



The Tippet

March 2025

Clearwater Fly Casters

www.clearwaterflycasters.com

A Federation of Fly Fishers Club



March 12th Program

“Redband Trout populations in the Spokane River watershed and Lake Roosevelt”

Presented by

Casey Flanagan

Casey Flanagan has worked for the Spokane Tribe of Indians as a Water and Fish Project Manager for 14+ years. Her primary focus for the Tribe is conducting Redband Trout population assessments in tributaries to the Spokane River and Lake Roosevelt. Other duties include stream habitat evaluations, stream and riparian habitat restoration, and water quality monitoring on inland lakes, streams and rivers within the reservation. She also overlaps her Redband Trout research with studying outmigration patterns of reintroduced juvenile summer chinook within reservation streams and has aided in some of the reintroduction efforts of summer chinook salmon in the Spokane River watershed.

Casey Flanagan is currently a board member on the Spokane River Forum, Inland Northwest Land Conservancy Lands Protection Committee, WRIA 55 Watershed Planning Unit, Spokane River Redband Trout Advisory Group, Lake Roosevelt Redband Trout Workgroup and the Spokane Salmon Restoration Collaborative (SSRC) Technical Committee.

She will be discussing the Redband Trout populations within the Spokane River watershed and within Lake Roosevelt. This includes life history strategies, genetics, stock assessments, movement, limiting factors to their populations, current fishing regulations, future direction, etc. She will also discuss how this work overlaps with the salmon reintroduction efforts taking place in the Spokane River watershed and upper Columbia River.



President's Message:

Dear Fly Casters,

Our bi-annual fund raiser was a great success (and I got a used boat) as we raised a considerable sum to be allocated to our scholarship and operating funds! A full accounting of the proceeds from the auction will be announced soon. Many thanks to our CFC members, local business sponsors and community members for bidding generously this year. I would also like to recognize the efforts of the Executive Committee, Will Godfrey, Bob Long and especially Kay and Karen for all their hard work on this event. It was a great team effort!

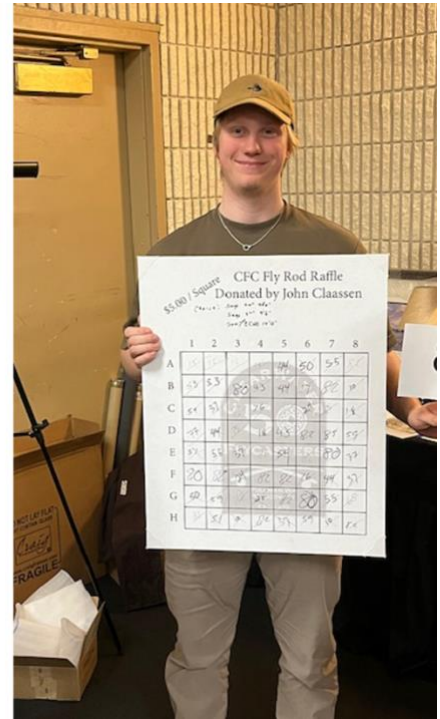
Thank you,
Bob Sproul, President

Back cast:

At our February meeting, the club hosted our traditional biennial auction, drawing an enthusiastic crowd. The event, masterfully led by auctioneer Will Godfrey, who also served as auctioneer two years ago, featured a variety of activities including a live auction, silent auction, rod board raffle, bucket raffles, and a pie competition raffle. The dessert dash added a competitive twist, with tables vying for their choice of desserts based on their committed amounts. The auction chair, Kay Youngblood, and club members contributed significant effort and dedication to the successful auction. Funds raised from the auction will be allocated to the scholarship program and ongoing club activities.



Pictured upper left is auctioneer extraordinaire Will Godfrey, at the right are several of the silent auction tables, below left is Kay Youngblood and Bob reading off the winners of the bucket raffles, and auctioneer assistant showing items to the bidders.



Pictured from the upper left, Auctioneer Assistant showing the gift certificate donated by Chipman & Taylor for complete vehicle detailing, followed in the center by Kay Youngblood the winner of the pie competition raffle and at the right, Jordan Muehlbauer showing his winning the rod board raffle. Jordan had the choice of one of three great fly rods donated by John Classen. Pictured below are some of the auction participants and, to the right, the all-important registration desk and bid & paddle number allocation.



Scholarships:

Due to inflation and rising costs, the Executive Committee has increased the scholarship stipend to \$2000 per awardee. The club expects to make awards to two worthy students from nearby institutions. The end of the third week of February will mark the deadline for submission of proposals and, after review of the proposals by the Executive Committee, awards will be made at the March meeting. Hopefully, awardees will be present to accept their awards and say a few words about their project. According to Scholarship chair, Cliff Swanson, one proposal has been submitted, and he expects several more before the deadline.

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.

Fly Fishers International:

Steve reminded us that we should make our payment to this organization for a total of \$239 for our club membership instead of the amount previously approved. We approved Steve’s request, and Lynn write a check to FFI. Bob Sproull suggested that we make another payment to this organization in the fall to catch up for neglecting to pay dues this past year.

Conservation:

Conservation Chair, Doug Baldwin, shared the unfortunate news that the U.S Forest Service recently gave its approval to the Stibnite Mining proposal which will adversely affect the South Fork of the Salmon River headwaters. Conservation groups are concerned this mining project could harm fish and wildlife habitat. The groups argue that the new mining plans call for disturbing an even greater area of land than the previous owners of Stibnite, which they argue could do immeasurable harm to public lands and important fish and wildlife habitat.

Several conservation groups have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service in U.S. District Court on Tuesday, February 18th challenging the recent approval of the gold mine. For further information members may contact Idaho Rivers United located in Boise, Idaho and Ren Lawson at 208-343-7481.

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

(reports as of Feb. 28, 2025)

North Fork of the Coeur D'Alene:

The CDA has leveled off and is back on the drop. If this trend continues, I’d consider this as an option for the weekend. Good spots will be marginal but look for side channels and soft eddies to hold some fish. A stonefly/worm combo under a bobber is hard to beat this time of year. Dredging a streamer through any deep pools can also be effective.

St Joe:

Even though the flow gauges are still showing ice as of this morning, we received a couple reports that fishing has been OK up here lately. Stick to the lower river below Avery if you decide to venture up here. Same deal as the CDA, bobber lobbing and streamers will be the most effective tactics.

Steelhead Rivers:

We are wrapping up the steelhead reports for the season! Check with Boggan's Oasis for the latest intel.

Important Dates and Events:

March 4, 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.

March 12, 2025: CFC Club Meeting at University Inn Best Western, Moscow, ID. Wet Fly hour at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm and program at 7:30 pm. Bring a friend, bring a student!

March 20-23, 2025: 61st Annual Bighorn Outdoor Adventure Show. Spokane County Fair & Expo. Center. Spokane, Washington. For more information visit bighornshow.com

April 19, 2025: Habitat for Humanity - Beans & Jeans fund raiser SEL Event Center, Pullman, WA. Those interested in attending should contact Kay or Lynn Youngblood.

April 26, 2025: Elk River Fish Out. Meet at Elk River campground. Personal Flotation will be needed.

June 11-13, 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.

November 1, 2025: Steelhead Fish Out. Grande Ronde. Meet at camping area near the "Turkey Run"

Information:

The March 12th Meeting will be in the Gold Room at the University Inn Best Western, Moscow, ID.

Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 pm

Buffet Dinner: 6:30 pm; \$23, students \$10

Menu for March meeting:

Pulled Pork buffet: Kaiser buns, condiments & toppings potato wedges, choice of pasta or potato salad, mixed green salad with assorted dressings.

dessert, coffee/tea/soda

Program: 7:30 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.

Fly of the Month: “March Brown Parachute Fly”

From J. Stockard Fly Fishing,
Written by Matt O'Neal, Apr 8, 2024

It's now early April and many of you trout fishermen know what that means- the March Browns are hatching. So, what exactly is a March Brown? In short, it's a mayfly, and usually it's some shade of brown. It can be found in abundance in the larger, clean rivers throughout the world, but quite often in smaller trout waters as well. It's no mystery how it got its name. It is usually one of the earliest emerging mayflies of the year, typically the end of winter (i.e., March to early April).



The Inspiration Behind this Parachute Pattern

The pattern I want to feature this month follows the same theme, but with a parachute post substituted for the upright wing. This is not a novel technique. Most all mayfly duns can be tied as parachutes. What is unique about this one is that the post used is not the standard calf tail, or synthetic parapost material. It calls for a clump of natural turkey slips or brown partridge feathers. The rest of the fly follows the same mayfly/dry fly techniques.

The pattern we're exploring is drawn from Dave Hughes' seminal work, "Trout Flies: A Tier's Reference." This book is a treasure trove of fly-tying knowledge, offering a blend of how-to guides, pattern encyclopedias, historical insights, and entomological details. The March Brown Parachute, detailed in Hughes' book, stands out for its unique post material—a departure from the traditional white calf tail or synthetic materials.

So, any trout fishermen out there, still working to fill up your winter fly boxes, itching to get out on the water the first warm day of the season, it might not be a bad idea to have a row of this staple pattern in your box.

Materials:

Hook: #12-18 dry fly

Thread: brown

Tail: brown hackle fibers

Body: tan dry fly dubbing

Post: turkey slips or brown partridge

Hackle: brown dry fly hackle

For further information on tying this fly see:

<https://www.jsflyfishing.com/blogs/fom/march-brown-parachute-fly>

Clearwater Fly Casters
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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.