applications were evaluated at the recent club Executive Committee Meeting and Scholarships of \$1500 each were awarded. Nick Voss, Courtney Ghery, and Ryan Vosbigian are pictured

Information

The Tippet is available as a PDF file on our web site: www.clearwaterflycasters.com

Please submit items of interest and pertinent information to the Newsletter Editor

Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month (except June, July and Aug) at University Best Western Inn, Moscow, ID

Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 pm

Buffet Dinner: 6:30 pm,

Members: \$17, Students \$10

This month's Menu: *Taco Bar, traditional seasoned ground beef, refried beans, shredded cheddar cheese, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, green onions, black olives, flour & corn tortillas, house made salad, sour cream, tortilla chips, dessert, coffee/tea/soda.*

For those with dietary restrictions, meals may be ordered off the regular menu.

Program: 7:30 pm



below after receiving their Scholarships at our March meeting. We are looking forward to hearing the results and implications of their research at a future club meeting.



Habitat for Humanity Table: The Beans & Jeans fundraiser will be held the evening of April 15th at the Schweitzer Event Center in Pullman, Washington. Eight CFC members will collaborate in the purchase of a table for \$500. Kay has prepared a fishing creel stuffed with assorted gifts (including a certificate for one of her “famous” huckleberry pies) for the silent auction. In addition, she will be making two additional pies, one for the dessert dash which she will also donate in our club’s name and the other for the silent auction. For information on the Bean & Jeans event see page 6. **Please note: the on-line Silent Auction will get underway on April 8th and will be open for bidding until April 15th.**

Surprise Mini Auction: A huckleberry pie donated by Kay Youngblood was auctioned off at our March meeting. Steve Bush elected to auction the pie with the proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund.

International Film Festival: Since we have already made a deposit prior to the Covid pandemic, it was agreed to hold this event in the spring of 2024.



Conservation Committee Report:

Recreational Fishing is BIG Business

According to a recent study conducted by the American Sportfishing Association, recreational fishing is BIG business in Washington state.

- 936,300 anglers spent \$1.6 billion while fishing in Washington state.
- They contributed \$2.6 billion in economic output.
- They supported 16,230 jobs.

Legislative Update on Gillnets

We recently alerted you to an amendment that was offered to the Senate Operating Budget to remove a critical provision to ensure that the intent of the \$14.4 million Columbia River non-tribal gillnet buyback is followed by WDFW. This provision was included in the proposed Senate Operating Budget to require that harvest impacts associated with licenses purchased in the buyback were reserved for conservation and deducted from the allocation of the non-tribal gillnet fleet.

Unfortunately, the amendment from Senator Claudia Kauffman (D-Kent) was adopted by the Senate, which removed this critical provision from the budget. Her amendment was released to the public as the budget was being brought to the floor for debate. Senators Jeff Wilson (R-Longview), Bob Hasagawa (D-Seattle), and Jim McCune (R-Graham) spoke in favor of the amendment. They all referenced the opposition of the tribes in their remarks. Senator Jesse Salomon (D-Shoreline) spoke in opposition to the amendment and reminded the chamber about the purpose of the buyback.

WDFW is on record saying they intend to honor the conservation intent of the buyback by reserving the harvest impacts for conservation. The Commission has also received a legislative letter asking that it affirm this policy. We will all be watching very closely and providing updates as this unfolds over the coming months.

Spring Chinook Small Mesh Gillnet Fishery

Last year, for the first time in five years, WDFW promoted and allowed a small mesh gillnet season targeting spring Chinook in the lower mainstem Columbia River. There is little doubt that WDFW will again be advocating for increased gillnetting this spring season.

Last year's 1-day small mesh gillnet fishery is yet another example highlighting why gillnets should never be allowed in mixed stock fisheries.

- **Only 1% of their catch was the target species** – hatchery Chinook.
- If counting only salmonid species, the **discarded salmonid bycatch was 153%**
- There were **5 discarded salmonid species** including: Steelhead, Sockeye, Summer Chinook, Upriver Spring Chinook and Lower River Spring Chinook
- There were **4 other discarded species** including: White Sturgeon, Starry Flounder, Pikeminnow and Sucker.

Fishing Reports Provided by Silver Bow Fly Shop of Spokane:

- Some good opportunities to fish the lower North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River lately. Water levels are good and a warm-up in temps should really help too this week get some more bug activity going. Definitely don't leave home without your usual early spring assortment of stonefly nymphs, San Juan stuff, hot beads, pt's, etc and some streamers (sculpins, sparkle minnows, etc). I would also make sure I'm packing bwo's, nemouras, skwalas, and March browns.
- The lower St. Joe is a good place to start checking out, while it generally lags a little behind in the NF Coeur d'Alene River in terms of hatches, water temps, etc by a couple weeks.
- Like the NF CDA definitely a nymph / streamer game but plan on to start packing bwo's, nemoura and skwala stones, and March browns.

- Coffeepot, Amber, Medical, and Liberty Lake are all good early season lakes to fish right now. Chironomids, blobs, leeches (balanced leeches) are all on the menu.
- General Lake season opens the 4th Saturday of April. The lower Clark Fork River near St. Regis is also a good option. Bwo's, midges, nemoura and skwala stones. Definitely a nymphing game before things warm up mid-day.

Fishing Report:

AS PROMISED! Ron McFarland lands a lunker bream on a custom fly in Florida! The fish to the right was reportedly caught on a “modified fly Rod with a strange reel and line with a bread ball fly” and fished deep. It was caught in what his brother Tom says is locally known as “Water Oak Pond.”



Important Dates and Events:

April 12, 2023: CFC Club Meeting at University Inn Best Western, Moscow, ID. Wet Fly hour at 5:30 pm, Dinner at 6:30 and program at 7:30 pm. Bring a friend, bring a student!

April 15, 2023: Beans ‘N’ Jeans, Habitat for Humanity. In Person Event. SEL Event Center, Pullman, WA. 5:30 pm. For additional details see page 6 of this issue.

April 21, 2023: “Wild Game Feed,” Palouse Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society 5:30- 9:00 pm. 1912 Center, Moscow, ID. For additional details see page 7.

May 2, 2023: Executive Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm at the Paradise Creek Brewery in Pullman. Executive Committee Meetings are open to all club members.

May 10, 2023: CFC Club Meeting at University Inn Best Western, Moscow, ID. Wet Fly hour at 5:30 pm, Dinner at 6:30 and program at 7:30 pm. Bring a friend, bring a student!

May 20, 2023: Amber Lake Fish Out. Meet at Amber Lake parking lot or boat launch area.

June 15-16, 2023: North Fork Coeur d’Alene Fish Out, Meet at Devils’ Elbow Campground.

July 14-16, 2023: St. Joe Fish Out, Meet and camp at Fly Flat Campground

Fly of the Month: Ritt's Fighting Crayfish

(Courtesy of Fly Fishers International website)

Edition: March 2023

Crayfish are a very important, but sometimes overlooked, food source for many fish species. This pattern was developed to be snag resistant, have a natural look and posture in the water and have maximum motion when fished. Ritt's Fighting Crayfish has proved effective on trout, bass, panfish, catfish, carp, salmon and even bonefish. The pattern is tied in many color variations/combinations, color experimentation and matching your local crayfish are good practices.



Materials:

Hook: Daiichi 1730 Size 4 - 10

Thread: 70 denier, color to match your fly

Weight: Medium lead dumbbell eyes

Antenna: Krystal Flash (I prefer the UV colors)

Carapace: Thin Skin, color to match your fly

Body: Whitlock's Craw dub, color to match your fly

Eye Stalks: 2mm Fly Foam mounted on medium round rubber legs, color to match your fly (I make these up in qty before tying the fly)

Underbody: Any inexpensive yarn close to the color of the dubbing

Rib: Medium wire, color to compliment your fly

Hackle: Dyed grizzly saddle, color to compliment your fly

Tying Video: [CLICK HERE](#)

Auction website live now - [click here!](#) Or click on blue buttons below.

[Buy individual ticket\(s\)](#) [Sponsor the event \(table of 8\)](#) [Preview Online Auction April 8-15](#)

[Register - get all the updates!](#) [Donate an item](#)

**Palouse Student Subunit
of the
American Fisheries Society**

WILD GAME FEED

WHEN & WHERE

Friday, April 21st 2023

5:30- 9:00 pm

1912 Center

COST

\$18 per person or
\$12 per person w/
prepared dish to share

\$30 per family or
\$25 per family w/
prepared dish to share

**Join us for an evening of fun and food!
Banquet will include raffle and auction.**



Clearwater Fly Casters
PO Box 394
Pullman, WA 99163

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April 2023

Clearwater Fly Casters Officers & Committee Chairs 2023

President	Steve Bush	moscowtitle@moscow.com (208-882-4564)
Vice President	Ray Dacey	rdacey@uidaho.edu
Past President	Lynn & Kay Youngblood	kaylynn4341@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lynn Youngblood	kaylynn4341@gmail.com
Secretary	Tony McDonald	mcdonnell@frontier.com (208-883-9757)
FFF Representative	Steve Bush	moscowtitle@moscow.com (208-882-4564)
Conservation Chair	Doug Baldwin	dougbaldwin318@gmail.com (509-334-1630)
Membership Chair	Paul Agidius	pagidius@moscow.com
Program Chair	Ron McFarland	ronmcf@uidaho.edu
Newsletter Editor	Fred Muehlbauer	f.muehlj@gmail.com (509-338-7010)
Webmaster	Cliff Swanson	clswan12@gmail.com
Historian	Dave Tharp	harharacre@hotmail.com

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Membership and Monthly Meeting:

CFC membership dues are \$25/yr. for individuals, \$35/yr. for families, \$10/yr. for students, \$50/yr. sustaining, \$300/lifetime. Meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through May. Meetings are 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.