



The Tippet

April 2025

Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



April 9th Program

“Bull Trout Conservation Genetics”

Presented by

Joe Hirsch

“I am a PhD student studying bioinformatics and computational biology at the University of Idaho studying Bull trout conservation genetics in Idaho. My dissertation is mainly focused on identifying genetic differences between migratory and non-migratory Bull trout in the Salmon River watershed. My presentation will be about Bull trout in general and my dissertation research.”



Back cast:

Casey Flanagan presented information on Redband Trout populations in Spokane River watershed and Lake Roosevelt. This included life history strategies, genetics, stock assessments, movement, limiting factors to their populations, current fishing regulations, and future directions. She also covered how this work overlapped with the salmon reintroduction efforts that took place in the Spokane River watershed and upper Columbia River. The excellent presentation was well received by the membership.



Casey Flanagan making her presentation (left) and at the right Casey accepts the Clearwater Fly Casters Prevaricator Supreme Award from Vice President James Fields in recognition of her excellent presentation.

President's Message:

Dear Flycasters,

As we approach the end of winter (it is snowing as I write this, but I remain optimistic the spring will arrive!), it is time to get your gear and prepare for our first "fish-out" of the season at Elk River on April 26! We are hoping that the proximity of the lake will encourage a large contingent to come out and kick-start the season. The Board

is also working on selecting and will be announcing our scholarship winners soon. I hope to see you all our next meeting in April to update you on all the Club's plans for the coming summer season.

*All the best,
Bob Sproull*

Important Dates and Events:

April 9, 2025: CFC Club Meeting at University Inn Best Western, Moscow, ID. Wet Fly hour at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm followed by the Program. Bring a friend, bring a student!

April 19, 2025: Habitat for Humanity - Beans & Jeans fund raiser SEL Event Center, Pullman, WA.

April 26, 2025: Elk River Fish Out. Meet at Elk River campground. Personal Flotation will be needed. Local eateries are recommended for lunch.

May 6, 2025: Executive Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm at Paradise Creek Brewery in Pullman. Members interested in the workings of the club are cordially invited to attend.

May 14, 2025: CFC Club Meeting at University Inn Best Western, Moscow, ID. Wet Fly hour at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm followed by the Program. Bring a friend, bring a student!

June 10-12, 2025: North Fork Coeur d'Alene Fish Out, Meet and camp at Devil's Elbow Campground. Participants are encouraged to make campsite reservations early as the campground fills up fast.

July 10-12, 2025: St Joe Fish Out. Meet and camp at Fly Flat Campground.

Nov. 1, 2025: Steelhead Fish Out. Grande Ronde.

Information

The club meeting will be on April 9th, in the Gold room at the University Inn Best Western in Moscow, ID.

Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 pm

**Buffet Dinner: 6:30 pm;
\$21, students \$12**

Menu for February meeting:

Little Italy: breaded Italian chicken breast, pasta, marinara sauce, Caesar salad, Romano bread sticks. dessert, coffee/tea/soda

Program: 7:00 pm

Membership:

Annual Membership is by academic year beginning in September and ending at the end of August of the following year. Members can renew their Membership in-person at a monthly meeting by handing a check to Lynn Youngblood, Treasurer, or to Paul Agidius, Membership Chair.

Alternatively, a check can be mailed to Lynn Youngblood at P.O. Box 394, Pullman, Washington 99163. **Membership dues are \$25/yr. for individuals, \$35/yr. for families, \$10/yr. for students, \$50/yr. sustaining, and \$300/lifetime.**

Membership dues are used to support memberships in fisheries related organizations such as Trout Unlimited and Fly Fishers International. Dues are also used to help defray expenses incurred by program speakers and to provide occasional honoraria where appropriate.

Editor's Note:

Members are encouraged to send their fishing stories and pictures to the Tippet Editor for inclusion in upcoming Newsletters. Submit items about fishing adventures, successes, and events of interest. The Tippet is your Newsletter, and all contributions are welcome.

Scholarships

The club expects to make awards to two worthy students from nearby institutions. Scholarship chair Cliff Swanson has received several applications, and the committee aims to evaluate them as soon as possible and announce the awardees at the April 9th meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Lynn Youngblood noted that there was an error in our meal guarantee for the last club meeting, resulting in an additional expense of \$125 for five meals. To address this issue, President Bob Sproull will request a show of hands at the April meeting to determine likely attendance at our upcoming May meeting.

Lynn reported that we were contacted by Jim Heidelberger's Frank Church Organization requesting a donation of \$100 to support conservation initiatives in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness. Following a brief discussion, the Executive Committee voted to approve the contribution with the stipulation that we request Jim to promote interest in joining the Clearwater Fly Casters among his peers.

Fly Fishers International:

Steve confirmed our membership account with the organization is now up to date and highlighted the great benefits of our continued membership.

Conservation:

South Fork Clearwater Angler Caught Broodstock Program (from CCA Connect March 2025)

Since 2010, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game has supported an angler caught steelhead broodstock program on the South Fork Clearwater River. These hook and line caught fish, like the one seen below, help fuel the next generations of hatchery steelhead bound for the Clearwater system. Idaho Fish and Game acknowledges that "the continued success of the South Fork Clearwater localized broodstock program ultimately relies on the help of anglers." CCA Washington supports these types of programs and appreciates Idaho's ongoing support of recreational fisheries.

You can learn more about this great broodstock program by [CLICKING HERE](#).



Antiquities Act and Public Lands:

Doug Baldwin, Conservation Chair, informed us that Trout Weekly urges everyone to contact their representatives in support of the Antiquities Act and the Protecting Wilderness and Public Lands Act, which are currently under threat by the Trump Administration.

Project Healing Waters

James Fields has established several pertinent contacts and will keep us updated on his progress in introducing this program to local veterans in the area.

Habitat for Humanity, Beans & Jeans:

The Habitat for Humanity annual fund raiser “Beans & Jeans” will be held on April 19th at the SEL Event Center in Pullman. Kay Youngblood explained that our Club usually has a table at this event for a cost of \$500 (paid by the participants). The table designated for the Clearwater Fly Casters has been filled with club members. Members may still obtain tickets on-line for the event.

Fishing Reports as provided by Silver Bow Fly Shop, Spokane, WA:

(reports as of April 1, 2025)

North Fork of the Coeur D'Alene:

The North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River has come down considerably over the past few days. While it's not exactly ideal, adventurous anglers can find a little water. It would be better to wait until later in the week for the levels to come down further and more water to open up. Streamer fishing yes. Nymphing yes. Dry fly fishing? Maybe. Try a skwala or skwala type of chubby in the mid-day hours.

St Joe:

The St. Joe came back in shape for fishing last weekend. While on the high side, there were plenty of places to fish on the lower stretches reports shop manager Mike V. He drove up past Avery to around Tin Can CG however at these flows / temps it's not ideal up there and not really any good water to fish. Down lower there were nemoura stones out and he was able to get some fish on stonefly dries. A dry/dropper also produced. Nymphing or streamer fishing in the mornings and throughout the day is on the menu. Skwala fishing should get going soon with warmer temps, if the river levels stay decent.

Miscellaneous:

With all the local rivers blowing out the last couple days, lakes are going to be the best option for the near future. Medical lake has been picking up with some more consistent fishing. Jesse fished here on Tuesday and caught a handful of very quality rainbows. Amber has been fishing steadily as well. A few folks have been up at Omak Lake, sounds like fishing has been worthwhile there. Just make sure you have your Colville tribe fishing license and boat access permits if applicable. If you want to target some brown trout, Waitt's lake and Jumpoff Joe up near Chewelah are good options to mix things up. My buddy Oliver and I fished up this way yesterday and had solid fishing in the afternoon. There are plenty of lake options around the region right now. Give us a call at the shop for information on any of the lakes not listed here.

Fly of the Month: “March Brown”

From *J. Stockard Fly Fishing*,
Written by Matt O'Neal, March 10,
2025

It's about that time of year again where spring is in the air and the first mayflies are starting to make their presence known. It can be an exciting month for east coast anglers when the *Maccaffertium vicarium* is in your favorite stream. Pardon my eloquence in using the Latin nomenclature (which simply highlights the fact that I can use Wikipedia.) I'm talking about the March Brown here. A classic sailboat-looking mayfly that in many waters is the first of the year to hatch.



Are you tired of dry fly fishing with a #18 winter caddis or #20 midge? Well, you're in luck if you're fishing waters with a March Brown hatch. These bugs are much bigger and are commonly found in the #12-14 range. Now there is no shortage of March Brown patterns out there. Every respectable tying book will have a version of it, and often in all varieties-- nymph, wet and dry. In fact, it first appeared in Dame Juliana Berners' "A Treatise on Fishing with an Angle" published in the 1490s. I'm going with the wet version for this month's fly, with the recipe from Dave Hughes' "American Fly Tying Manual" published in 1986. His is a simple yet elegant pattern that I think Dame Berners would have been proud of.

Materials:

Hook: #10-16 wet fly

Thread: Tan

Tail: Pheasant tail fibers

Body: Natural hare's ear dubbing

Hackle: Light brown hen

Wing: Natural duck slips

For further information and instruction on tying this fly see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocZhmny8QFw&t=3s>

Clearwater Fly Casters
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Clearwater Fly Casters Officers & Committee Chairs 2025

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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. Unless otherwise noted 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.