

FLY LINES

Official eJournal of the
BC Federation of Fly Fishers

ISSUE №24-2 | SPRING/SUMMER

FLY TYING FEATURE

TYING MAYFLIES FOR
STILLWATER TROUT -
NYMPH, EMERGER, DUN

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Join Us!

TODAY IN OUR MISSION

to conserve and protect BC's sport fisheries

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FLY FISHING FUTURE
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**TOGETHER, OUR
VOICE WILL PROTECT
AND CONSERVE
THE FUTURE OF FLY
FISHING IN BRITISH
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Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Assn. www.haigbrown.ca	Victoria	Pat George	250-589-2844	patfishes@gmail.com
Kalamalka Flyfishers www.kalflyfishers.ca	Vernon	Bob Tait		bobtait44@gmail.com
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The BC Federation of Fly Fishers (BCFFF) is a registered, non-profit society whose main objective is to promote the conservation of the fishing environment in British Columbia. By networking with similarly minded clubs, organizations, businesses and individuals, the BCFFF provides a voice that reflects its members' and the public's concern for the future of BC's natural resources.

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BCFFF MISSION, VALUES, VISION

Mission: We are a federation of individual anglers and fly-fishing clubs. We advocate cooperatively with governments and other organizations throughout British Columbia for the sustainability of fish, their habitats, and quality angling

Values: We believe that fly fishing increases personal well being, encourages high environmental appreciation and knowledge, and instills commitment to achieving positive conservation outcomes

Vision: Ensuring a future that sustains accessible, quality angling in British Columbia

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Cover Photo: "Brown Drake Stellako River" by Danie Erasmus



Myles Armstead

President's Message

"There will be days when the fishing is better than one's most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse. Either is a gain over just staying home."

~by Roderick Haig-Brown, Fisherman's Spring, 1951~

As I write this, it is officially spring on Vancouver Island. It generally means very unpredictable weather and fishing (at least for me), but it is also a wonderful time of the year, with many different angling opportunities opening throughout the province. Brian and I have been working very hard on the latest issue of Fly Lines, and we continue to seek new writers, artist, poets and photographers who wish to contribute, and also encourage those who have worked with us in the past to continue donating their time and expertise.

It is also a very busy time for your volunteers at BCFFF, with Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) and Provincial Angler Advisory Team (PAAT) meetings taking place. DFO has also asked for our annual input on their Integrated Fish Management Plans (IFMP's), and with our ongoing meetings with various levels of government we are advocating on your behalf and all fly-fishers using the resource.

Recently, with the launch of the new, improved website and the ever-increasing

interest in the BCFFF's publication Fly Lines, we have seen a tremendous growth in new membership. Please take a look at us at www.flyfishers.ca. The bonus is having more members means we can do far more work on behalf of BC's fly-fishing community.

For \$20 per year, you can sign up as a direct member at <https://flyfishers.ca/>, or join one of our BCFFF member clubs. As well, Michael & Young Fly Shop is now our first affiliate member of the BCFFF, so should you have a business or organization and are interested in becoming an affiliate member, please feel free to reach out to Brian or myself to discuss.

Meanwhile, by the time you read this, the ice will be long off the lakes, the rivers will be fishable after freshet, and another wonderful BC fly fishing season will be underway.

Myles Armstead

President of the BC Federation
of Fly Fishers



Brian Smith

Editor's Message

Folks, we have another action-packed issue hot off the digital press! Myles and me think this could be the best one yet, absolutely jammed with items to delight a fly-fisher.

Our theme for this Spring/Summer topic is Inland Waters and Coastal Cutthroat, although everyone I have asked to contribute a cutthroat article is "mum" on the subject, as the subject is either: 1. deemed to be "ghosts" of the rivers and oceans; there one day, gone the next or 2. writers are being secretive about them and their secret places, and just don't want to talk about them. However, I dug up an article and great story by Jim Kilburn, who passed from us November 13, 2023, on coastal cutthroat trout, published 1970 in *Western Fish & Game* magazine, which I am sure will delight everyone. And yes, I DO have those magazines from the 60's and 70's. We also have an amazing gallery of cutty photos and a great essay offered by Pat Demeester of Powell River.

Our clubs are active and well. The feature club for this issue is the Kamloops Fly Fishers, slipped in there because of my endearing fondness for old friend *Jack Shaw* and his lifetime of contributions to our fly-fishing heritage. We hope you enjoy some nostalgia from my relationship with the man in the brakeman's hat, and the woman who loved him!

We are pleased to offer a *Youth Section* for this issue, which will be ongoing in future issues of *Fly Lines* as we develop relationships with various high school fly-fishing programs and their teachers within the province. An important vision of the BCFFF is to educate, and to promote fly-fishing as a healthy sport and pastime. We believe that our youth will be the carriers of this message in the future.

In back-casts and history, we offer excerpts from diaries of two of the greatest contributors of the last generation to our sport, *Jack Shaw* and *Jim Kilburn*, which we are sure all will

enjoy. *Art Lingren*, BCFFF historian, and *Myles* work with *Jim*, and I offer the experiences of my relationship with *Jack* and *Dorothy*.

Our guest features are from one of my fishing partners *Danie Erasmus*, writing about *The Top Mayflies of BC Streams*, and from another friend and also-partner *Glen Wonders*, who takes us on his melancholic journey of a *Fly-fishing Life, Start to Finish (Almost)*.

My fly-tying feature narrows in on mayflies, where I tie the *Shaw* mayfly nymph, and offer my emerger and dun patterns to complete the mayfly cycle for still-water fishing. Our destination feature is *Dragon Lake* in the North Cariboo, and a sweet article and fabulous photo gallery by *Jerry Buron*, one of my Washington USA friends who has spent every May of the past twenty years fly-fishing *Dragon*.

We return to Kamloops with *Len Piggini*, *President of KFF*, and pick his brain for his secrets of fly-fishing lakes of the BC Interior, or wherever *Len* goes to disappear and fish.

On the conservation side, we continue with the BC Interior, and pledge our BCFFF support to the *Ashcroft Slough Society*, who are desperately trying to maintain access to this local mecca of the *Thompson River*, not only for trout fishing, but also for jay-walking with Nature for their local residents.

Lastly, a hats-off to *Michael & Young Fly Shop* for once again hosting their annual *Spey Day* at *Cultus Lake*, and to the *Osprey's Club* and *Peter Caverhill* for helping to manage it. The proceeds from *M & Y Spey Days* are gratefully shared by the BCFFF and the *Steelhead Society of BC*.

Brian Smith,
Editor

Club News/Reports

LOONS FLY FISHING CLUB

Report Spring/Summer

By Rick Boswell

The birds are singing, the trees are budding... it has to be spring on the coast! In preparation for our 2024 inaugural outing, we had long-time fly tier and fisher Sean Cox tie up his version of a reversed-tube intruder. It was an exceptional evening, with lots of discussion, and we walked away with another great pattern to add to our fly boxes. Hopefully, it will do the number on our first fish-out of the year, which is on the Vedder. At the time of writing, there were good numbers of steelhead coming into the river, so optimism is running high!

We emptied our club's bookshelf and added the books and magazines to an exceptional collection donated by a friend of the club, and had a raffle. The proceeds

added up quite quickly and were donated to the Loons Fly Fishing Club Endowment Scholarship Fund at BCIT. Each year since 2015 a student enrolled in the BCIT Fish, Wildlife and Education Program has received a scholarship to help waylay the costs of their education. Our next planned fundraiser will be an auction containing items donated by Skip Young's family.

If all goes well with the environment, the club will be heading towards the Thompson, Skagit and Squamish rivers over summer and fall. Our annual President's Outing will be at Knouff Lake in May, which is always a relaxing, fun event where old friends meet new friends, and stories are made which are retold when the rains come once again.

Tight Lines to all.

COMOX VALLEY FLYFISHERS

Club Report Spring 2024

By Dean Hodgson, President

We held our AGM in March and are now at 80 members, so we're off to another good start. Our executive stayed the same, and we added one new director.

Steelheaders in our group report some encounters during the winter on the Oyster and the Puntledge Rivers, so perhaps there is a glimmer of hope on that front, unless warm water in our rivers harm the survival of their fry over the summer. We are currently at only half our normal snowpack.

Our club fish-out at Horne Lake in early March failed to find any of the large spawning cutthroat, as a week of warm weather in February raised the water temperature enough to trigger the spawn. We got there too late for the big ones, but still caught nice bright healthy cutties in the 12-to-14 inches range.

Our local lakes stocked with triploid rainbows have been producing with leeches for the past couple of weeks, sprinkled in with the odd day of good, deepwater chironomid fishing. Surface water temperatures range from 47 to 50 degrees, so the hatches will start to pop soon with warm weather on the way.

It appears that all the fry has hatched-out in our rivers, and are already out in the estuaries or on their way to wherever they think they wish to be. By the 1st of May many of them will have spread out along the coastline, and we will begin chasing sea-run cutthroat at our favourite haunts in earnest.

Tight lines.

KAMLOOPS FLY FISHERS

Report Spring 2024

By Len Piggini, President KFFA

Our first fish-out for 2024 was held at Jacko Lake on Wednesday April 10th. with thirteen members attending. We have fish-outs slated for April 20th at Edith Lake and April 24th at Stump Lake. Our spring weather has been very windy, so lakes are turning over very quickly this year. Peterhope just came off and Big Heffley Lake

will not be not far behind.

I would like the other BCFFF clubs to let me know if they are planning any fish-outs in our area this year, because we would love to get together with them.

We have a new fly shop in Kamloops, and owner Brandyn Dixon will be attending our April monthly dinner meeting as our guest to talk to us about his store.

Our Fly-tying 101/Method Session for April will have Jeff McConnell tie his shrimp fly patterns. We have our local RAAT meeting scheduled for April 23rd.

Randy Nelson will be guest speaker at our May 7th monthly dinner meeting. As soon as Randy finishes his talk, our club will take the summer off until our meetings begin once more in September. Gone fishing!



Jacko Lake fish-out
by Len Piggini

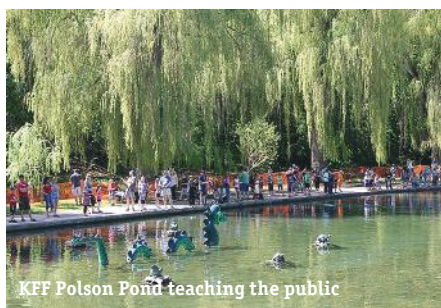
KALAMALKA FLY FISHERS

Report Spring

By Bob Tait

Kalamalka Flyfishers started the New Year rather slowly in January, but kicked it up in February with our Fly-Tying Course, which we run in conjunction with Vernon Recreation Services. It is open to the public, but due to space constrictions, limited to only 12 students. Designed for beginners, we introduce new materials and tying techniques in each of the 5 weeks, so that by the end students are able to tie any basic trout fly.

The first Monday in March is our AGM, and this year our Executive Committee returned with one new member and President & Vice swapping positions — great for continuity of the programs and business of the club. Kal Flyfishers is a very active club, and enjoy participation from a great many of our members. One of our annual events is a club Spey Clave, held this year on March 11th on the banks of the Shuswap River. We had 22 members & spouses attend, and in addition to the Spey lessons, enjoyed our first “weenie roast” of the year. We also use this opportunity to do a “brush up” on single-hand casting to knock off any rust that may have accumulated over the winter!



KFF Polson Pond teaching the public



KFF Spey Clave

Later in March was our first official “fish-out,” held at Murdoch Point on Shuswap Lake. Normally it has been a hike-in event, but with a lot of our members aging, more boats appear each year. This year, it was almost imperative to have a boat as the “beach” was almost non-existent. A few fish were caught, but not what we would consider a banner “catching” outing.

March 26th was the start of our Fly-fishing Course, again in conjunction with Vernon Recreation Services. This year we had a full house of 30 students. The course covers casting, equipment, knots and entomology of local lakes, and over the past number of years, has been one of the most popular courses we conduct.

On April 8th we had a guest speaker at the club, James Littlely from the Okanagan Basin Water Board, who gave a presentation on Quagga and Zebra Mussels. Very informative, but also very scary! For an area like the Okanagan, an infestation of these critters could be devastating. The “Don’t Move a Mussel” videos and information packages should be front and foremost for anyone who uses lakes in British Columbia. Unfortunately, funding to help stop the spread of these mussels seems to be lacking, as is the political will. Perhaps this could be a subject for discussion for BCFFF to see where we can be effective in lobbying the provincial and federal governments?

Each year at the Interior Sportsman’s

Show, Kalamalka Flyfishers have been invited to set up a booth to have kids and adults tie flies. Over the 3 days, we have 6 members at any given time tying with kids, and their smiles and excitement at their results keep us coming back year after year. There is no shortage of members wanting to be a part of this event, and we are very proud of the fact that almost every year we have been voted the “Most Popular Booth.”

Presently, our focus is on the largest event our club undertakes each year — our Kids Fishing Weekend. The club will take over the large pond in Vernon’s Polson Park May 4th and 5th, and with Freshwater Fisheries supplying the fish, we open it up to kids ages 4 to 14 to test their fishing skills. We supply rods & reels, bait (including flies!), and help to any that need it in an effort to have the kids go home with a couple of trout, or at least great memories of the day. Last year we accommodated 790 children over the 2 days, and an additional 842 family members. An amazing yearly accomplishment for our Club!



KFF public casting lessons



Kalamalka Flyfishers (KFF) entomology teaching

Club News/Reports

TOTEM FLY FISHERS

Club Update April 2024

By Lorenzo Cirillo

The Totems have had a number of successful outings in the last few months. Forays were made up to the Vedder River, two trips to the Harrison River and an upcoming outing to the Squamish in April. Outings are generally well attended by about a dozen members, with a hot lunch and coffee waiting for cold and famished fisherman.

Our Vedder River outing at the end of January was a particularly challenging one, with heavy rain and plenty of other anglers on the river. One member did manage to hook two steelhead, and managed to bring one to hand.

The Harrison also posed its own challenges, with incredibly high winds that made for some difficult fishing. Fortunately, the second trip was on a glorious early spring day; however, the fish were unwilling to cooperate.

April 13 will be a joint outing with the Osprey and Loons Fly Fishing Clubs on the Squamish River, with a communal lunch to be shared at the Ashlu Campground. Finally, our club

will be hosting our annual dinner/auction evening on April 16. We have guests as well as members of other clubs attending this great fundraising event for the club. Many of our members are also anticipating ice-off on the interior lakes and the Interior still water season ahead.



Vedder River fish-out



Harrison River fish-out

THE OSPREYS FF

Spring '24

By Bruce Brandhorst, President

Notable speakers at monthly meetings of the Ospreys included Brian Smith talking about fly-fishing on the Stellako River, and Bob Lindquist talking about fly fishing for Atlantic Salmon in Labrador.

Monthly Methods sessions included very creative presentations by Dennis Gamboa on using artificial fingernails and 3D printers for fly-tying.

Instead of trying to brave the winter weather for sparse fishing opportunities for monthly fish-outs on local streams, we held fly-tying jam sessions. In March we enjoyed the warmest day of the year, but failed to find any cutthroat trout or emerging fry at several local spots.

Many Ospreys manned our fly-tying booth at the BC Outdoors show in Chilliwack. We look forward to selling raffle tickets for BCFFF at the Michael and Young Spey Day at Cultus Lake April 14th .

THE PENTICTON FLYFISHERS

Spring Report

By Tom Dellamater

The Penticton Flyfishers promote fishing with artificial flies, promote good conservation practices, protect the habitat and teach others our sport. Some of our activities are listed below;

- Fly-tying and casting clinics in schools our area.
- Casting clinic in the schools, indoor refresher clinics and free outdoor summer classes.
- Some of our completed projects; put a pipe line into a local trophy lake, worked on building a spawning bed, rehabilitation of a spawning creek, collected raised sockeye eggs in our hatchery and released them back into the creek.
- Rod building, netmaking and fly fishing clinics are put on through the year.
- Fishing trips and an annual dinner are a couple of social activities.
- We are affiliated with The BC Federation of Fly Fishers and BC Federation of Wildlife

POLAR COACHMAN FLYFISHERS

Report Spring 2024

By Jeff Kormos, President

As our incredibly mild winter turns into an even milder spring, members of the Polar Coachman Flyfishers are getting ready for the season's first ice-off opportunities a little earlier than normal. While we are elated to be back on the water much sooner than usual, the compound effects of a multi-season drought are apparent and worrisome. However, if fly fishing has taught us anything, it is to be hopeful through adversity and that nature rewards those who seek to protect and conserve her bounty. Our winter activities at the clubhouse were largely aimed at this endeavor.

In January, our Annual General Meeting resulted in the election of a full Executive

and Board. Elections were met with excitement as some of our very long-standing Executive members passed on the torch to a largely new leadership team, ready to serve the members and keep the traditions of the club alive and well. A warm welcome and a debt of gratitude is in order to the members who put their names forward for Executive and Board positions. I would also like to thank our out-going Executive members for their years of dedication and commitment to our club, its members and its ideals. We supported the Spruce City Wildlife Association's (SCWA) applications to the Pacific Salmon Foundation's granting programs with a letter of support for brood collection, and

another for enumeration of the upcoming year's stocking program. The SCWA is an important partner for us, and our members help maintain the eggs and feed the fry at the Hatchery in Prince George.

In February, we hosted a screening of Fly Fusion's International Fly-Fishing Film Festival at the Canfor theatre at the University of Northern British Columbia. It was a lot of fun, and one of the club's more reliable sources of income. The 2-hour festival entertained about 100 fly-fishing film buffs, although admittedly it was a bit early in the season, given our proximity to open water in February. Next year we will time it a bit closer to ice-off. Past-President Brian Smith and I teamed up to pen a letter of concern over industrial development and access to an important wild rainbow trout habitat and fishery at Wicheeda Lake. We have not received a reply yet, but we are confident that we can work together with industry, First Nations, and government to show positive results for all affected parties when we work together.

In March we confirmed our BC Wildlife Federation's Fishing Forever event on June 8, 2024 at Vivian Lake. This is one of our favourite events, where we team up with a local non-profit and share our passion for fly-fishing with people with disabilities. We look forward to seeing our friends from the Canadian Institute for the Blind again this year. We are also working with our provincial fisheries biologists to improve regulations on our favourite lakes and streams, protecting trophy fisheries and improving access to some of our most treasured stocked and wild fisheries. As we get ready to break for the summer fishing season, we are filled with a sense of gratitude and purpose for the opportunities each season bring us, as well as a sense of obligation to protect and conserve our most cherished secret and not-so-secret fishing spots.

Danie Erasmus 2011 at Wicheeda during forest fire season

Photo by Brian Smith



History of the KFFA

By Len Piggin, President

The Kamloops Fly Fishers Association (KFFA) was formed in 1972 under the guidance of Tony Ruck and Wade Chernencoff. Dinner meetings were held at the Village Hotel (which is presently being torn down and turned into social housing) on the third Wednesday of each month. The first executive group was: President Wade Chernencoff; Vice-President Barry Beaton; Treasurer Wayne Yoshida; and Secretary Tony Ruck.

In 1972 we had a fish-out with the Totems Fly Fishers of Vancouver at Roche Lake, and this became an annual fish-out for us. On this same occasion, there was an International Fish-out occurring at Peterhope Lake. Several KFFA members met in November for a steelhead fish-out on the Thompson River with very limited success. Club dues were \$10.00.

We registered as a Society in December 1974. In 1975 membership dues were increased to \$15.00; the reason given was "inflation spiral". It looks like the food wasn't very good at the Village Hotel, so we moved to the Highlander Restaurant. The KFFA Constitution was ratified in 1975.

In April 1975 Tony Ruck started a fly-fishing club in Kelowna, which became the Lonely Loons. Doug Porter, our President, attended one of the early meetings of the Lonely Loons on September 3rd. Discussions were held about the admission of ladies into the club, and the first two ladies to join were Marion Ross & Karen Chernencoff.

In 1976 membership dues were \$20.00, liability insurance was \$50.00 for the club, FFF dues were \$29.00, BCWF dues \$87.00, and BCFFF dues \$58.00. Today in 2024, membership dues are \$60.00 for single, family \$75.00, BCWF dues is \$1,760.00 and BCFFF is \$310.00 (both collected as a per-member fee). In 1976 members had name tags, which we still do today. The club had a bottle drive to raise money for the liability insurance portion of the dues...they raised \$72.00, which was more than enough to cover it.

In 1977, dinner at the Highlander Restaurant cost \$5.00, which included a tip for Dorothy, the waitress. We currently have our meetings at the

Shanghai Mandarin Restaurant, and we try and keep the cost to under \$25.00 per person including tip.

It was apparent right from the start that the membership of KFFA would be active. They were having fish-outs at the lakes we do now: Peterhope, Roche etc. and work parties at John Frank and Tulip Lakes. The Roche Lake Plan was being formalized, and "Method" learning sessions were being held at member's houses. Now, we have Fly-Tying 101/Method Sessions at the Henry Grube Centre once a month, and Casting Lessons at Riverside Park.

On April 25th, 26th and 27th 1978 Lefty Kreh gave casting lessons to the public. The writer attended these sessions with his Uncle Wilf. Lefty Kreh was the first Honorary Member in 1978.

In the good old days, club members got together and built their fishing punts, which is depicted in some

of the following photos.

Of our current membership, Sinc Dalgleish has been a member since June 1976, and Sandy MacDonald since 1978. Sinc is on our Paul Lake Boat Launch Committee and Sandy is on the SFAB... both still active in club business.

In the early days, the monthly newsletter was the primary way to get information out to members. At the monthly dinner meetings fishing reports were given by each one in attendance, with some of them being printed in the newsletter. Now we have our web page <https://www.kamloopsflyfishers.org/>, which is our primary method of getting a message out to our members, and also the public. Email & text messages as well. We now have a Facebook page, which also provides information to the public about our club.

We have a group of



Anglers that go to Mount Pleasant Lodge <https://www.mtpfishing.com/> on Andros Island in the Bahamas. We primarily chase bone fish, but we have also provided fly tying equipment and lessons for local youths interested in fly-fishing. We have also taken books, and distributed them to three of the elementary schools near the lodge.

The most note-worthy KFFA member is Brian Chan, who has several books to his credit as well as his <https://www.stillwaterflyfishingstore.com/> and his many You Tube presentations. Peter McVey, the master bamboo rod maker, was also a club member. As well, member Ron Newman wrote the book "Rainbow Trout Fly Fishing — A guide for Still Waters", and Ken Strand with Gordon Honey wrote the book "Flyfishing Small Lakes for Trout: A Guide for Beginners." Doug Porter's "Drifter" pattern can be found in Art Lingren's Contemporary Fly Patterns of B. C. Region 5, and this fly pattern was talked about in early BCFFF Fly Lines issues. Our biggest member loss was when Hermann Fischer, whose obituary was in Fly Lines Spring 2023 issue, passed away. Hermann exemplified what the KFFA stands for: members

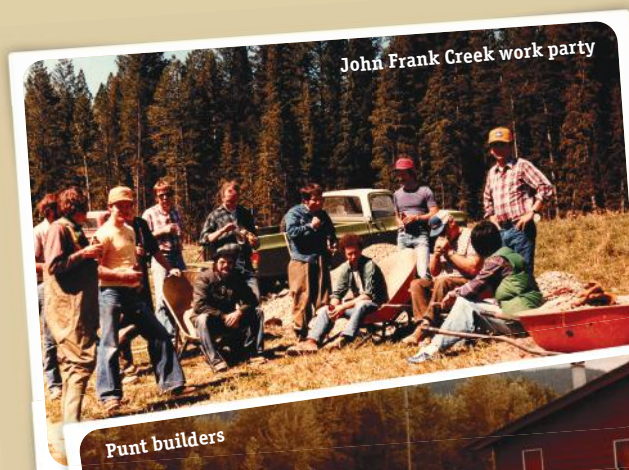
helping members. I've mentioned people that anglers know of, or have heard of, but this doesn't diminish the contributions by all our past and current club members.

Currently, we have 61 members. We held casting lessons for members just before ice-off, and in November we will once again have our Rod Building Sessions at the Henry Grube Centre, where we expect that 15 members and new members should attend. They will work with a rod building kit which costs under \$300.00, and it will produce an excellent fly rod. We have an annual ice fishing event, where we have hot dogs over a fire, and share some good comradery. Ice-off has been early this year, and we've already had two fish-outs at Jacko and Edith lakes. We generally have hot dogs or hamburgers at noon, discuss our fishing success from the morning, and where we're going and what we're using for the afternoon.

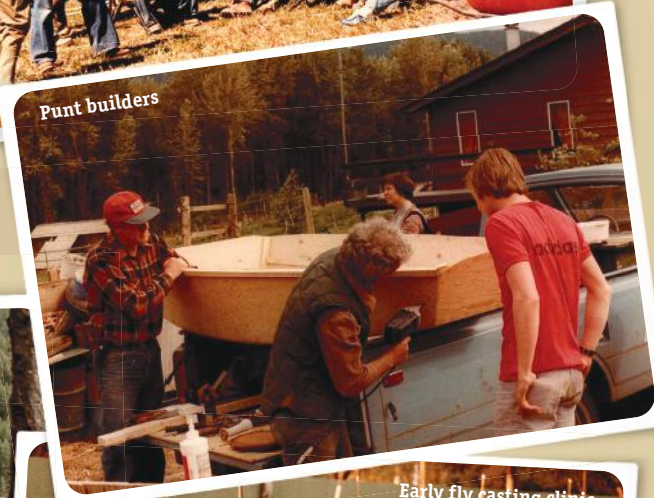
We also have our annual Regional Angling Advisory Team (RAAT) meeting with our Regional Biologist and Staff coming up.

The KFFA welcomes all new members no matter your expertise, as we're all learning, and that is why we call our fly tying classes "Fly Tying 101/Method Session". We not only tie flies, but we talk about where and how to fish them. Members helping Members.

Tight lines.



John Frank Creek work party



Punt builders



Pass Lake work party



Early fly casting clinic

YOUTH SECTION

Youth & the Kalamalka Flyfishers

By Bob Tait

“Each year at the Interior Sportsman’s Show, Kalamalka Flyfishers have been invited to set up a booth to have kids and adults tie flies. Over the 3 days, we have 6 members at any given time tying with kids, and their smiles and excitement at their results keep us coming back year after year. There is no shortage of members wanting to be a part of this event, and we are very proud of the fact that almost every year we have been voted the” Most Popular Booth.”

(Excerpt from the KFF Club Report)



KFF at kids day

Fly Fishing 12—College Heights Secondary School



Mike Quarenghi—Teacher
Mr. Sacher (Wing Man)

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the pursuit of fly-fishing through a variety of hands-on and practical learning experiences. Opportunities will be provided to learn the equipment involved, the basics of fly-casting, tying effective flies appropriate for this region, and field trips to gain experience on the water. Underlying this will be a theme of wellness, connecting to the beautiful, natural spaces that we are fortunate to live, work, and play on.

General Information:

Fly fishing does require some equipment. There will be some equipment and transportation costs required for the field trips in the spring. CHSS will do its best to provide students with majority of items necessary to get out on the water. It would certainly be advantageous if students have some of their own equipment or at least access to.

**Students in this course will receive 10% off at Corlane's Sporting Goods Store **

General Outline:

(not necessarily in this order)

- Building a knowledge base of the history of fishing and fly fishing
- Freshwater Fish Biology/ Identification/ Management
- Entomology (Learning about bugs)
- Building a knowledge base of aquatic environments/ ecosystems/ local geography
- Building a knowledge base of equipment
- FlyTying
- KnotTying
- Fly Casting
- Outdoor safety
- Reflecting on how connection with natural spaces can contribute to our wellness

Assessment:

- Participation
- Assignments/ Projects
- Self Assessments/ Peer assessments
- Journal

The Carihi Fly Fishing Program

by Dr. Katherine Mulski

Eight months ago, I accepted a job as an Educator in a Fly-Fishing program in Campbell River, British Columbia. It was surreal to me, even when I first saw this opportunity arise, as I have been fly-fishing for years as well as being an educator, and had more recently completed my Doctorate in Educational Practice with a focus on Fly Fishing.

I could not help but believe that the universe had placed this well-timed opportunity out there for me to pursue and, as of today, I am forever grateful that I took the leap to relocate from the Mainland to Vancouver Island to be a part of this amazing program.

Established as an immensely popular program in the school prior to my arrival, it was my priority to maintain and promote a continued legacy left from the previous educator, and to continue the important work that this program can provide for youth. Having spent more than almost three decades immersed in the practices and literature of fly-fishing myself, it has been a privilege to learn alongside my anglers in the program.

The Carihi Fly Fishing program weaves together students in grades 10 through 12 on a learning journey, which pairs English literacy skills and Fly Fishing over the

course of ten weeks. In addition to receiving a full English credit upon completion of the course, senior students in Grades 11 and 12 will receive a Science credit for their work involved in conservation, ecosystems and entomology, along with other topics such as the life cycles of trout and salmon.

The program is geared towards teaching beginners and avid fly fishers how to connect with freshwater fisheries through fly-fishing. Students will learn casting techniques, fly tying, knot tying, fishing methodology, fish identification, fishing and boating safety, fly-fishing etiquette, ethics in fishing, conservation and trip preparation. Fish-outs are usually in the surrounding areas within the community of Campbell River.

This past quarter, initially the weather proved to be a bit of a challenge as the school runs on a quartered system of ten weeks per course(s), and this iteration of the program began February 2nd and recently ended as of April 23rd. So, the press for time, paired with how much the group needed to learn prior to heading out to fish was real! The rainier days allowed for my students and I to get to know each other through co-operative games aimed at building community and a sense of trust amongst the anglers. It is important to trust



Fly-tying success




Katherine Mulski teaching



More success



On the river



STUDENTS WILL LEARN CASTING TECHNIQUES, FLY TYING, KNOT TYING, FISHING METHODOLOGY, FISH IDENTIFICATION, FISHING AND BOATING SAFETY, FLY-FISHING ETIQUETTE, ETHICS IN FISHING, CONSERVATION AND TRIP PREPARATION.

Katherine at play

Dr. Katherine Mulski wishes to acknowledge that she has had the privilege to live, work, and fly-fish on the traditional, on the traditional territory of the Lig'ildax[™] people. School District 72 also encompasses the traditional territory of the Klahoose (Cortes), K'omoks (Sayward), and Xwe'malhk'wu (Bute Inlet) First Nations. Dr. Mulski is currently the Educator for the Carihi Fly Fishing Program in Campbell River teaching and wrangling teenagers in the ways of the fly rod and conservation. She fly-fishes as many rivers and lakes as she can with her dad, her friends, and her trusty Trout Scout, Nora. You can follow along on her literary and line casting journey on Instagram: @kathonthefly @carihiflyfishing

who you fish with and so if you know who you are learning alongside with, the better the fishing.

Students are immersed in local and indigenous literature that helps to bring further understanding to fishing practices, conservation and the importance of stewardship within their own community. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading passages and reflections of authors such as Ojibway author Richard Wagamese, to evoke an understanding of students' connection and importance to the land they fish on. Further connecting local history as well through the conservation readings of Roderick Haig-Brown, students take tours of his house on the Campbell River, connecting the practices of pen to paper and the hand to the fly rod.

Students completed their Personal Craft Operator Card curriculum and exam during the program, and their fees helped cover their fly-tying kits and transportation to and from fish-outs.

I was impressed with how quickly all the students picked up the art of tying flies; most days, we would carve out time to tie a pattern that might suit our upcoming visit to a local river to target a specific type of trout. The students also worked on their efforts to keep their local waterways clean through river clean-ups at the end of each fish-out.

The amount of safety protocols and regulations that the students learn over the course of the program can be overwhelming at first, so having extra days on dry land to practice more casting, more fly tying, and learning the entomological importance of trout and salmon diets was helpful to the students. Students

spent time over four fish-outs learning the importance of catch-and-release principles and understanding responsible fish harvesting.

In April, we were gifted with phenomenal weather patterns and our local rivers shaped up nicely for new anglers to enjoy a chance at catching rainbow and cutthroat trout. The best kind of riverside joy comes from knowing that you have been a part of the journey for these anglers to put together their practice and skills to connect with a fish and release it.

We have been so fortunate to have support from many local sources within the community which included (but are not limited to): The Campbell River Fish and Wildlife Association, Campbell River Rotary Daybreak Rotary, DFO Community Outreach Deb Cowper, Cecil Henley, Campbell River Salmon Foundation, Quinsam Hatchery Staff, Fisheries Officer Greg Askey, Tyee Marine, the Campbell River Fly Shop and many individual donors who have brought in fly tying materials or gently-used rods for the students to use.

I am overwhelmed with the amount of support and generosity that continues to shine for these students and this program. It is my goal to continue to help enhance further opportunities for the students of the Carihi Fly Fishing Program. We welcome guest speakers via Zoom or in-person and anyone who would like to come in and share about fly-fishing, or at the very least, tell some great fishing stories.

Tight lines and keep the learning going!

Gleneagle Secondary School Fly Fishing 11 Program Update

By Lorenzo Cirillo, Instructor Fly Fishing 11 Gleneagle Secondary School, Coquitlam B. C.



The Gleneagle Talons Fly Fishing 11 class is going incredibly well this term, with 26 enthusiastic students enrolled in the program. There is a great blend of students that includes nearly half being girls, international students and students with disabilities. The beginning of the course focused heavily on skills like fly-tying and casting, as well as fish identification and understanding the regulations. Lately, we have been tackling some of the bigger conservation issues, like the hatchery debate, and later we will examine fish farms, sustainable and unsustainable harvesting methods as well as some fish handling and preparation techniques.

We have been on three outings so far. Our first trip was to the Freshwater Fisheries Society out in Abbotsford, pretty much everyone managed to hook and play a fish, which was a great confidence builder. They also learned how to properly handle, land and release fish. While one-half of the class was fishing, the other half did an entomology study in the facility's lab. It is such a great experience out there!

Our second outing was to the famed Harrison River in search of cutthroat trout. Typically, it was a cold, blustery day which posed many problems for new, learning casters. The difficult day was made easier by a hotdog barbeque along with a lot of chips and pop.

Our most recent trip was to the Stave River; again, in search of cutthroat. If the weather challenged them on the Harrison, the Stave really tested their metal. Heavy rain, wind and very cold conditions made for a challenging day, but some fish were hooked and none landed. Once again, warm hot dogs and lots of snacks made the day far more tolerable.

Our last trip that we are in the midst of planning is to Whonnock Lake, where we will target rainbows, cutthroat and the prolific crappie population in the lake. Crappies provide a great deal of opportunity for everyone despite their skill level, so we plan to use a variety of watercraft to fish Whonnock, including canoes and belly boats.

We have also had some superb guest speakers address our class. Evelyn Robertson from the Conservation Officer Service delivered a great presentation on the importance of regulations towards conservation and enjoyable fishing experiences. Then we had Joe Kambertz, the originator of the Squamish Poacher, regale the kids with his amazing story telling ability,

and then he demonstrated tying his famous Poacher. We also had Peter Caverhill of the BCFFP address the kids about the importance of fly-fishing ethics, and our roles in being complete anglers. Prior to Peter's visit, the students had to complete an assignment based on Caverhill's notable chapter in The Gilly. Little did the students know that I had arranged for the author himself to field their questions! Just recently we had noted B. C. Outdoors magazine contributor Tom Johannesen demonstrate how to tie his super effective dragonfly nymph. We have more great guest speakers lined up for May and June, and are also looking forward to a field trip to the Coquitlam Dam and its upper watershed to have a tour of a new hatchery that is being constructed by the Kwikwetlem First Nation. Many thanks to Rodney Lee for setting up this cool opportunity up for us.

As you can see, we are having an amazing time and learning from some of the best people in the fly-fishing community. Thank you to the British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers for your support!





EXPERIENCES FROM A FLY-FISHER'S DIARY

Jim Kilburn

MAY 10/65 - NIL AT THE COVE.
 THOMPSON REPORTED HOT AT WALKACHIN (BY LEE STRAIGHT). GEORGE M. GOT SEVERAL AT THE PEA PATCH. LARRY H. GOT SOME THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE RIVER FROM BASQUE (ALSO TANGLED WITH A RATTLER). GEORGE M. SAYS THE BEST FISHING IS IN AUGUST DURING THE SEDGE HATCHES. THE FISH TAKEN ON MAY 9TH WERE FULL OF CHIRONOMID NYMPHS & LARVAE.
 MAY 9/65 - NIL AT COVE - 9' TIDE
 MAY 9/65 - QUILLETTE - (10' TIDE). SOME GOOD FISH TAKEN BY TOLLEY & CLINTON. ALL THE ACTIVITY SEEMS TO BE ON THE HIGH TIDE.
 MAY 22 23 24 - QUILLETTE - SK & B.C. 7-8 FT. TIDES - FEW FISH - ALL SMALL

MAY 25/65 - HEARD OF 150 TROUT BEING TAKEN FROM MISSEVLA CREEK (PROBABLY SMALL BROOKS). ALSO HEARD OF GOOD CATCHES AT KELLY UP TO 4 LBS. DICK EMERSON GOT GOOD FISHING AT CORTES ISLAND IN ONE OF THE LARGES. ALSO REPORTS SEEING ABOUT 100 CUTTS AT THE MOUTH OF THE LAGOON.

JUNE 12/65 - THOMPSON - BASQUE - 7 TROUT TO 4 LBS. - MEASER & WIFE - THOMPSON HIGH BUT CLEAR.

JUNE 12/65 - LE JEUNE - ABOUT 35-40 FISH HIT - NONE OVER 1 1/4 LBS. DARK MONTREAL BEST. FLEDERMAN & GREEN SEDGE ALSO GOOD. NO BIG FISH JUMPING. MCCONNELL WAS QUIET.

CROWN WAS PRODUCING - JUNE 5TH WEEKEND.

JUNE 21 - JULY 1 - SEE NOTES RE LA JEUNE, KNOUFF, BRADGER & BEAVER

1965

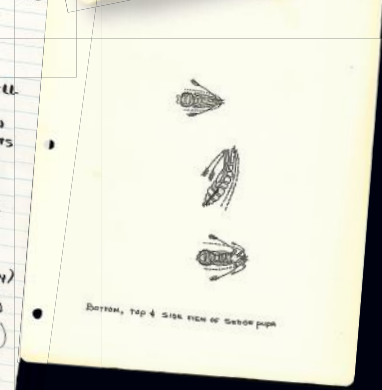
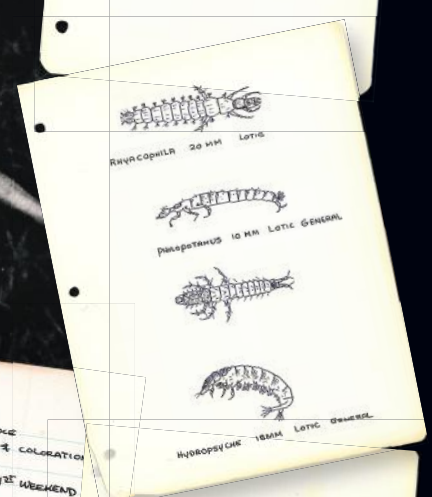
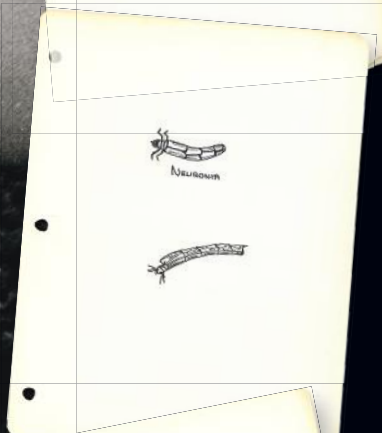
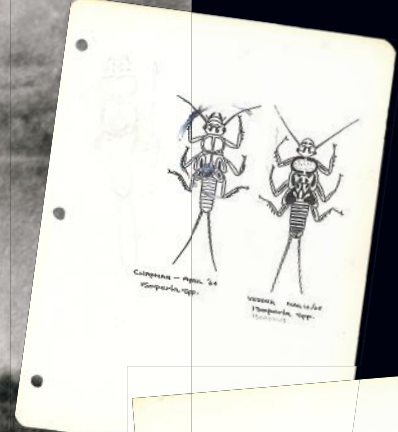
THOMPSON RIVER HAS BEEN PRODUCING WELL SINCE MAY 24TH EXCEPT FOR AN OCCASIONAL RISE OF THE RIVER DUE TO FRESHET. GEORGE MEASER TOOK FISH UP TO 6 LBS JULY 12TH WEEKEND.

JULY 1/65 - CORTES ISLAND. EMERSON REPORTED THE CUTTS WERE GONE FROM THE BAY (LAGOON)

JUNE 26 - LITTLE HEFFLEY PRODUCING WELL.

THE STOMACH CONTENTS OF THE THOMPSON RIVER TROUT WERE MAINLY OF SMALL ORGANISMS BUT THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF SEVERAL LARGE BUMBLE BEES. THERE WERE REPORTS THAT THE TROUT WERE TAKING SALMON FLIES (STONEFLIES) WITH YELLOW ABDOMENS (PROBABLY MEMBERS OF THE PERLA GENERA), BUT NONE WERE IN EVIDENCE IN THE PARTICULAR CONTENTS THAT I EXAMINED. ON JUNE 21ST I COLLECTED A SPECIMEN (STONEFLY) FROM GOLDPAN THAT WAS A DEAD RINGER FOR THE ONES OBTAINED FROM THE HARRISON IN MARCH & APRIL. (SEE NOTES ON SPECIMENS)

JULY 1/65 SKAGIT - DENNIS G. REPORTED LIMIT CATCHES OF RAINBOW ON THE FLY. (47 FISH - 3 PEOPLE - 2 DAYS) THE TROUT WERE NOT PARTICULAR ABOUT THE PATTERNS. MARTIN TOLLEY REPORTED PETERHEPE GOOD. MASSEY REPORTED OYAMA GOOD AT NIGHT (DUSK FOR SEDGE FISHING)



HISTORY

Jack & Dorothy Shaw — Fond Memories of a Fly-fishing Pioneer and his Partner

By Brian Smith

When you are young, and I think under the age of forty qualifies, strong relationships with people over the age of seventy-five seem to be of a parental nature, as mine was with Jack and Dorothy Shaw.

For a period of about twenty-five years, this couple were as important to me as my own parents. Our relationship began in the 70's when my then wife and I transferred from the coast to Kamloops for my work, and I enrolled in Jack's fly-tying course at the College. Jack took me under his wing, and taught me "his way" of being a fly-fisher and tier; how to think about the importance of size, shape, action and then colour (as long as it was drab, light or dark) in my pattern dressings, and not to be overly concerned about creating realism of the insect, a near impossible task. This theory of Jack's made sense to me; as he said "we are doing battle with a creature which has a brain the size of a pea" and "leave realism to

the photographers", a hobby Jack sought and enjoyed as much as he did tie flies.

This treatise is not so much about Jack's contribution to the fly-fishing world of Interior lakes, which is substantial, as it is about the man himself, what made him tick, and the woman who generously helped him along the way. Reminiscing with Jack one evening over a wee dram of good scotch, (Dorothy only allowed him one glass, so it was a tall one) Jack confided to me that, when they finished the manuscript for "Fly Fish the Trout Lakes" in 1976, the very next morning Dorothy jumped on a Greyhound bus and hand-delivered it to the publisher in Vancouver — they

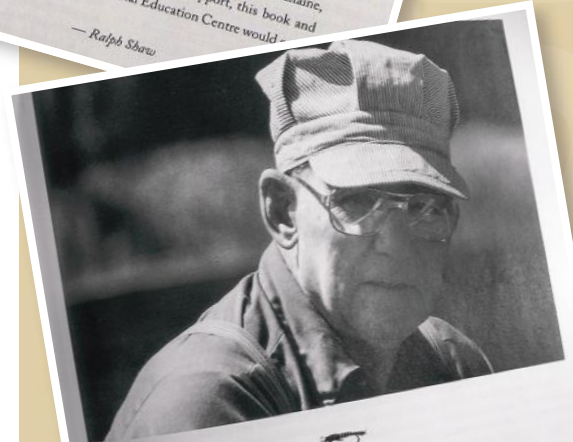


DEDICATION

To Dorothy Shaw, Jack's wife and partner for more than 57 years, throughout which she backed him totally in all of his endeavours to unlock the mysteries of entomology and lake fly fishing. She cooked an abundance of fresh fish during that period, packed thousands of lunches, offered encouragement in his research, supported him in his writing projects, and often endured swarms of flying insects in their house from his aquariums. Dorothy played an extremely important role in the Jack Shaw story as it unfolded over the years, and she was also a major supporter of this enterprise.

As part of the dedication I would like to recognize my wife Elaine, for without her love, encouragement and support, this book and the McQueen Lake Environmental Education Centre would have happened.

— Ralph Shaw



CHAPTER 4

Remembering Jack

Let there passed away on February 2nd, 2000, at the age of 84. Jack, with his small past, over, fine action, railroad hat and... He is remembered fondly in this chapter by a...

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

When fishing on Tranquille Lake in the mid 1950's, I asked a friend what he was using. He said it was a "Blue Mallard." I asked him why and he replied "Someone is catching fish." That answer really upset me. I had fully expected him to tell me what insect the fish were feeding on. That day, I learned better than to ask. My friend didn't even know the correct name of the fly - it was a Rhodops Flavescens, so there was little chance he would know what insect the fish were feeding on.

That little exchange annoyed me so much I started paying closer attention to the connection between flies being used and the insects in evidence on the water. In most, if not all cases, I could find no physical resemblance. Most fly patterns were named after a person or a lake, few were named after or tied to represent an insect.

This made it very difficult for a novice fly fisherman to approach the sport with any degree of intelligence. A person with a box full of flies would look at it with a bewildered expression and rely entirely upon what friends said had caught fish, last weekend, what worked the last time they were on that lake or slough lake.

I decided to find out what the fish really fed on. I started examining stomach contents and made some startling discoveries. Nothing ingested even remotely resembled the flies in use at that time. Virtually nothing with wings and in most cases, the insects eaten were a great deal smaller than the No. 4 and No. 6 hook sizes flies were dressed on.

There were no vivid, brilliant colours so popular among fly tiers of those days. Most of the colours found in the natural world of insects were of the drab, accidental variety. Yellow, Green and Red always looked muddy and it occurred to me that bright colours were not natural to insects in their nymphal, larval and pupal stages. Only in the terrestrial or mating stage do insects display brilliant coloration. What attracted notes in the terrestrial stage was not desirable in the lives of insects in the developing and growth stages.

Rather it was for better not to attract attention but to develop a coloration that would ensure a less hazardous existence among the flora and debris of their natural environment. Drab coloration and slow movement were imperative if an insect was to live to continue the species.

It was necessary to find a means of preserving the insects in their natural shapes and colours so they could be copied with accuracy at a later date using fur, feathers, hair, etc. Using alcohol or formaldehyde destroyed the colour but did keep the shape fairly well. I even tried preserving them in blocks of plastic but the heat generated by the catalytic action of the hardening plastic cooked the insects to an orange or pink brown colour.

Eventually, I resorted to the photographic medium. This was a long, tedious and expensive way to go, however to this day, it is still the best way to accurately render the colour and form of insects and fly patterns.

One has to acquire the proper equipment, learn macro photography, and the appropriate developing and enlarging techniques and then establish a filing system so that the slides can be found quickly when required.

All this time, effort and expense, just to create an assortment of fly patterns that will, when fished in the right manner and at the right time, catch fish, has often seemed to me a waste of time. But now more than 40 years later, I have come to the conclusion that the pleasure has been in the journey, not in the arrival.

Jack Shaw

Jack Shaw
How it all Began

SHREMP

The Shrimp as a fly pattern has been tied for many years. The commercial tin, without exception, are terrible. They are lacking in all areas. I so often found Shrimp in the stomachs of fish that I wondered why it was not possible to find a pattern that would work. I undertook to try tying one and very soon found out why the commercial fly dressers could not produce a good imitation.

My early efforts were a disaster in all respects. Eventually I find one that would produce, but not well. After many years of experimenting with material, colour, size and shape I came up with what is now pretty well the standard. Every time I make a change it seems to be a step backward. I no longer try to improve the Green Shrimp.

One day watching Shrimp swimming in an aquarium with the sun shining, I noticed that the hard exoskeleton reflected pink and blue light, looking much like mother-of-pearl. As a result, I tied some Shrimp flies with a pink and blue material called "MOISTY SPAIN". It proved to be a huge success. Mike Cismont declared he needed no other fly to catch all the fish he ever wanted. This pattern became known as the OPalescent SHREMP and like all Shrimp, was tied on a #10 - 98840 Mustad hook.

Fishing in Six Mile Lake, I noticed some rather stout yellowish Shrimp swimming around. Cautious not to study I took them home and put them in an aquarium where I could watch them. Deciding to photograph them, I took one out and put it into a saucer of water. My equipment was not very good in those days, so I had to use flash lights which generated considerable heat. I found the swollen yellow forward part was a pouch containing small yellow shrimp. As soon as the water heated, they left the pouch and went for a swim. Turning off the light cooled the water and they returned to the pouch but turning the lights on brought the young out again. Eventually I had to take a photo of the Shrimp with the young swimming around her. I never did get the photo of a pregnant Shrimp that I wanted.

This all took place in the early 1970's. The fly I tied to represent this stage in the life of a Shrimp was very successful. Huber Smith used it a great deal in Salmon Lake when he moved there from Hellay Lake and Lee Allen used it as standard fare in Rocky Lake with remarkable success. I recall seeing an article on this fly in either the old "WESTERN ANGLER" or an early issue of the "BC OUTDOORS" magazine. In the article, they called the pattern "The Shrimp Sucker". Where they got a name like that I have never been able to figure out.

Jack Alton

THE MAY FLY NYMPH

On Hellay Lake in the early or mid 1960's there were some very large hatches of May flies. Huber Smith, his son Jamie and I discovered, from the stomach contents of the fish, that there were no wings on the insects ingested. From this we tried to imitate the insect.

With a dredge pulled behind a boat, I caught a number of these nymphs, took them home and placed them in an aquarium. Many of them hatched in the next few days while others remained until late fall before emerging as adults.

One of the most interesting and important observations I made of the nymphs was that as the time for emergence neared, the wing case became quite swollen, and as it got larger, it also became very dark in colour.

I imitated it as closely as possible. To this day, it is one of the most deadly flies when fished correctly at the right time of year.

While teaching night-school fly tying classes, I always tried to come up with two flies that involved different mechanical treatments. That was many years ago, so I cannot now recall why I had this idea for this pattern. I know how deadly it was. However, I thought it was so simple no one would really even try to fish it. How wrong I was! A young fellow in the class fished it at Roche Lake. His name was Barry. I cannot recall his last name. He had a great many of the fishermen on the lake buying flies from him and was also selling them to Woodwards' Store. For two or three years, he tied and sold thousands of these flies. In fact, I am told, he was selling so many of them on the lake that the lodge operator filed a complaint against him for not having a paddlers' license.

That particular pattern was tied with all pheasant tail fur. Later patterns and even an earlier one were tied with the fur from a variety of quills for the reasons of colour, texture, modeling and nap length. I have no intention of naming any particular species of bird the feathers are taken from. This is to protect them from ruthless people who would kill a bird just for its' plumage.

Jack Alton

Hello Brian:

Thankyou for your hospitality, Lo most gracious hosts, we hope the diet schedule was not too great. Your two living dolls, we do not have any small close by anymore they grow up so quick.

Brian, thankyou for your part in driving us all over the country, we could on our own, the freeway and Vancouver tar out of me should I have to drive have had to part it and walk, and I, d anymore. Everything moves too fast for me.

If I had an address for Mr. Abernethy (correct spelling?) I should like to write for his part in the ceremony.

A number of people have remarked on the project it is and everyone I spoke to about scenic location, I'm very proud and happy of it, even if in name only.

Brian I know you had more to do than you are admitting and for that we thank you. To me it means a lot, I am not vain but it does mean that I am responsible for me in us today, particularly the Chironomid back swimmer.

Thankyou for a wonderful time.

Yours truly

THE BLOOD WORM

While netting insects at Six Mile Lake, I found in the black bottom mud, some dark red or maroon worms. At home, I put them under the microscope and identified them as Chironomid larvae. I placed them in an aquarium where in due time they emerged as a large brown pupae. The pupae in turn evolved into a large mosquito-like fly. This is the terrestrial form of the Chironomid fly. Using some very fine chenille of a deep maroon colour and a #10 - 9871 Mustad hook, I tied up a few of this pattern.

When I fished them in Six Mile Lake, they proved to be deadly. While fishing Turlock Lake with Fred Renton, Pete Kirby and the late Ernie Samarin, who were looking after the fish trap for Fish and Wildlife, I gave them each two flies. They all had extremely good success with them. All three men fished this fly ever much of the BC Interior in later years and found it to be a most consistent producer. In conversation with Fred Renton a few years later, he told me it was the only fly he used back then. Whether or not that was true, it seems to be to be extremely high praise, even though I know The Blood Worm is at times deadly when fished correctly.

In later years, I went to a fine wool body on I started tying them in smaller sizes down to a #14 - 9872 Mustad. All sizes are effective when fished at the proper time of year and under the proper circumstances.

Jack Alton

had put so much work into it they didn't trust the mail! Remember, in those good old days, books were written either by hand or old Underwood typewriters, and photocopiers were rare and expensive! Jack had heart trouble for the last twenty years of his life, also Parkinson's, and suffered a little from chemicals' exposure subjected to from his early career as a body-man and auto painter. Dorothy was his loving partner, who made sure he only got his favourite breakfast of bacon and eggs on Saturdays, and didn't get more than a wee dram of scotch when his pals dropped by. She edited his writing, typed his manuscripts, loved him immensely, and believed deeply in his commitment to fly-fishing.

Jack was a consummate thinker and tinkerer when it came to fly-tying. Interior lakes were commonly fished with attractor patterns ala the style that Bill Nation and Tommy Brayshaw developed early in the century, and there is no argument that those imitations still work today! We must also remember that in those days fly-tying materials were incomparable

to what is on the market today, especially the flash, rubber and synthetics that are now offered in limitless colours and quantities. But again, back then seal fur was common and popular, not so today because of the seal hunting moratorium, but this was Jack's go-to dubbing material for his nymph patterns. I wish we could get more consistent supply of seal fur today; it is still one of my favourite dubbing materials, and I treasure what I do have, some of my packs being fifty years old.

Jack was mostly a wet-fly tier and wet-line fisher. I cannot recall any dry-fly pattern that he developed, and he rarely fished the dry fly. His wet fly development, however, was legendary: chironomid, bloodworm, damselfly nymph, opalescent shrimp, dragonfly nymph, caddis pupae, backswimmer and water boatman, to name a few. Some critics may challenge that Jack invented anything, because some form of these insects already existed, albeit poor replicas. Perhaps, but what he did do, through his aquarium studies and innate creativity, was take us on a path toward creating

April 23, 1991
611 Stansfield Road,
Kamloops, B.C.
V2B 6N2

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little ladies are
girls in the family
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the proceedings and
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write and thank him

on what a wonderful
ays what a beautiful

with this than what
ank you a great deal.
but I do like to have
any of the fly patterns
omid, blood worms and

Jack Shaw
Jack Shaw

clubs auction sale. It must be a large club in order to
raise that much money. I wish the club well and say carry
on the good work.

I very nearly blew a dead line for B.C. Outdoors mag' -
looking for a letter with an address I required I came across
this B.C. Outdoors letter and glanced through it only to
find to my horror I was ten days from dead line and hadn't
even an idea what to write about, in fact I'd forgotten all
about it. For the next few days I spent ten hours a day
at it before it was ready to mail; somebody was smiling at
me because I just beat the dead line according to the letter
of acknowledgement. It is scheduled to appear in the April
issue, Terrestrial May Flies. There is one on Back Swimmers
scheduled to be in the March issue. I just can't think why
they do not use them but to be of benefit at the appropriate
time of year, however, that is their business not mine.

I kind of got away from what I was about to tell you;
the May fly article has with it a very good photo of a May
fly dun I tied in the mid to late sixties, I mention this
because it is a dry fly well worth having in your fly box
and if they do a good job of reproducing the photo it should
be a good guide.

Brian, I wish you well and look forward to hearing
from you soon, many thanks for the flies and the foam.

Your friend
Jack
Jack Shaw

Jack Shaw Letter 2 to BS

better patterns than the old
standby attractors. I feel this
was the legacy Jack's left us.

Would Jack scoff at our
generation of fly-tying and
fishing? Our dastardly use of
beads on just about every nymph
and chironomid we tie for still-
water fishing? And indicators
with barrel swivels for fishing
the same? And all that flash, and
rubber for legs? He might make
a half-roll in his grave, but Jack
believed in progress and thinking
out-of-the box; he would have
a good laugh, but I think he
would be right in there with us,
accept the cookies, and likely
really enjoy eating them.

Jack was not a river fisher-
man. He once confided in me
that he did not have the first
clue about how to fish a river,
but I am certain that, if he did
get involved in rivers, in no time
he would have uncovered their
secrets and be off perfecting
another branch of fly-fishing
mysteries. In truth, most
of his lake nymph patterns,
with a small size adjustment,
would do very well in rivers.

Jack's patterns have been
duplicated, replicated, copied and
bastardized for decades. He made
very little money from his hobby.
In the eighties, videos were
just beginning to popularize,
and internet mania began at
the end of his journey. Many
good and famous fly-fishers,
however, have made potsful of
cash by following his theories
and designs. For the Masters of
Interior Still-water Fly-fishing
categories, I believe we have
three generations of fly-fishers
we should recognize as the best
contributors of their times: Bill
Nation for 1920 to 1940; Jack
Shaw for 1950 to 1990; and Brian
Chan for 1990 to current times.

Jack passed from us in
February 2000 at the age of
eighty-four. Lois and I had
the pleasure of lunch with Dot
the week before she passed in
2009. They are a couple who
deserve the utmost respect
and remembrance from fly
fishers over the world.

April, 2024

HISTORY

The Kamloops Museum and Artifacts (Fly-Fishing History Display)

By BCFFF Editor Brian Smith

The BCFFF would be remiss not to talk and write about the world-class Kamloops fly-fishing region without mention of our role in the establishment of the BC Fly Fishing Display in the museum building.

One of my early fly-fishing partners in the Lower Mainland, Grant Stevens, retired and moved to Kamloops in the early 90's, and was influential in laying the roots for establishing the museum in 1997. Many BCFFF clubs and members responded with their donations, money and time for this effort. All of the donations were documented as they appeared, but additional funding was hard to come by, and the displays took a long time to put together because of this lack of funding.

Marie Allen was also very involved in the process at the time and carried the torch for the BCFFF for the years 1999 to 2004. As was Gary Cutler of the KFFA, since passed. Our board member Peter Caverhill has probably been the most involved current contact for the goings-on of the KMA. Since Covid, communications with the museum staff and resolving how best to use the mayfly fly-fishing display has languished. Working more closely with the museum on how best to educate the public about the Kamloops area as the birthplace of Interior fly-fishing could be a worthy project for the BCFFF to undertake in the future, and I suggest a committee could be struck to pursue grant money for the same.

Some memorable items on display top floor of the museum are the fishing punt of the legendary Jack Shaw, and the fishing equipment chest of pioneer Bill Nation, two of the regions most honoured and celebrated fly-fishing gurus of their time periods. We owe it to our beloved sport to keep these and future memories alive in the BC Fly Fishing Museum.

The Coastal Cutthroat Trout

by Jim Kilburn

Article from "Western Fish & Game magazine", 1970

Nostalgia is not the private privilege of the angler, but in a rapidly-wasting world the angler has an uncommon right to dwell in the past. There are thousands of anglers in this province of the good life who would gladly swap the good life for a chance to turn back the clock.

They quite naturally yearn for the Golden Past of one short generation ago. In those idyllic days, there were many quiet, unmarred stretches of streams and lakes where a fly-fisher could cast for trout. In those days, the trout fisher was too complacent. And today, it may be already too late. Unfortunately, much of British Columbia's sport fishing is already regulated to history. And so it is that, when I think about sea-run cutthroats, I often hearken back to an autumn day six years ago when a telephone call from my fishing partner kindly rescued me from a thankless task of backyard weed-pulling.

Echoes of an Autumn Adventure

Over the years I have noticed that when fishing partners phone, they can be most irritating. Martin Tolley was no different. On this occasion, he even sounded a wee bit smug. But he had difficulty subduing his excitement; it was there in the undertone: "James, whatever are you up to? You're wheezing like a pilot model of the Stanley steamer!"

It would have done me no good to come right out and say: "You don't even know what a Stanley is, never mind what a Steamer was, so don't give me any of your damn-quick smiles." The polite way of wheedling information from Tolley-types calls for an innocent, or even a downright uninterested, pose.

"Just working in the garden. And how's the world treating you?" (Bland, but the question calls for an answer.)

"Oh, not too badly. I merely wanted to mention having had some good sport with cutthroat as long as your arm."

Silence.

In the gamesmanship of telephone talk, that pause put Martin one-up on

me. And he knew it, I lost my poise.

"All right, never mind acting so damn smug. Tell me all about it. Don't just gloat."

"My, my," Martin mused, "Who was it who said that gardening is good for the soul; or did he say soil?"

"Now you listen to me, Martin..."

"Okay, okay. Indeed, I did have some excellent fish; I shall say nothing of aching wrists, snapped tippets, or masticated flies. Nor shall..."

"Hold on," I interrupted, "Where did you say this happened?"

"I didn't, James old boy, I didn't."

Another pause. But this time I outwaited him.

"I'd be happy to squire you on a repeat venture," Martin continued, "provided you can tear yourself away from your cabbages and cauliflowers, and provided..."

Another pause.

"Yes?" I begged.

"Provided you take me to that pet Coho hole of yours, the one you've alluded to so many times — you know, where they pile up like cordwood and grab flies like crazy?"

Martin had been trying to worm that information out of me for some time. And now he had me. We both knew it.

"Deal," I submitted.

Early the next morning we took a car ferry to the promised land. At about half-past nine, we turned off the main road. We wound down the steep, gravelled road, chattered over the decking that bridged a tiny stream, and came to a halt.

It was one of those bleak misty days of early October. Although damp, it was a warm and pleasant day, and we were in good spirits. The stream was full of chum salmon; some were spawning; others were thrusting upstream in



Cutthroat Trout
by Pat Demeester

search of less-crowded spawning gravel. Here and there, grouse erupted from the undergrowth. Above the autumn-colored canopy, scarcely-visible crows scolded us for intruding. All was right with the world.

Soon we entered onto a beautifully serene beach. The still-ebbing tide had bared a wide strip of marsh grass. The small stream, as if suddenly more anxious to reach the sea, fairly rushed through an eel-grass flat. Beyond the creek mouth, sea and sky merged in the morning mist. The wooded crest of an island seemed to float on the stark silhouettes of an offshore log boom. Diving fowl patrolled between log-boom and beach; at water's edge, sandpipers dipped and scurried at their morning business.

A profusion of springtide logs lay tightly packed along the foreshore's entire length, where the gnarled roots of half-buried deadheads spread darkly amid the lighter golds and greens of the marsh grass. To the left, several weathered shacks perched greyly along the edge of a small, marshy bay. To the right, there was more marsh, then a shoreline-timbered cove that had a sharply-sloped sand and pebble beach. Martin had already named these spots Left and Right Bays.

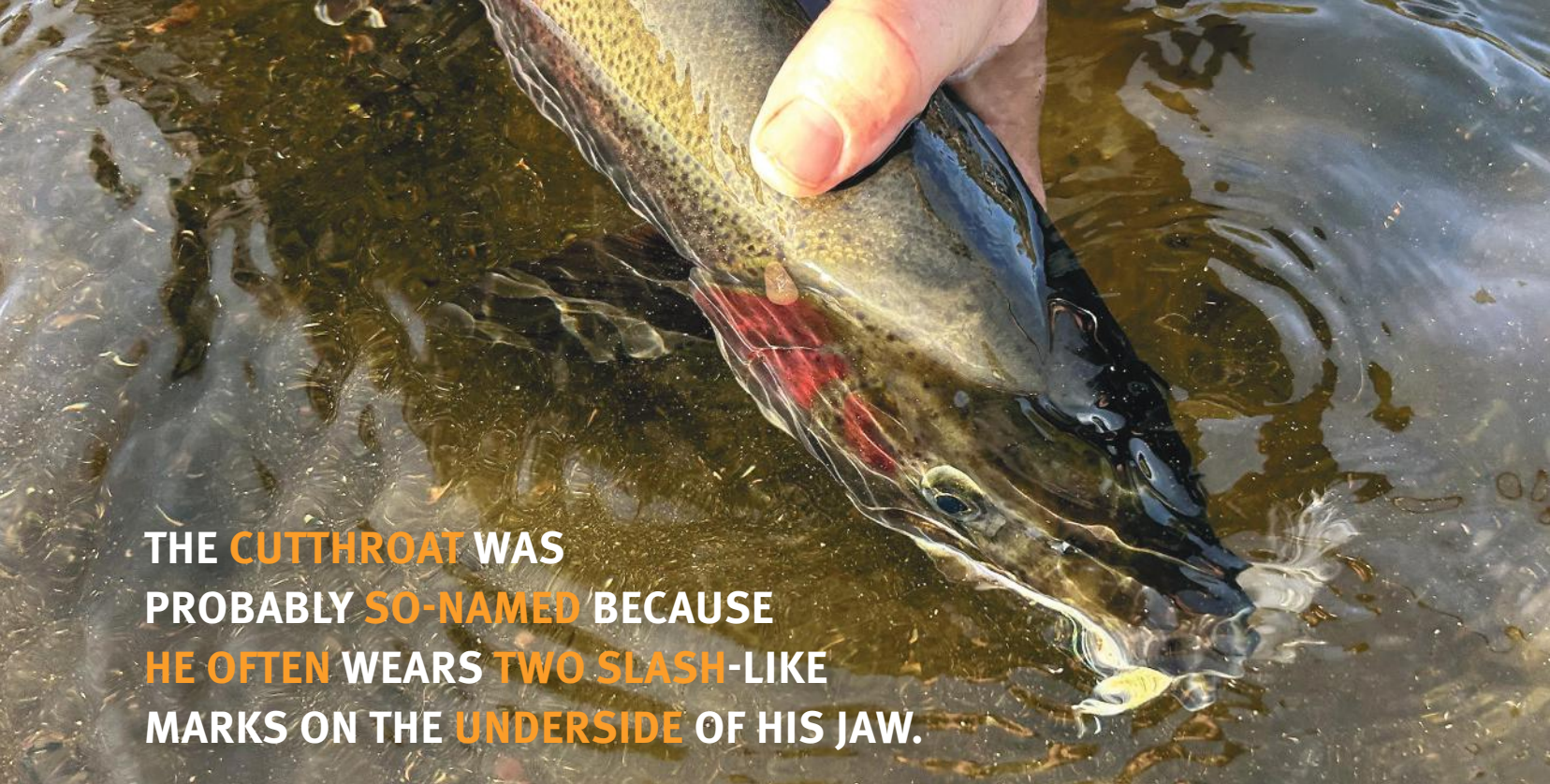
At his suggestion, we started for Left Bay, walking leisurely over the barnacled shells of oysters and clams, occasionally pausing to watch for signs of trout. On one such occasion, Martin pointed toward some tiny dimples that were barely discernible on the glass-smooth

surface. "One never knows with sea-runs, does one? But that looks like herring, and where there's herring, there should be a cutthroat or two. Try just out from the old shacks; that's where I had my best luck yesterday."

Somewhat suspicious of so much goodwill, I half-watched Martin as I tied on a number-eight American Coachman. A nearby and loud splash broke the spell, and I looked up to see wavelets spreading from a surface swirl. Duck or trout? There was only one way to find out, so I quickly dropped the Coachman close to the swirl, began to retrieve the fly in fast strips, and was quickly treated to the sight of a bulging wave following my fly. I stopped my retrieve to watch the fly line. The line twitched — once, twice. I raised the rod point, and slowly tightened. The fish was suddenly on, and suddenly in the air. He made three clean leaps, then settled down to a strong, sub-surface struggle. Although he seldom took line, he seldom yielded it either — for the first several minutes. He simply cruised stubbornly up and down the shoreline shallows. On several occasions I unsuccessfully attempted to tun him onto the beach. But finally, as all fish must, he weakened. It was a sudden surrender when it came. And he was as handsome a fish as an angler has any right to expect; heavily spotted, lightly touched with a lemon-yellow tint, smoothly fat, and four pounds. I gently slipped the fly from the corner of his jaw, held him quietly in ankle-deep water until he recovered, then watched him swim slowly out to sea, apparently none the worse for his experience.

For the next hour, the sea-runs came eagerly to the Coachman. Down the beach to my right, Martin was enjoying similar good fortunes. Then the tide changed, and with the flooding tide came a marked change in the cutthroat's behaviour. They no longer took firmly; they followed only half-heartedly, and merely plucked at the fly. Soon even the plucking ended.

Martin waved me over. After comparing results, Martin suggested that Right Bay might now be ripe. On a previous trip, he found that Right Bay to be the right place during the latter stages of a flooding tide. I soon discovered that Right Bay was not easily fished. The beach sloped sharply from the forest's edge for thirty or forty feet, then levelled off. By the time there would be enough water to cover the fish, there would also be little room for back casts. Nevertheless, we patiently waited for the tide to fill the bay. We waited for perhaps an hour as the tide inched in. Then, as Martin had predicted, a cutthroat swirled. He was well out in the bay. But moments later, another swirled, and this one was barely beyond casting range. This was the signal we needed. Because of the slope, we could only wade a short distance from shore, and we could not lay out enough line as we would have liked. However, we made only exploratory casts before Martin's rod tip suddenly dipped



THE CUTTHROAT WAS PROBABLY SO-NAMED BECAUSE HE OFTEN WEARS TWO SLASH-LIKE MARKS ON THE UNDERSIDE OF HIS JAW.

Cutthroat Trout
by Pat Demeester

sharply. Once again, we began to catch trout, and for a short period we enjoyed superb sport. But tide waits for no man, not even ardent fly-fishers; too soon we were forced so far shoreward that it was virtually impossible to continue casting. When we left, the cutthroats were still swirling and dimpling in the calm grey sea.

The Price of Progress

Over the years, Martin and I have stumbled onto several other trouty bays and beaches. Some were even more beautiful, but none more generous than Right and Left Bays. We had four good seasons there, caught many of the big sea-run cutthroat that lived there, but we killed few of them. We hoped that those magnificent fish would be there for many seasons to come, and then, on an autumn day of a new season, we found that our concern had been for nothing.

The clapboard bridge crossing the small stream was the same as ever, but the once-beautifully-wooded trail was now an ugly bulldozed road; at one point the creek was now squeezed into a concrete culvert over which was an earth-filled bridge; and the lower reaches of the creek now spilled through a wasteland tangle of slash and up-rooted trees that reached down to the tidal flats. In the name of progress, such things are more and more done. One season later, a wharf jutted obscenely over the flats of Right Bay; and along the entire shoreline sprawled right at the high-water mark, was a tightly-packed network of log booms.

The trout might still be there, if one cares to look for them. And perhaps, when the tide is extremely high, there might be enough water in which to work a fly. But the booms have not only shrunk the fishing space, they have scoured and rutted the once-natural shoreline, and it is no longer a place for the fly-fisher.

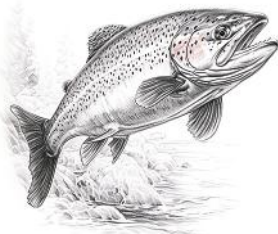
And, in the name of progress, man is rapidly ruining other good cutthroat haunts. Only last season this beach was bull-dozed, an estuary was re-routed, and a beach-front was piledriven with toxic arsenate-treated logs. It is little wonder that the angler must look farther afield for his sport, and that the once-numerous sea-run cutthroat is already scarce.

Last autumn, friends and I who admire the sea-runs searched for and found a yet-unspoiled cutthroat beach. It is perhaps the most beautiful and trouty spot we have ever discovered. It is not a typical tidal beach; it has no marsh grass, sloughs or mud flats, but is a gently-sloping beach of small, clean gravel. The sea waters that wash it are crystal-clean, and on certain phases of the tide it is patrolled by schools of magnificent cutthroat trout. We call it Pebble Beach.

For the time being, Pebble Beach seems safely hidden from the cold, searching eyes of progress, and perhaps will provide several seasons of good sport. Perhaps. But no matter how many autumns it remains un-spoiled, I will never be able to go there without dreading that I will see the signs that precede destruction — surveyor's ribbons and pegs! When I see those tell-tale signs, I will be saddened, and I will once again be searching. One day, there may be no un-spoiled areas to search for, and there may be no more cutthroat trout. And then, the end will be written to another chapter in the history of the decline and fall of B. C. sport fishing. And then too, there will be no future; there will only be the past, and nostalgia, for everyone.

Eulogy for the Cutthroat Trout

Anyone who has ever met a coastal cutthroat trout knows him as a handsome fish. Many, myself included, believe him to be the most attractive game fish of



the Pacific Coast. I, for one, like the cutthroat whether his sides are shiny silver or lemon-yellow, or whether his fins are transparent white or orange-rimmed. And I like to meet these heavily-spotted trout on drizzly winter days, or on glittering late summer afternoons.

The cutthroat was probably so-named because he often wears two slash-like marks on the underside of his jaw. On some, the slashes are bright red; on others, the marks are quite faint. Whether it is of jaw, fin, or side the colouration of cutthroat trout varies considerably. He also varies in other ways: a hooked cutthroat sometimes runs hard and jumps often; he sometimes struggles doggedly and stays submerged. Sometimes a mature cutthroat weighs mere ounces; sometimes he weighs more than fifteen pounds. Sometimes he takes an angler's offerings with suicidal abandon; sometimes he perversely refuses everything.

Although the cutthroat is native only to the Pacific Coast of North America, he inhabits both fresh and salt water, and his range is extensive — from Northern California to Southern Alaska. Like so many salmon and trout, the cutthroat matures and spawns in his fourth year. And, like his other freshwater relatives, he needs unpolluted creeks and rivers in which to spawn and grow. Like so many game fish, he faces extinction unless measures are taken to curb pollution; also, like other trout, cutthroat occasionally spawn more than once, often several times.

Quite naturally, cutthroat that take up housekeeping in the rivers of coastal British Columbia generally tend to be smallish. After all, B. C.'s coastal lakes and streams are not rich in fish food. However, there are large coastal lakes where cutthroat grow to a most respectable size indeed! Two such renowned lakes are Sproat on Vancouver Island, and Powell, near the mainland pulp mill port of Powell River. Many theories have been offered as to why cutthroats vary so much in size. Genetics has been suggested, and it has been proven that big trout beget big eggs, and that big eggs beget big, healthy trout. And so on. Carried on long enough, it is possible that a strain of large superbly-conditioned (man-attacking?) trout would evolve. But, although big trout are generally more

aggressive, and consequently better fed and healthier than are smaller trout of the same age class, the growth rate of coastal cutthroat is largely a result of the quantity and quality of the available food supply.

Coastal rivers and streams are poor producers of fish food for two primary reasons: the nutrient content of the water is too low, and fluctuations of both stream flow and water temperature are too high. Coastal lakes, though relatively barren, are more stable, hence richer in planktonic life. Such lakes are more suitable for permanent and semi-permanent populations of forage-type fishes such as stickle-backs and salmon and trout fry. In turn, these fishes form a considerable part of the lake cutthroat's diet, hence a primary reason why lake cutthroats grow to greater sizes than do their river cousins.

Further, there is a good chance that the more stable conditions of coastal lakes also result in both a higher survival of spawned trout, and an increase in the size of individual spawners. I say individual spawners because the growth rate of spawned fish rarely compares with that of maiden trout. Kelts, particularly consecutive-year spawners, seldom fully recover from the spawning ordeal. But, a proportion of multiple-spawning cutthroat do not spawn every year, but every other year, and such trout, though few, would likely be the largest specimens of any lake's cutthroat population.

Though primarily a freshwater trout, the coastal cutthroat may develop anadromous tendencies during any year of its freshwater life. It will then abandon its parent stream for a nomadic life in the sea, and then, like its freshwater brother, the growth rate of saltwater cutthroat also varies according to food supply. However, it is the year in which the cutthroat migrates to sea that more accurately determines his size at maturity. Sea-runs that leave their parent streams early in their second year are generally bigger at maturity than those that leave in their third, fourth, or fifth years. The early migrant becomes bigger simply because he gets a longer shot at the richer seafood diet.

The story of coastal cutthroat size is made more complex by the fact that the size of migrants in any given year also ranges considerably. There are a number of reasons for variation in migrant size, not

the least is which is the behaviour patterns of individual specimens. It is fairly certain that some saltwater cutthroat travel little during their entire life. Others leave their parent streams early in life, and make periodic raids back into freshwater to take advantage of temporary abundances, such as salmon eggs, salmon fry, or insects. Some make excursions into the open ocean, and apparently feed well for their trouble. All said, it is not surprising that sea-runs frequently vary from about one-to-eight pounds when mature. Much depends on whether the trout was an early or late comer to sea life, and whether he was a beach or an ocean-feeding trout.

Even though the approximately three-month-long spawning season does not begin until February, some mature sea-run cutthroat begins their upstream migration as early as July. Such cutthroat usually belongs to moderately large streams or rivers. Other sea-runs, particularly those of small creeks, stay in the area until the very last moment. Many ready-to-spawn cutthroat have been encountered in tidal waters as late as February.

Unfortunately, few sea-runs seem to survive the spawning ordeal. It would appear that a high percentage of the spawned-out trout that return to the sea later succumb to the rigors of the fresh-to-saltwater transition. Others are likely easier-than-usual prey for marine predators such as seals, ling cod, and dog fish.

Guardians of the Vanishing Waters

And, as if cutthroat did not face enough pressure from the growing human population — the pressures of pollution and other missuses of water being foremost — I am convinced that sea-run cutthroat populations can be seriously depleted by over-harvesting. (And I am aware that some biologists may deny this claim, but they are merely guessing too. The simple truth is that no one knows; the sea-run cutthroat is basically an unstudied fish.) Perhaps it is unfortunate that the sea-run is relatively easy to catch. Fortunately, it is possible for those who don't measure the trout's value in pounds and ounces to attempt to safeguard their sport. They can briefly admire, then release the fish that provide such valuable moments...

THE TOP MAYFLIES

Author: Danie Erasmus

OF BC STREAMS

No other insect symbolizes fly-fishing in streams more than the mayfly and seeing those little iconic sailboats floating downstream can get any angler excited. Even the earliest writings and drawings on fly-fishing tell of anglers catching fish with mayfly imitations. This is no surprise as mayflies are one of the major food groups for trout. Mayflies are on the menu daily and year round, and can be up to 25 per cent of a trout's food intake.

Life of a mayfly

Mayflies need as little as a few months or may take up to two years to produce the next generation. For example, Blue Winged Olives can have up to three generations (some refer to them as broods) a year, Western Green Drakes need a full year and Brown Drakes need up to two years for one generation.

Mayflies do not go through pupation and therefore have an incomplete metamorphosis. Their life cycle consists of four stages: egg, nymph, and two adults stages called dun and spinner. The nymphs molt up to 30 times, and with each

molt produce a slightly different looking instar. Once the nymph has reached maturity, it hatches and emerges from the water as a flying adult, known as the dun. The dun in turn hatches again into the mature adult known as the spinner.

Duns and spinners look similar to one another, but there are some differences. The dun usually has opaque wings with more hair on its body whereas the spinner has clear wings, darker coloured body and little to no hair. Mayflies are the only insects with two adult life stages and they live very briefly, typically no longer than three days.

Danie Erasmus

MATCHING THE HATCH IMPROVES YOUR FISHING SUCCESS, BUT IT ALSO MAKES YOU MORE AWARE OF YOUR ENVIRONMENT, AND THE COMPLEXITY AND INTRICACIES OF OUR STREAMS



Anglers often talk about emergers and cripples, especially when talking about mayflies. These are not actual life stages but rather terms used to describe what anglers see on the river. The emerger is that step when the mayfly crawls out of the nymphal shuck to the time it appears on the water surface as a dun. A cripple is the result of a damaged wing in the emerging process and sometimes the insect itself gets stuck in the nymphal shuck. Unable to fly these crippled mayflies float helplessly downstream and become easy prey. Many anglers tie flies specifically to imitate emergers and cripples.

Trout feed on nymphs and both adult stages. Nymphs become prey when they are either washed off the river bottom sporadically, during behavioural dispersal drifts, or during emergence. Behavioural dispersal drifts occur when mayfly nymphs migrate downstream in search of new habitat. They do so by simply letting go of the bottom and are carried downstream by the current. These drifts peak in the hour before dawn and the hour after sundown. Naturally trout also feed on mayflies during the hatch. The nymphs and the adult stages can become food for trout at any point during this hatching process.

Mayflies hatch using one of three different strategies. The nymphs of most mayflies (Western Green Drakes, Blue Winged Olives, Pale Morning Dun and Mahogany Dun) swim to the surface. These duns crawl out of the shuck onto the water surface where they drift for meters down river while inflating their wings. The nymphs of other species (Brown Duns and Gray Drakes) will crawl out of the river and then the dun hatch on land. In the third strategy some mayflies hatch while the nymphs are still on the bottom, the duns then swim to the surface, and at the surface these duns fly away almost immediately (some Pale Evening Duns).

How many mayflies do you need to imitate?

In British Columbia there are currently 93 mayfly species, but only a handful are relevant to fly-fishing and many species can be imitated with the same fly pattern.

To effectively match the hatch, focus on these mayflies:

1. Blue Winged Olives
2. Western Green Drake
3. Pale Morning Dun
4. Mahogany Dun
5. Pale Evening Dun
6. Brown Drake
7. Western March Brown
8. Tricos

The common names of mayflies can be very confusing. Some names refer to a specific species, such as the Western Green Drake for *Drunella grandis*. Whereas other names like Blue Winged Olives refer to many species within the Baetidae family. Sometimes it depends on the geographic location. In BC, a number of species belonging to the Heptagenia Genus are called Pale Evening Duns, but on the East Coast of North America *Ephemerella dorothea*, which is not found in BC, is called Pale Evening Dun.

Mayflies spend in excess of 95 per cent of their time as nymphs, so you need to be effective when fishing nymphs. When imitating nymphs keep it simple as nymphs are generally shades and combinations of olive, brown, gray and black, and are easily imitated with flies tied onto hooks from size 20 to as large as size 10, with the majority tied on sizes 16 to 12 hooks. Mayfly nymphs do vary in shape though and when tying flies, keep these shapes or morphology types in mind.

Mayfly nymphs evolved into four morphology types (clingers, crawlers, swimmers, and burrowers) that allow them to occupy different habitats in rivers. Clinger nymphs have flattened heads and bodies that allow them to cling to rocks in the fast moving water of riffles. Crawlers have strong stout legs allowing them to crawl on the river bottom in riffles and runs without being swept away by the current. Swimmers have torpedo-shaped bodies and can swim in a variety of habitat including riffles, runs and pools. Burrowers are long and slender, and dig U-shaped tunnels in sections of rivers with soft sandy and silty bottoms.

1. Blue Winged Olives

(swimmer nymphs, and 2 or 3-tailed duns and spinners)

The name Blue Winged Olive (BWO) is a common name given to several species in the Baetidae family. BWO mayflies are named for the dun stage as it has an olive body and opaque blue-gray coloured wings. As BWOs are small, most anglers avoid imitating the



nymphs and focus on the adults using dry flies tied on 16 and 18 hooks.

Blue Winged Olives are arguably one of the most prolific hatches across North America. They hatch year round with peaks in the spring and mid summer, with another small peak in the fall. Occupying mostly runs, the nymphs will swim to the surface where the dun will crawl out. The duns often struggle to break through the surface of the water and end up floating long distances, exposing them to trout.

2. Western Green Drake

(crawler nymphs, and 3-tailed duns and spinners)

Western Green Drake (*Drunella grandis*) nymphs are crawlers with robust looking bodies and legs. Both nymphs and adult imitations are tied on size 10 hooks. The dun has a brown to olive-coloured body with distinctive yellow banding and dark gray opaque wings. The spinners look very similar to the duns, except the wings are more translucent.



Hatching in the late afternoons from June to July, nymphs migrate to slower moving parts of the river. From here the nymphs perform false charges to the surface before they finally ascend to hatch. At the surface, the duns crawl out and float several meters downstream as they need time to inflate their wings. Given their large size and fairly good size hatches, trout gorge themselves on the duns and cripples.

Later in the season in August, a mayfly that looks like a smaller version of the Western Green Drake hatches. Called Flavs, after *Drunella flavilinea*, this mayfly looks and acts very similar to the Western Green Drake. This hatch is very productive especially on East Kootenay streams.



3. Pale Morning Dun

(crawler nymphs, and 3-tailed duns and spinners)

Pale Morning Dun (PMD) mayflies include two species (*Ephemera exrucians* and *E. infrequens*). The nymphs and adults are imitated with flies tied onto size 12 and 14 hooks. The nymph is effectively imitated with a beadhead pheasant tail nymph. The dun has a light cream to

yellow body and light gray opaque wings. Sometimes you may find the odd orange to amber bodied PMD among the yellow ones. The spinners have clear wings with pale yellow to reddish-brown bodies. And as the name suggests these mayflies will hatch in the morning to mid-afternoon.

Most PMD nymphs live in faster moving riffles and runs but migrate to slower and less turbulent water to hatch. PMDs hatch in similar fashion as the Western Green Drake. They also struggle to break through the surface film and often damage their wings in the process. As a result, emerger and cripple fly patterns are very effective in imitating emerging PMDs. Once on the surface the duns float down river to allow time for inflating their wings.

4. Mahogany Dun

(crawler nymphs, 3-tailed duns and spinners)

The name Mahogany Dun (Genus *Paraleptophlebia*) is a collective name for a few species in British Columbia. Imitations of Mahogany Duns are tied on hooks ranging in size from 12 and 16 hooks. The dun usually has a dark chocolate brown body with dark gray wings. The spinner has clear wings with reddish brown to dark brown bodies.

Mahogany Dun hatches peak at two times in the season: in the late spring and again in the early fall. These peak times are due to different species and not different generations in the same year. Mahogany Duns hatch in slower moving water, and even those that live in faster water migrate to slower



water before ascending to the surface. When it is time to hatch, the nymphs swim to the surface, and like many other mayflies the duns often drift long distances before flying away.



5. Pale Evening Dun

(clinger nymphs, and 2-tailed duns and spinners)

Mature PED (Genus *Heptagenia*) nymphs and adults are imitated with flies tied onto size 12 and 14 hooks. As a member of the clinger nymphs, use nymph patterns with a wide profile to imitate the wide head and flattened body of the PED nymph. The bodies of the duns and spinners vary in colour from a creamy-white to yellow, to reddish-brown. The veins in the wings of the duns and spinners are pronounced. Many anglers will confuse PED and PMD adults. In British Columbia adult PED species have two tails and the PMD species have three tails.

As the name suggests these mayflies typically hatch later in the afternoon to early evening from June to August. The mature nymphs emerge by first migrating to slightly calmer water. The nymphs of some PED species swim to the surface to hatch, but other PED species duns hatch on the river bottom and then swim to the surface. Casting soft hackle or traditional wet flies are effective in imitating these swimming duns. Once at the surface the duns fly away quickly.

6. Brown Drake

(burrowing nymphs, and 3-tailed duns and spinners)

Brown Drakes (*Ephemera simulans*) are large mayflies — the largest of the stream dwelling mayflies in British Columbia. This long and slender mayfly is best imitated by tying imitations onto 3X long size ten hooks. The nymphs have pale yellow bodies, and tan-brownish thorax and legs. The wings of both the duns and spinners are clear with distinctive brown marks. The abdomen is a pale yellow with brown



markings on the dorsal and ventral sides. Peaking in the month of July, Brown Drakes hatch in the afternoon and into the early evening. The nymphs swim fast to the surface where the duns break through the surface to fly away quickly.

Brown Drake adults are often confused with Hex mayflies (*Hexagenia limbata*), a mayfly more associated with stillwaters. The easiest way to distinguish between these two mayflies is to count the number of tails of the adults. Brown Drake adults have three tails and Hex mayflies have two tails.

7. Western March Brown

(clinger nymphs, and 2-tailed duns and spinners)

The Western March Brown (Genus *Rhithrogena*) mayfly is one of the most well known mayflies in BC. It is one of the first big insects to hatch on BC streams. Nymph and dry fly imitations are tied on standard size 12 to 14 hooks when fishing Western March Browns (WMB). As a member of the clinger nymphs, WMB nymphs look similar to PED nymphs but grow slightly larger. WMB duns have dark gray marks or patches on their wings and light brown abdomens with cream to yellow coloured segmentation.

This mayfly starts to hatch in March in the lower third of BC and will continue to do so until May as you move further north. When hatching the nymphs ascend slowly to the surface, and as result the current carries the drifting nymphs for meters, making them easy prey. Once at the surface, the duns need time to inflate their wings, exposing themselves further to trout.



8. Tricos

(crawler nymphs, 3-tailed duns and spinners)

The Trico (Genus *Tricorythodes*) is the smallest mayfly anglers need to consider when matching the hatch. Imitated with



flies tied onto size 22 to 26 hooks, anglers who fish Tricos focus on the spinner falls. Female spinners have bodies that are tan to light olive in colour. The male spinners are essentially black with clear wings. During a spinner fall trout key in on the male spinners that fall first and later switch to the females as more females become available. In British Columbia the Trico spinner falls are not as intense as the famed spinner falls on some rivers of Wyoming and Montana, but it is always a good idea to have a few spinner imitations for August and September.

The mayflies highlighted in this article represent the major hatches across British Columbia. You may find a few different mayflies on your local streams, but for the most part these are the mayflies you need to know about. It is very satisfying when to tie a fly for a specific hatch and then have success. Matching the hatch improves your fishing success, but it also makes you more aware of your environment, and the complexity and intricacies of our streams.

WELCOMING THE NEW SEASON

by Glen Wonders

"I look into my fly box and think about all the elements I should consider in choosing the perfect fly: water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, what the fish are eating right now? Then I remember what a guide once told me: 'Ninety percent of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about five-eighths of an inch long"

– Alison Moir-Smith

"As I sit in my home in late March of 2024, I imagine that, like many anglers in the interior, and particularly those in the northern interior, we are eagerly awaiting local lakes becoming ice-free to commence the fishing season. This year advances with some concerns regarding the lack of snow we have experienced this winter, combined with the dry fall we previously experienced. What spring, summer and fall will bring us is, of course, impossible to predict, but the drought we experienced throughout much of BC last year appears to have intensified, and it does

not bode well for our fisheries and forests. We can only hope our spring and summer season is cool and moist, and that forest fires and low water will not be problematic.

Nevertheless, I am well stocked with fly patterns that I know are effective, and I will likely add a few more, despite having boxes upon boxes of flies. The vast majority of these are patterns I rarely (if ever?) use. I am not sure how this happened, although years of tying flies is a primary contributor to this situation. Part of this self-inflicted predicament has resulted from new pattern

I DON'T REALLY WANT TO SPEND TIME PLAYING WITH ELECTRONICS ON THE WATER WHEN I SHOULD BE TRYING TO CONCENTRATE ON FISHING AND ENJOYING THE SIMPLE JOY OF BEING ALIVE AND FISHING



Glen Wonders

types and materials that have been found to be effective at certain times in certain situations. I have tried to 'thin out' my patterns from time to time, although usually I clean out some boxes only to fill them up again with something else. I suspect that the only real solution to this matter is to stop tying new patterns altogether; but, as an individual who enjoys tying flies, I'm just going to have to clean out boxes from time to time and give the old patterns away.

Springtime Reflections

Happily, however, early spring is here and to corroborate this, while walking my Labrador retriever this morning I saw four robins — a sure sign of the forthcoming season. This means that I should soon have rods, reels, and bags full of those fly boxes ready to go. I have been retired for a couple of years now, and my major fishing trip of the year will soon be here — a month on a favored lake catching rainbow trout. The upside of this trip is that I enjoy the fishing, staying in my RV and camaraderie of friends at this lake — I really can't wait! One of the reasons I like this trip so much is that once you are set up, it is a completely enjoyable and 'easy' fishing trip. I call this easy because, relative to my earliest fishing adventures as a child, it would appear to be anything but simple, given all the fishing related stuff I now have.

I grew up in the city of Edmonton, which is not known as a fishing, and particularly fly fishing, destination. Many of my early fishing trips involved trips to the North Saskatchewan River, as we lived close to the confluence of Whitemud Creek, one of its many tributaries, or an occasional trip out to a nearby small, stocked reservoir for rainbow trout. This is only due to a mother who would drive me out when I asked enough times. God bless her! Occasionally my parents would also take me on a trip with our canoe, and I would attempt to catch whatever was swimming in the lake, usually unsuccessfully. This was long before I had any encounter with a fly rod. I was a fisherman with spin cast reels and usually some type of bait, usually earthworms from our garden, or gear for a Northern Pike and other fish of the prairies. This gear and associated tackle for my fishing attempts were simple in those days, and usually the result of going to a favoured store that sold all manner of fishing tackle — the 'Army and Navy'.

The Army and Navy was a 'discount' department



store that sold a lot of different items, (clothes, shoes, kitchenware, Etc.), but most interestingly for me, they always had a large selection of fishing tackle. I don't know if they had fly tackle at that store back then, but pretty much everything else for a young boy's fishing dream was there. My mother would drop me off and I would disappear into the bowels of the tackle department while she went off to do what she needed to do along Whyte Avenue in south Edmonton. Often, I would lose track of time and she would have to come find me after spending too much time looking at 'everything'. Interestingly enough memory reminds me that even back then, the springtime restlessness of 'gearing up' was part of my seasonal pattern.

Glen Wonder's
Things

The Noodle Rod and Other Beginnings

My first fly rod came to me while on a family trip to Oregon, where I found myself browsing the fishing tackle department (where else) of a small, general hardware store. I am not sure of the brand name, but it was a package including a 7-foot rod, some type of basic fly reel, a line with a bit of a leader, and some curious flies. I remember setting it up with limited fly-fishing backing or knowledge, and then went on to try my first few casts; it was truly a noodle rod, but



Glen Wonder's Things

such was my entry into the fly-fishing world. I also remember catching some small trout in a small river near Portland with it. The fly that seemed to do the trick was part of the few that came with the rod package — it looked style-wise like a black gnat, except the body was bright orange and the hackle bright yellow. Later in the summer I managed to catch some small sea-run cutthroat, although I was using a worm on a bait hook at the end of the fly rod. Fly-fishing purists, please forgive me if you can, but I had no reference or understanding of fly-fishing at this point — this would come much later for me.

As I moved into my high school years, my love of fishing continued, but most of my trips had little to do with the fine art of fly-fishing. There were occasional forays that included the fly rod, but most of my fly-fishing was more by blind luck (and often frustration). I had become very successful at using a spinning rod with small lures and occasionally bait, and almost anytime I was in trout territory, I could reliably catch trout with the spinning rod. When I was in university, I bought a couple of less expensive but far more functional fly rods; these certainly

enabled me to become a better caster, and deepened my interest in fly-fishing, and were steps above what I had used until this point.

At some point, I made the decision that if I was going to fish for trout in lakes or streams I would do so only with a fly rod. So, this was my driving mantra: "If I was pursuing trout, it would be strictly with a fly rod from that point forward." I eventually moved to BC, and thereafter north central BC and, kept my oath — "I would not allow myself to deliberately fish for trout with any other method than the fly rod." There were two immediate outcomes of this; firstly, initially I caught a lot fewer fish, especially early on; and secondly, I was at the functional beginning of a very steep, and at times long, learning curve. I was quite fortunate in that through work and social contacts I began to rub shoulders with local experienced fly-fishers; that, coupled with reading fly-fishing publications and such my knowledge base improved.

A New Obsession: Tropical Fly Fishing

About the time I moved to Prince George a very good fly-fishing shop opened in town (and another in Quesnel) and both were successfully open for a number of years. This was good for me, and likely good for the shops, as I spent lots of my hard-earned dollars buying all kinds of fly-fishing items from both. Several of the good folks that ran these shops not only became good friends, but also began supplying me with better equipment that did enable a superior fishing experience. I also began to tie my own fly patterns, based on advice and my experience of catching fish on flies that work. My entrance into the fly-tying world was less than elegant, much like my casting in these days, in that I never took a fly-tying class, although I wish I had, and if you look at my patterns, they are usually functional, but rarely works of art for framing.

About 12 years ago or so, a friend invited me on my first tropical fly-fishing trip. This was a completely different angling world for me, unlike anything previously experienced. Of course, I had to not only tie completely different flies (crazy Charlies, shrimp and crab patterns), but also had to go into a completely different fly rod configuration. This led to a new obsession of chasing Bonefish, Permit and occasionally Tarpon in far-flung regions of the Caribbean. Once again, I found myself on a long learning curve and it is fair to say that pursuing those species has moments of pure joy and many experiences

of extreme frustration, especially with Permit.

So, the gear issue is now bounded by 3 major configurations:

- light trout fly rods/reels (4 weights);
- intermediate trout rods/reels (6 weights);
- saltwater setups (8, 9, 10 and 12 weights).

If this seems bewildering, welcome to my world; I actually don't quite know how I ended up with this much stuff, but I do use most of it from time-to-time.

Comically, I have kind of gone through similar processes in small watercraft, trying to find the balance between affordability, practicality, and comfort. I began with a canoe and fished from that for some number of years, only falling out on a couple of occasions — something remarkable into itself. I have owned no less than 3 float tubes, one of which was one of the first of its kind in Alberta, an import from the States. You should have heard the comments when people first saw that! I even had one person ask an Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer if what I was doing — fishing, should be allowed in such a craft. I have also possessed two pontoon boats, but I have given up on those too, although nothing really beats floating a small river in a pontoon boat. I have owned several inflatable 'zodiac-style' boats; one was a relatively cheap model, but lasted me a long time and was light and easy to maneuver to lakes that did not have a direct launch. I have also owned 3 small aluminum boats, but only 2 now, and motors to power them. All these various crafts were bought, generally used well, and sold off at some point for something 'better'; at least I like to think that.

Prepping for Fly Fishing: Gear, Doubts, and Rods

So, I now sit here, the season is about to commence, and I still have a few more patterns I think I must have to stuff in a box, and then to stuff into a boat bag that becomes filled with things that I think I might need at some point. In some ways this boat bag would make a better boat anchor than a practical aide to fly fishing. Also going out with me in my boat is a fish finder, an electronic gizmo that I have absolutely no faith in. I suspect that if I spent some time adjusting it out on the water it might be more reliable, but I don't really want to spend time playing with electronics on the water when I should be trying to concentrate on fishing and enjoying the simple joy of being alive and fishing. I'm usually carting 4 rods in my boat inside of two double rod tubes: two floating

SO WHEN YOU SEE ME STUMBLING DOWN TO MY BOAT WITH BAGS, ROD TUBES AND ALL OTHER ACCOUTREMENTS THAT I THINK I NEED FOR A DAY ON THE WATER REMEMBER — THE JOY OF FLY FISHING IS THAT IT'S ALL ABOUT SIMPLICITY...

lines rigged to fish different depths, and two different types of sinking lines. The rod tubes are born from the experience of seeing too many broken rods, rarely mine, getting stepped on, or gone overboard through mishaps. As it happens, I rarely fish a second rod (as I am allowed to do in BC when fishing solo in a boat), as many of the people I see fishing this way simply lose twice as many fish, and not uncommonly — rods.

So when you see me stumbling down to my boat with bags, rod tubes and all other accoutrements that I think I need for a day on the water remember — the joy of fly fishing is that it's all about simplicity...

Glen Wonders
Bonefish Cuba



GUEST FEATURE

The Harvest *Trout*

by Pat Demeester

Small sculpins scurry in the shallows as I wade into the run and strip a few pulls from my reel. I knot a small # 14 yellow humpy, received in the mail from Newfoundland and tied by my friend Frank, onto my leader tippet, smother it and my fly with Gink, and flip it into the water. When my rivers are low and clear, I enjoy fishing these small flies on light tackle.

The sounds of fledgling woodpeckers echo through the alder grove, which finds its way down a steep draw and ends at the river's edge. I know this river well. I stare downstream at the shallow run I plan on fishing. It appears to be 5-feet deep, but looks are deceiving, and I know this place holds a secret. I have fished this water many times, and I am familiar with the small gut about half-way through the run, carved into existence by a large rock not visible from where I am watching. The riffle is made by displaced water that hugs and rolls over the rock just a few inches under the surface. Clearly, in high water run-off periods, the current and volume does its work, a slot 4-feet wide and 6-feet deep is formed, and turns into a long gut that extends to a sweeping tail-out. This honey-spot has been good to me over the years I have fished it, often giving up two or more Cutts to me when fished well.

It's early September. Nights are cool and I can feel the river's pulse in my waders. In the head of the run, several humped male pink salmon are dancing around a small female, which is in the center of her small redd. I watch, light my pipe, and enjoy witnessing their final acts, while the woodpeckers once again catch my attention as they play in the alders and make quite a racket



Photos by Pat Demeester



as they go about their business. Life is good when you stop to smell the roses!

I am grateful to be here on this beautiful day, but my thoughts turn to fall, and of what I seek on this day — harvest trout! My eyes are locked on the run, on the gravel, and on the rocks behind the pinks, looking for a slight shadow in the morning sun, a tail movement of re-position, or the white of a mouth as an egg is taken as it is sucked from the redd by the current. I see a white stone in the riffle... it disappears... and re-appears; gone, and then I see it again. Aha! Now I see you — a small ghost sitting almost

perfectly still about four feet behind the salmons. The twitch of his tail, the tilt of his pectoral fins as he re-positions; he has disclosed his location. Slowly, I raise my rod tip above my shoulder, take a small wrist-roll to uncoil the line into a roll-cast, and the fly follows my line to land a few feet above the waiting trout. His attention is caught, and with a tilt of his fins and a single wave of his tail, he rises, takes water, the fly and some air with a sucking sound, and dives back to his hold. I see the bubbles as he releases air, and then I bow to thank him, and lift the rod gently, which begins to bend from his several head

shakes as I feel the fly take purchase in the corner of his jaw. I have the advantage now, as I can turn him when needed, versus if he was hooked in the roof of his mouth. He should be mine!

He runs up-stream to the salmon; they scatter from his commotion. He runs to the head of the riffle, where he hides himself under the white water. Its easy to turn him back down-river now, and he rolls on his side to expose his rich golden colour and heavily-spotted body. He is a good cutthroat, and now makes a down-stream attempt to rid the hook, and I work hard to hold him on my 4-weight grass rod. The small Hardy Marquis screams and shutters in the rod seat as once more I turn him to keep him from getting too far down-river. I don't want him to spook another trout that might be lying in the gut down-stream. After a good battle well-waged, he comes to hand; a wonderful golden cutthroat of about 3-pounds. I smile, light my pipe, and watch him swim away to hide and recover under the fast water. "A perfect moment in time", I think to myself.

The mood of the river has once again calmed down, the female pink wasting no time getting back to work on the excavation of her nest — time is a-wasting! I move down-stream, careful to wade softly and to not throw a wake into the run. I work a cast just above the riffle formed above the boulder just below it. I have missed fish here before by not taking my time to be patient, and to fish the riffle correctly. I work drifts down both sides of the boulder — nothing. I cast a short drift down to the rock, and lift the line to skitter the fly — immediately I rise another good trout! Missed him! Again, a drift and I wake the fly toward the bank; a fish follows the little humpy, but turns back when the fly gets to the 2-foot depth of water.

It looked to be a good trout A few more drifts — nothing. I switch to a small Silver Doctor dressed by my friend Art. The cast needs a short mend to sink the fly, the swing starts slow and deep, and I see the large Cutt



I SMILE, LIGHT MY PIPE, AND WATCH HIM SWIM AWAY TO HIDE AND RECOVER UNDER THE FAST WATER. "A PERFECT MOMENT IN TIME", I THINK TO MYSELF

appear and turn as he takes the feathers without a hint of suspicious disposition. He is off instantly, there is no holding him above the slot as I wished to, and he barrels through the best and still unfished water like a bucking bronc. He takes to the air several times in his vigour to return my fly, I almost best him, but

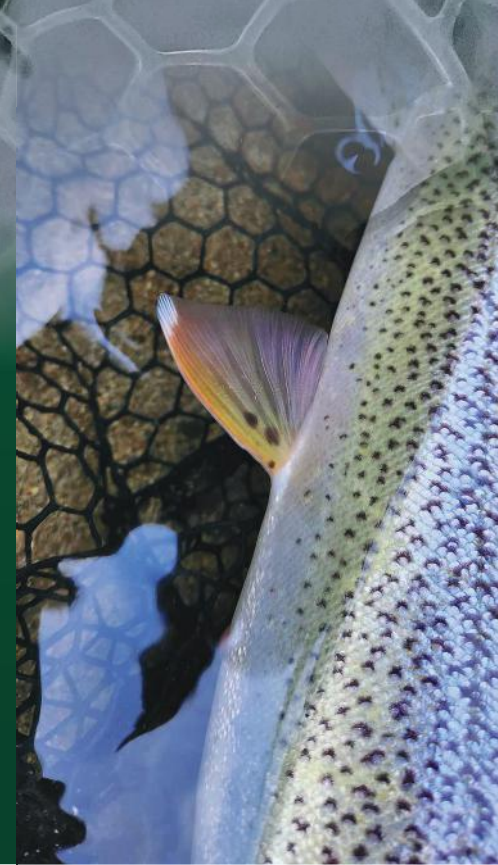
he bolts to the tail-out and leaves the run. Then water is heavy leaving the run, and I now realize I am chasing a sea-run cutthroat down-stream! As I pass through the un-fished water, several fish spook and head up-river to join the pinks. I follow him down-stream about 50-feet, and find a calm spot to bring him under



Photos by Pat Demester

control. He is over 20-inches, silver-bright and fresh from the sea, his bright red slash vivid against his chrome, sea lice hanging to his back. We are only a few hundred yards from the salt; he likely arrived on the last tide. I give him a moment to regain his composure, and he is off once more to faster waters. I sit to regain my own senses, have a pipe, and

realize, though still early in this day, it has already been made, and I stroll downstream to meet the next piece of water and think to myself....life is good, this is wonderful!



Tying Mayflies for Stillwater Trout – Nymph, Emerger, Dun

By Brian Smith

Mayflies! The very thoughts of them have warmed hearts of generations of avid fly-fishers. Whether it be lakes, rivers or sloughs, mayflies have been a consistent fodder for at least twenty-five percent of our fishes' diet source.

The lakes which I fish in northern BC have glorious hatches of mayflies, mostly the Callibaetis variety in size #14 olives, although the Caenis is also dominant later in the spring, which requires size #16 hooks and a tan colour to match the hatch. Using Dragon Lake as my example and depending on consistent weather conditions, you can begin to look for Callibaetis mayflies about one month after ice-off and when the water temperature has crept up to around 50 degrees F., 10 C.

These mayflies are very olive in colour, although some are brown, and you can have prolific hatches which can last for several weeks, given the right conditions. Warm cloudy days with light wind are the best bets for a decent hatch. Caenis, the two-tailed mayflies, come on later in May and can hatch sporadically for most of the early summer, waning once the real hot weather of August appears. Both of these genera thrive in shallow shoal water less than two meters deep and, when the hatches are on, large trout will venture up onto and cruise the reefs to pick off emerging nymphs rising from the bottom to hatch, or to gobble them on the surface. It's a floating-line mecca that brings chills to the dry-fly fisher!

Jack Shaw's Mayfly Nymph is typical of one of his ties: standard hook, no bead, all-natural materials, as much life as possible. In my typical fashion of duping with a pattern, I have added peacock herls for the thorax, because I am aware of the darkening of the thorax during emergence, and I also like the "life" and shimmer that herls

does to a pattern. Peacock herls are the Flashabou of yesteryear. I like to fish my nymphs with a floating line, 14-foot 5x leader, or the same leader and a 5-foot clear midge-tip floating line. Mayflies do not move quickly — a few twitches and long pause is usually the best ticket. Expect a hammer just before the twitch!

My emerger is a pattern which I developed about twenty years ago, and, by varying their size and colour, has been successful for me to imitate any emerging insect on lake or river, be it mayfly, midge, or caddis that is hatching. It is a sort of take-off on a Quigley Cripple, but a little simpler and using all-natural materials. I have eliminated legs and hackle on the pattern completely, so the fly lays flat in the surface film, and the shuck suspends below the abdomen. The deer hair protrudes upward and is the only material you apply Floatant to.

My extended dun mayfly has been a game-changer for me! Not that I wasn't catching fish on my original patterns using mallard tips and deer hair, but several years ago I came across an article in Fly Tyer magazine on Raffia-winged stoneflies by Igor and Nadia Stancev which aroused my curiosity. When I saw their stoneflies, my heart quickened! Really! Why not apply Raffia to the wings of my stoneflies, caddis and mayflies, which I have now done with outstanding results. Of course, being

The Shaw Mayfly Nymph

By Brian Smith

The dressing:

Hook:	standard wet nymph # 12-16
Thread:	UTC 70 rusty brown
Ribs:	fine copper wire
Tail:	3-5 pheasant sword fibres, reddish colour
Abdomen:	ostrich herls, dyed rusty brown
Wing-case:	pheasant sword
Thorax:	2 x peacock herls
Throat (legs):	grouse, small neck feather
Other colours:	 olive,  tan

an avid fly-tier, I now have thousands of standard "old" flies which I have popped into the useless box! I am happy to share this revelation with you, but for some tiers it will probably be "nothing new here."

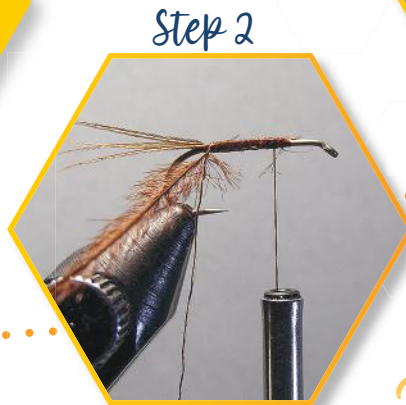
April 10, 2024

SHAW MAYFLY NYPH BROWN





Step 1



Step 2

Tying instructions:

1 Attach the tail fibres; have them extend body length.

2 Attach the copper wire and the ostrich herls (use just 1), leaving both at the hook bend.

4 Attach the wing-case material at the 2/3 point of the shank. Tie the stubble down in front to add to thorax bulk.

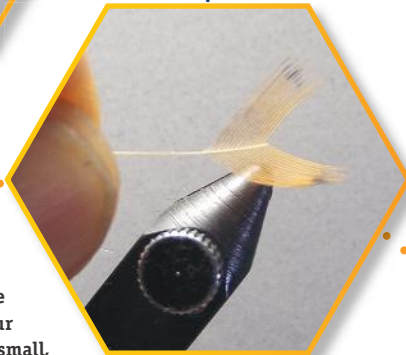


Step 3

3 Wind the ostrich 2/3 up the hook shank, and then the copper wire in 5-6 turns over the ostrich. (You can counter-wind the rib for strength if you wish).



Step 4



Step 6-1

5 leaving a full eye-length of shank for the legs and head, attach the peacock herls in front of the wing-case, and wind them forward.



Step 5

6 A tying trick here for the rest of your life! Pluck a full, small, grouse neck feather. Discard the chaff, spread the fibres backward, and then clip the tip from the stem, leaving only 8-10 fibres on each side of the stem. Using light thread pressure and only two light turns of thread, attach the stem to the hook by inserting the stem through the hook's eye, angling it back and under the thorax. Using light pressure, pull back on the stem until you have the legs set perfectly in position, and tie them off.

Step 6-2



Finished

Step 7



7 Tie the wing-case over all and complete the fly. With your thumbnail, give the tails a pull and tweak to set them up and apart.

FLY TYING FEATURE

Mayfly Dun Emerger

By Brian Smith

The dressing:

Hook:	curved pupae, light wire, # 12-16
Thread:	UTC 70 rusty brown
Ribs:	copper wire, fine
Tail (as shuck):	medium-sized mallard feather, dyed Callibaetis tan
Abdomen:	ostrich herls (use 1), dyed brown
Thorax:	peacock herls
Wing-case:	deer hairs, tan
Other abd. colours:	olive, tan in size 16



Step 1



1

Tying instructions:

Attach the tail shuck; make it shank length. Use the whole feather, as explained for the Shaw nymph's throat feather. The tail mimics the trailing shuck of the emerging dun, protrudes downward, and does not float. I use non-serrated scissors, and flatten the feather stem so it does not spin when I pull back on it.

Step 2



2

Attach the rib wire and the ostrich herls, leaving them at the hook bend in front of the tail shuck.

Step 3



3

Bring the ostrich herls to the 2/3 point of the shank, and then the wire in 4-5 turns.

Step 4



4

Attach the wing-case. Make it shank length.

Step 6



5

Wind a few peacock herls on for the thorax, leaving an eye-length for the wing-case and head.

Step 5



6

Bring the wing-case forward over the thorax, and post the deer hairs upward and forward.

FLY TYING FEATURE

Mayfly Dun, Raffia Extended

By Brian Smith

The dressing:

Hook:	standard 2x dry fly # 10-22
Thread:	UTC rusty brown
Tail:	moose hairs, dark 4-5
Body:	deer hair, dyed muddy brown
Hackle:	medium dun saddle
Wing:	Raffia, grey
Other colours:	Limitless combinations of thread, body colours, and Raffia to match any hatching mayfly, lake or stream: olive (Green Drake), muddy olive (BWO), grey, tan (Caenis), black (Trico), yellow (PED, PMD), rusty brown (Brown Drake)

Step 1



Step 2



1 Tying instructions: Attach 5-6 moose hairs. Extend them full length of the shank.

2 Attach 8-10 deer hairs. Extend them just short of the moose hairs.

3 Over the deer hairs on the shank, take 5-6 turns to the hook bend.

Step 3



Step 4-1



Step 4-2

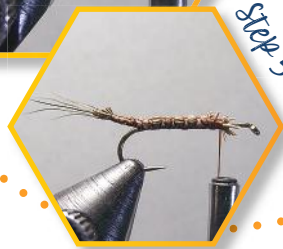


Step 5-1



4 Reverse the hook in your vise. Holding the deer hairs tight in your right hand (for a righty), with your left hand continue to wrap over the deer hairs in 5 wraps, and 5 wraps back to the bend.

Step 5-2



5 Right your hook in the vise, and continue to wrap up the shank, leaving 3 eye-lengths for the head, hackle and wing. Trim the deer hairs to a stubble as shown.

Step 6-1



Step 6-2



6 Cut a 1 cm. width of Raffia x 5 cm long (2 inches). Fold the length of Raffia in using your bodkin, and trim the folded section on one side, rounded on the top like a mayfly wing.

Step 6-3



7 Using the "pinch" method, measure and attach the wing body length, with the rounded side to the rear of the fly. Post the wing into position. Tip: I finish the head at this point so I create a pocket and know where to stop the hackle neatly.

Step 8



Step 7-1



Step 7-2



8 Attach the hackle in front of the wing, flat (convex) side facing the eye, take 2 full wraps behind the wing, and 3-4 full wraps in front. Finish the fly. Trim the bottom hackle to a "v" at the hook gap. Lastly, I spray all of my dry flies with a coat of silicone boot spray, which really helps your dries shed water and stay upright. I also "Gink" them when fishing them.

Picking a Fishing

Brain

With Len Piggin, President of the Kamloops Fly Fishers



Len Piggin,
President Kamloops Fly Fishers

In the early fifties my dad took his three boys to Monte Lake with our old wooden blue boat... I caught three and lost one... I was hooked.

Soon after, my Uncle Wilf bought us a fly-tying kit at the auction house at the bottom of 10th avenue in Kamloops, and I was hooked again! The building is still there, and after fifty years, I still have the vise and the box it came in. My Uncle Wilf was a great influence on my fishing passion, and took me to the Fly-Casting Session at Riverside Park when the world-famous Lefty Kreh came to town.

I haven't determined when I actually became a Member of the KFFA, but my first position was Treasurer in 1981. I helped out at our fly-fishing clinics that began as a once-a-year Fly Casting Session and then became Fly Fishing Classes held over a 3-day period.

I have been President of the KFFA on and off since 2010.

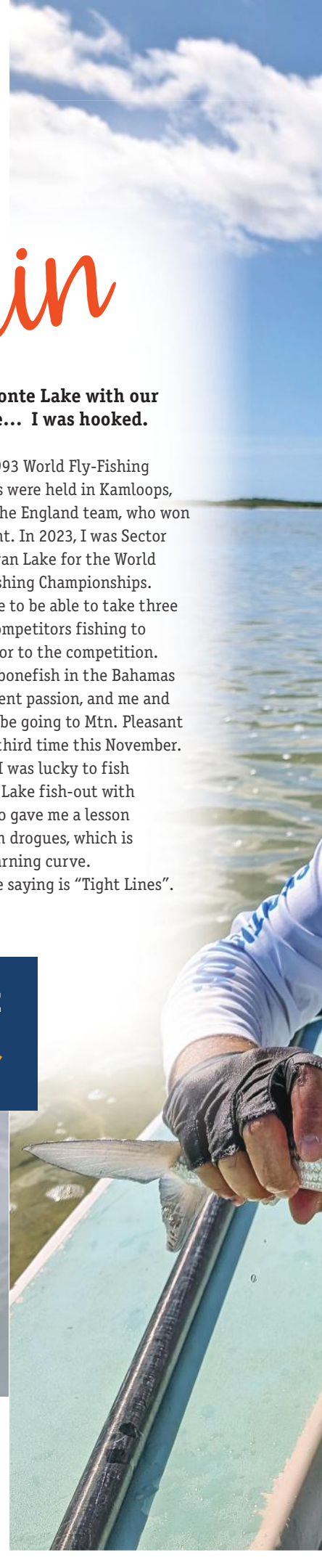
When the 1993 World Fly-Fishing Championships were held in Kamloops, I was Gilly to the England team, who won the tournament. In 2023, I was Sector Judge at Sullivan Lake for the World Masters Fly-Fishing Championships. I was fortunate to be able to take three of England's competitors fishing to Jacko Lake prior to the competition.

Angling for bonefish in the Bahamas is my most recent passion, and me and the group will be going to Mtn. Pleasant Lodge for the third time this November.

On May 4th I was lucky to fish at our Heffley Lake fish-out with Todd Oishi, who gave me a lesson on fishing with drogues, which is next on my learning curve.

My favourite saying is "Tight Lines".

MY FAVOURITE SAYING IS "TIGHT LINES"





Len's 4 Answers

Len Piggan

1. ONE PLACE to fish?

My favourite lake is Peterhope on the Nicola Plateau because you can fish for kokanee as well as Trout, and everyone knows how good kokanee are on the barbeque!

2. Having ONE ROD to fish that place with, what would you choose?

My favourite rods are now the Discovery series from New Zealand, which our members build at our Method sessions. I love my 10-foot 4-weight!

3. Having ONE REEL to put on that rod, which one would you choose, and what line?

My Hardy St. John and Ultralight series take the cake for reels. When teamed with an Airflo Royal Wild Triangle Taper type 1 line, which sinks at .5 inches per second, I have the perfect combination for fishing any still-water lake around here.

4. Having ONE FLY to use, which one would it be?

My fly is the old Interior classic pattern, the Green Carey. I used a Brown Carey on my May 4th outing withy Todd, and had great success.

I wish to be known as an "all around fly angler", not just a "crony fisherpersion". My favourite fly for early spring fishing is the Prince Nymph, fished on a type-1 sinking line in the shallows using a quick retrieve. Next is nymphs and whatever chironomid the fish are taking.





DESTINATION

Dragon Lake

Fishing Report 2023

Text and Photos by Jerry Buron

I returned home to Marysville, Washington from Quesnel, B.C. on May 31st after spending twenty-four days fishing at Dragon Lake. It was enjoyable to spend so much time fishing and renewing friendships from the past twenty-years of fishing Dragon Lake.

Highlights from this trip included seeing Bill Ludtke on my way home, whom I hadn't seen for many years. Doug Porter was fishing with Bill on and wanted additional books, so we met in 100 Mile House and spent some time catching up. It wasn't nearly long enough but for now it will have to do! It was great seeing Bill and how good he looked after so many years. When I was fishing Sheridan Lake off highway 24 in the Cariboo Region Bill was largely responsible for helping me master the art of fishing chironomids. He was truly a legend at Sheridan Lake for many years. Photo to the right is of Bill with a double-digit weight rainbow trout

taken by my wife Carolyn. Noone did it better than Bill Ludtke on Sheridan Lake! I was especially pleased to see my B.C. friends, whom I only get to see once a year, and also happy to meet several people who I've seen on TV, including Kathy Ruddick and the Freschi brothers, Don and Dale. It was nice to spend several days fishing along side these folks. The Freschi brothers can flat-out fish, putting on a clinic the several days I was able to fish near them.

I was pleased my equipment preformed well during my entire stay, because nothing is worse than having equipment problems, which can literally spoil a trip



Jerry Buron, Dragon Lake



Callibaetis mayfly adult on my outboard engine cowling



NOTHING IS WORSE THAN HAVING EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS, WHICH CAN LITERALLY SPOIL A TRIP WHEN SERIOUS EVENTS OCCUR.



when serious events occur. My travels both going and coming were un-eventful, which is just what you want when travelling a long distance for a trip.

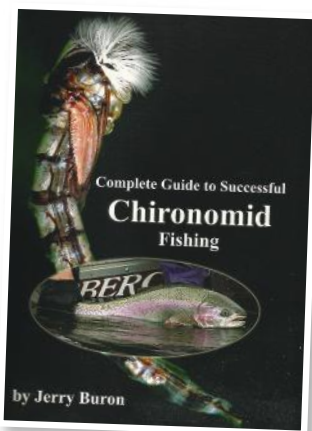
As to the fishing, it was a good trip. I managed to land a goodly number of fish including several over five lbs. My largest was twenty-eight inches in length which would put it right at nine pounds. I discovered the newer planted Horsefly

strain of rainbows put up a great fight. They resemble the Pennask strain of rainbows which are excellent top-water fighters.

Perhaps the highlight of this report is the yearly fishing chart showing my census of fish taken in the various sizes. I began keeping the data for the chart in 2008. This year's catch was below 2022 and especially 2019, which was a banner year

for me. The banner photo at the bottom of the page is a Callibaetis mayfly adult on my outboard engine cowling.

As this trip comes to an end, I hope you enjoyed the reports and photos as I've tried to have you accompany me on another of my adventures!



Dragon Lake Spring Yearly Fish Catch Records 2008 - 2023

Fish Size	2023	2022	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2010	2009	2008
12 Inches <	8	81											
13 Inches	21	32	33	24	35	28	2	19	24	4	24	4	8
14 Inches	14	28	8	21	43	17	1	15	20	1	7	8	11
15 Inches	20	23	13	3	25	14	3	10	14	7	6	2	14
16 Inches	30	57	39	9	32	14	7	21	38	13	18	11	16
17 Inches	33	35	42	10	27	8	17	36	21	14	11	11	24
18 Inches	31	27	67	22	18	3	23	34	15	35	13	10	28
19 Inches	20	18	40	4	4	2	11	14	17	5	9	1	19
20 Inches	22	13	32	17	7	5	13	21	25	5	5	5	15
21 Inches	4	9	16	2	3	2	7	5	12	1	11	14	9
22 Inches	4	3	14	5	7	2	6	3	3	7	7	7	5
23 Inches	2	2	8	3	7	2	7	1	2	2	8	5	1
24 Inches	2	1	14	1	2	2	5	5	9	10	5	2	0
25 Inches	2	0	6	0	2	0	5	2	4	1	6	4	0
26 Inches	1	1	4	1	2	0	0	1	5	3	2	2	0
27 Inches	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
28 Inches	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Totals ->	214	331	337	122	214	99	107	187	211	109	133	88	150

# days fished	21		28	28	19	27	18	17	18	17	16	16	15
Avg per day	10.2		12.0	4.4	11.3	3.7	5.9	11.0	11.7	6.4	8.3	5.5	10.0

Flies used: # Taken using:
 Chironomids: 197
 Micro leeches: 13
 Mayflies: 4



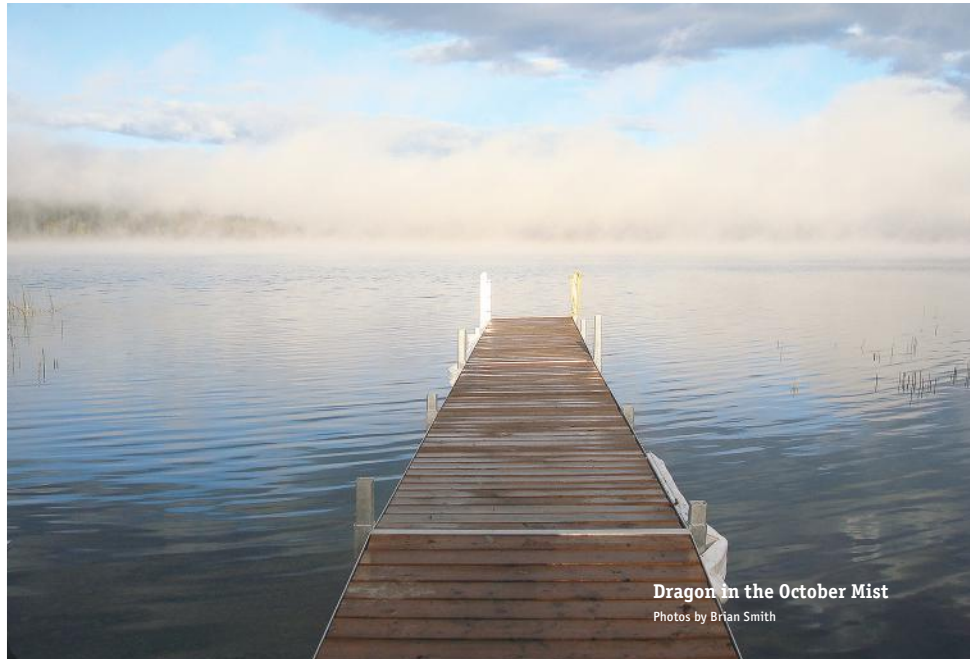
JB Canada geese lifting off Dragon Lake

Photo by Jerry Buron



Jerry rainbow release

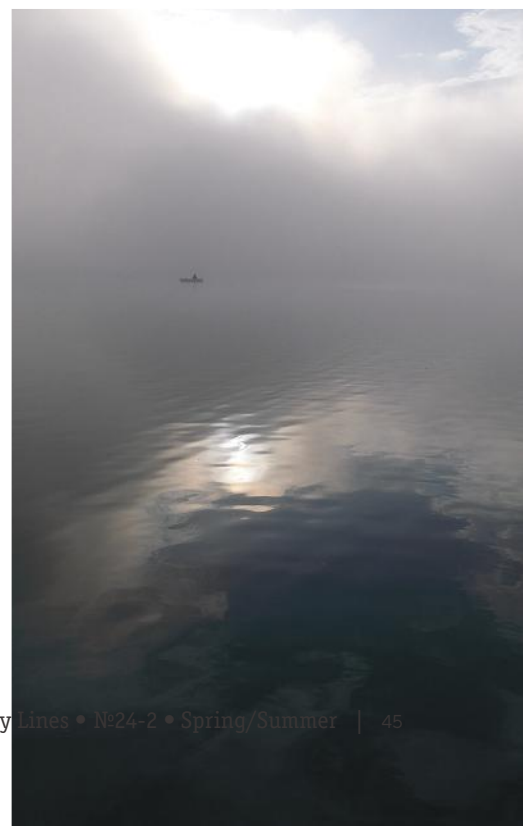
Photo by Jerry Buron



Dragon in the October Mist
Photos by Brian Smith



JB two rods, two fish Al Campbell
Photo by Jerry Buron





All photos by Nash Wiens

CONSERVATION

ASHCROFT SLOUGH...

Oasis in the Desert

By Dora Winwood

The Ashcroft Slough is a riverine foreshore of sand and pebble deposited through the ages by the Thompson River below the high-water mark. This ecologically diverse area is located about 3.5 km north-east of the Village of Ashcroft in south central BC. The entire area floods and dumps its bounty yearly coinciding with the river's spring run-off, and is riparian protected by the steep banks of the Thompson.

The village of Ashcroft and the Thompson plateau is recognized as being sufficiently arid enough to form the only true desert in Canada, and the Ashcroft Slough has been an oasis for its inhabitants to cool off from the amazing, yet relentless, summer heat. First Nations used it as a fishing place long before the establishment of the town. The adjacent land above the slough was the site of first settlement for the founding fathers of the community of Ashcroft, who recognized it as rich farming land, and it has always been the wildlife corridor for animals to get easy access to the river and its productive waters. People have

enjoyed its recreational value for decades before and after the arrival of railways.

Fly-fisherman Jim White describes it as "one of the most beautiful areas for fishing along the Thompson. It is a treasured site that provides not only incredible views, but a variety of unique fishing waters rarely found on much of the Thompson. This short stretch provides sections that are braided, main flows that provide fast runs for nymphing, and quiet backwaters for the dry-fly fisher."

Until recently, access to the Slough was from Evans Road on the east side of the Thompson River. Evans Road, known by a number of names since its first days

as a rustic wagon road, had been used historically not only to access the Slough, but also to reach numerous ranches and homesteads farther up the river.

IT IS A TREASURED SITE THAT PROVIDES NOT ONLY INCREDIBLE VIEWS, BUT A VARIETY OF UNIQUE FISHING WATERS RARELY FOUND ON MUCH OF THE THOMPSON.

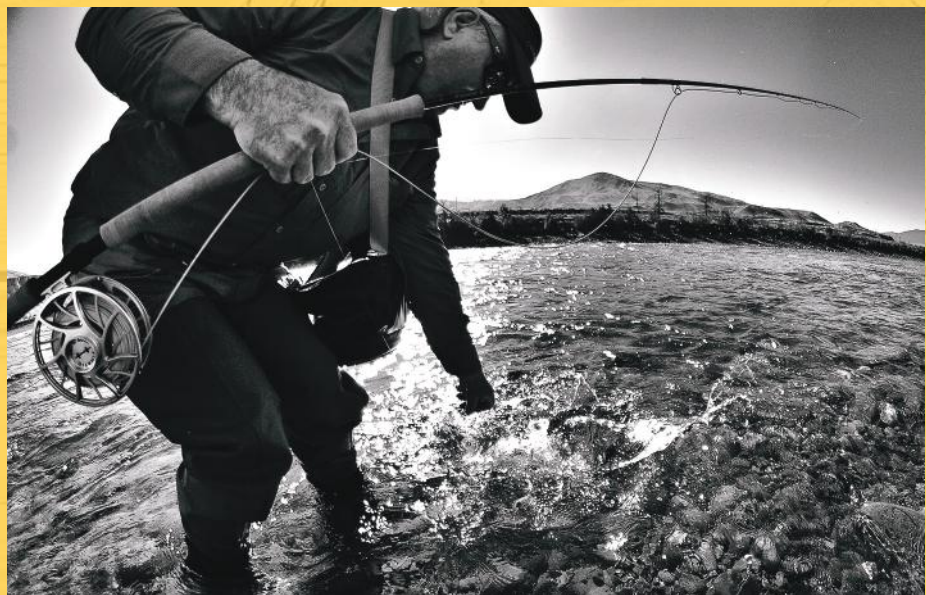
On any given warm-weather day, you can observe many activities occurring down at the slough: families gathered for picnics and swimming, youth building forts from the piles of logs deposited along the river bank, fly-fishers casting their lines with precision and hope and friends chatting while sun tanning. Their dogs exercised chasing after sticks, and epic sand castles were created from the endless sand. Coyotes and foxes raised their families here, black bears feasted on salmon in season, eagles soared the cliffs and blue herons foraged in the swampy areas. If you were lucky, you may have witnessed the

majestic, ancient cliffs crumbling, creating plumes of dust, debris and rocks which landed with loud splashes into the river.

The current industrial development of an inland port on these former farm and ranch lands has greatly impacted the access to and resident's use of the slough area. Sadly, the Ashcroft Slough is no longer the vibrant community meeting space it once was. Some locals still visit, albeit less frequently, but many are fearful of the corporations' surveillance, are unable to make the longer trek to the site, or are unsure how to get to their once favorite place.

In 1999, the land adjacent to the slough was "quietly purchased". In 2008 work began on the creation of an inland port, known as Ashcroft Terminal, to service both the CN and CP railways. Much soil was disturbed; the surrounding landscape was forever changed. The development included the consolidation of land parcels, the removal of 33 hectares from the Agricultural Land Reserve, the acquisition of all mineral rights, the suspension of the requirement for a complete environmental review, plus the creation of a bare-land strata designating Evans Road as "common property," thereby restricting public passage.

In the spring of 2020, a gate was erected on Evans Road by Ashcroft Terminal, which blocked the public from travelling





All photos by Nash Wiens

on the road, and provided no alternative access to reach the river. This inland port now includes a tank farm and fixed-fuel infrastructure. The corporation transloads and stores fuels, biofuels, chemicals, heavy oils, and asphalt as well as a host of other bulk products.

Despite a verbal promise made to residents to continue to allow slough access, that promise has so far remained un-fulfilled. Large signs have been posted warning locals and visitors not to trespass.

The Ashcroft Slough Society formed in September of 2020 to advocate for safe pedestrian public access to the slough: safe—to cross the CN tracks and private lands “legally”; pedestrian—to protect and conserve the wetland habitat; and public—to share the space with all stakeholders. Access will strengthen people’s continued enjoyment, connection and appreciation of this sanctuary.

The Ashcroft Slough was our town’s undisputed favorite local hang out. Access to blue spaces has been proven to benefit both mental and physical health--there has not yet been a generation of children raised in this area without access to this place! The Thompson River flows right through our town. Yet the rail lines on both sides of the river prevent the residents from accessing this important water course! What was once a public boat launch down-river from the slough is property-on-title with Ashcroft Terminal!

Our Society understands the economic importance of the Ashcroft Terminal and



HOW YOU CAN HELP!!!

Join our society by sending your name, email, mailing address and phone number to:

ASHCROFT SLOUGH SOCIETY, Box 1511, Ashcroft, BC, V0K 1A0.

Memberships are \$5 for individuals. \$20 per group.

Also, like us on Facebook:
<http://tinyurl.com/3vds2kv3> and
Instagram:
<http://tinyurl.com/25kyn8t2>

Thank you for your support!

are grateful for the jobs they bring to our town. We believe, however, that large corporations should be good corporate citizens and enhance, not diminish, the communities they reside in. Industry can and should co-exist with community well-being and liveability. Large companies should be willing to not only accommodate local concerns, but to also make substantial contributions to the communities their operations affect.

Presently, some locals and visitors defy the corporation's intimidating tactics to

restrict access to the Thompson River. We are lobbying for their cooperation, and hopefully soon the public will once more be able to enjoy the peaceful serenity of this spectacular space. Please join us, and write your local MLA and MP and town councils in support of the Ashcroft Slough Society.

Thank you!

IF YOU WERE LUCKY, YOU MAY HAVE WITNESSED THE MAJESTIC, ANCIENT CLIFFS CRUMBLING, CREATING PLUMES OF DUST, DEBRIS AND ROCKS WHICH LANDED WITH LOUD SPLASHES INTO THE RIVER



Charlie Thomas

Conservation Fund –

Origins

by Ken Marsh

The BCFFF Conservation Fund currently has a value in excess of \$200,000. The purpose of the fund is to support BCFFF members and member clubs in carrying out projects which enhance our sport through activities such as education, habitat protection or improvement and advocacy. The primary goal has always been the protection of our sport fish.

The Fund was initiated as the Gilly Fund in the mid- 1980s when Alf Davy, a high school teacher from Kelowna, persuaded our young organization to assist with the funding of the publication of a book on British Columbia fly-fishing. Drawing on the expertise of 16 well known BC anglers at that time, Alf coerced them into putting that expertise into print. Some of these contributors continue as members of BCFFF. Their knowledge of lake, river and saltwater fly-fishing along with artwork and photos coalesced in *The Gilly*, which went to print in 1985. This modest book of 184 pages went on through 11 printings, sold over 50,000 copies and was in several years recognized as a national bestseller. All earnings from *The Gilly* went to our BCFFF Conservation Fund, giving it an enormously solid foundation. The book is now out of print, but has earned an honoured place in BC fly-fishing history.

The Conservation Fund received a significant boost in 2015 when BCFFF member Charlie Thomas left \$23,500 from his estate to be used for the educational purposes for the sport of fly-fishing. BCFFF Board of Directors member and contributor to *The Gilly*, Peter Caverhill recently obtained some details about Charlie's fly-fishing life from his friends and fishing companions in Hope, BC.

Hope is at the mouth of the Coquihalla River, once famed for its summer steelhead run, and home of Tommy Brayshaw, angler, author and artist who popularized this charming steelhead stream. Charlie arrived in Hope in 1957 following an earlier posting there with the RCMP.

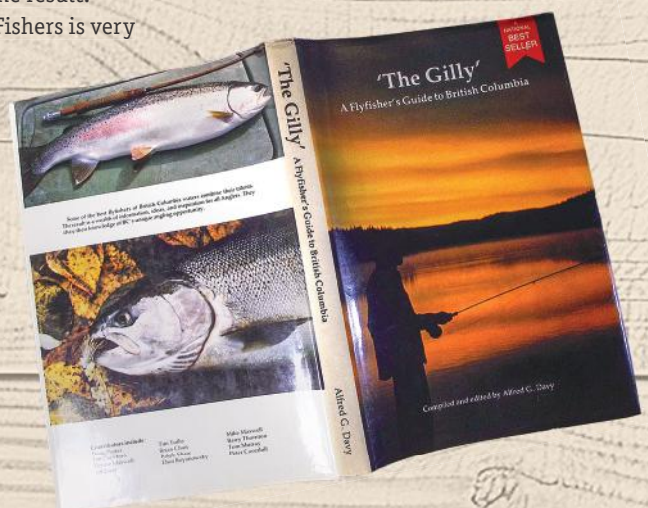
Although Charlie was a fellow member of the Hope Rod and Gun Club, he apparently was more interested in trout than steelhead. According to his friend George Kärst he and Charlie would “pack up their fishing and camping gear and head off to the many lakes off Highway 24 between Little Fort and 100 Mile House.” Another — and more local — destination was the Skagit River, flowing from the upper reaches of Manning Park east toward Hope before turning south toward the US border. Many BC anglers are familiar with the story of the proposed flooding of the Skagit Valley in BC and the intervention of BC anglers to limit that flooding. Charlie Thomas and his wife Frannie were reportedly very much a part of that intervention. When Charlie died, he left some money for a fly-fishing legacy. Apparently, there was some discussion among his family and friends, and the contribution of that money to the BCFFF for the purpose of fly-fishing education was the result.

The BC Federation of Fly Fishers is very appreciative of the legacy of these two gentlemen for their contributions and is hoping that members will be using money available from this fund to further the causes of sport fish and the sport of fly fishing.

Contributed by Ken Marsh, Conservation Funds Chairman



Alfred G. Davy





REPORT ON THE DAY

Michael & Young Fly Shop "Spey Day" 2024

by Peter Caverhill

It's hard to believe that Dave, Ryan, Catherine, and the crew at M&Y have been doing these Spey Day events since 2009. In the early days, the Fraser River was the event location. Sometimes we needed a high clearance vehicle to ford a flooded back channel so we could make it out to the site. Some of us got stuck and missed the BBQ.

Since those days, the event has become more sophisticated, the raffles more organised and the raffle prizes from M&Y's suppliers, more generous. The location has changed to the BC Parks "Entrance Bay" day-use site on Cultus Lake. Who needs to get stuck, and who really needs running water to try out spey casting gear!?

The only real "bug" in this long-running get-together has been Covid. This put Spey Day out of commission for three years. Thankfully, 2023 saw this fun day's resurrection. The format has become better and better, with the sale of raffle tickets being brisk at two tents — Steelhead Society of BC and BC Federation of Fly fishers. Throughout the day, Spey casting demos are there to improve one's two-handed technique. M&Y's sales reps provide an opportunity to try the latest gear or to tune-up your own rod with just the right fly line. There is the risk of embarrassment when your

heroic 100- foot cast piles up at 50.

Waistlines don't suffer at Spey Day as hunger pangs are satisfied at the generous mid-day BBQ (burgers, salad, smokies, chips, coffee and soft drinks).

On Spey Day 2024 -Sunday April 14 it dawned cloudless and stayed that way — probably the best weather since this all began! Hatches appeared throughout the day — partially clad paddle boarders told the weather story along with groups of swimmers that appeared to be pushing the season a bit early. The odd ski boat roared by as a prelude to summer on Cultus. The BCFFF and SSBC "Raffle Tents" were stoked for action. The steelheaders sold tickets for the larger items and the fly fishers had the rest, plus a guided trip on the Upper Pitt River. It seemed that everyone wanted a classic "Burkheimer" Spey Rod! The other tackle delicacies were also tempting. About 150 folks dug very deep, as they scrambled for tickets

over the day. Mid-day was BBQ time and the line-up for eats was long but quick, as Ryan and his daughters did a super job of dishing out the burgers and smokies to add to the buns, potato salad and other tasty condiments.

As afternoon closed in, it was time for the ticket draws,- high end items first, followed by smaller items and the Upper Pitt River prize. There were wows and groans as expectations were rewarded or defeated. The final tally for dollars and cents? This was the most successful Spey Day yet, with record raffle proceeds being divided equally between BCFFF and SSBC!

A ton of thanks to M&Y for another great event and to the ticket sales volunteers (BCFFF's Osprey Fly Fishers and Steelhead Society of BC) who spent the day in the two tents, convincing customers to spend another \$100!



The loot table



More booths



Steve Hanson (Ospreys) & Poul Bech (SSBC)



Ryan Heitz M & Y and daughters



ON THE FLY

The Stellako River

by Brian Smith

The Stellako River is without question one of our North's most famous and hallowed fly-fishing destinations. People flock from all over the world to test their skill against its trophy-class wild, indigenous rainbow trout, and to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Francois Lake area.

▲
Stellako view upriver from the Goat Run
Photos by Colin Ewart

The river is accessed from Highway 16 West two kilometres west of the Village of Fraser Lake, where you turn left onto Francois Lake Road for 11-kms and meet the headwaters of the Stellako at the Glenannan Bridge as it exits Francois Lake. Only 11-km in length, the Stellako empties into Fraser Lake east of Highway 16 West.

There are both lodge and campsite accommodations at Stellako Lodge, or day-use parking at the bridge, which gives access to the rough foot trail and a short 1-km stretch of water down-stream of the bridge.

One of the many assets of the Stellako is, in spite of pavement access, it is in parkland and remains an undeveloped wilderness stream for almost all of its length, and has restrictions

against powerboat use. Fly-fishers experienced with canoes, kayaks, rubber dinghies and pontoon boats can drift the entire 11-km length, but caution needs to be exercised as there is class 4 water and a take-out on river-left at the falls just past the 7-km mark. I recommend drifting the river with a partner who has previously done the journey, and has had the experience of taking out at the falls. The first take-out is at the gravel pit recreation area, the second at the highway bridge on Highway 16. The gravel pit recreation site is accessed by a short 2-km road by taking the first right off Francois Lake Road as you exit Highway 16 West. This site saves about a half-hour slow paddle to the Highway 16 bridge take-out.

The Stellako is gin-clear water and very

THE STELLAKO IS GIN-CLEAR WATER AND VERY FERTILE, SUPPORTING TERRIFIC HATCHES OF MAYFLIES, CADDIS FLIES AND STONEFLIES DURING THEIR CYCLES

Stellako downriver from bridge
Photos by Brian Smith



Stellako bow 16 inches # 20 caddis
Photos by Brian Smith

fertile, supporting terrific hatches of mayflies, caddis flies and stoneflies during their cycles. Many families and genera of each of these insects are represented in the river: mayflies ranging in hook sizes from diminutive 24 Tricos to 10–12 brown and green drakes; caddis flies from size 10 spotted gray to tiny size 20 micro caddis; stoneflies from size 10 Skwala to # 6 salmon flies, # 8 goldens, and then size # 14 olives and # 16 sallies. Often its trout will key on one size and colour, which

makes the Stellako the most challenging river we have in the North, and keeps fly fishers guessing about what hatch is coming. If you learn to fish the Stellako well, you can be assured you can fish anywhere in the world in confidence.

Stellako trout range in sizes from 20–30 cm for juvenile fish to 45–60 cm for five

Stellako river

and six-year-old adults. Fisheries estimate the fifteen-year average inventory of trout in the river is three thousand fish, with about five hundred at the mature stage of their lives. They are heavily spotted and develop a dark red stripe when mature, truly a beautiful sight to behold.

The river has special restrictions: classified water license required, open June 1st -November 14th, rainbow trout release and a fly-fishing only section beginning 200-m below the bridge and continuing to km-4 of the river located at the Big Eddy pool. Please consult the regulations.

For more information on fly fishing places and patterns to use in the Central Interior, refer to the book Fly Fishing BC's Interior by Brian Smith, available at local bookstores and sporting goods retailers.



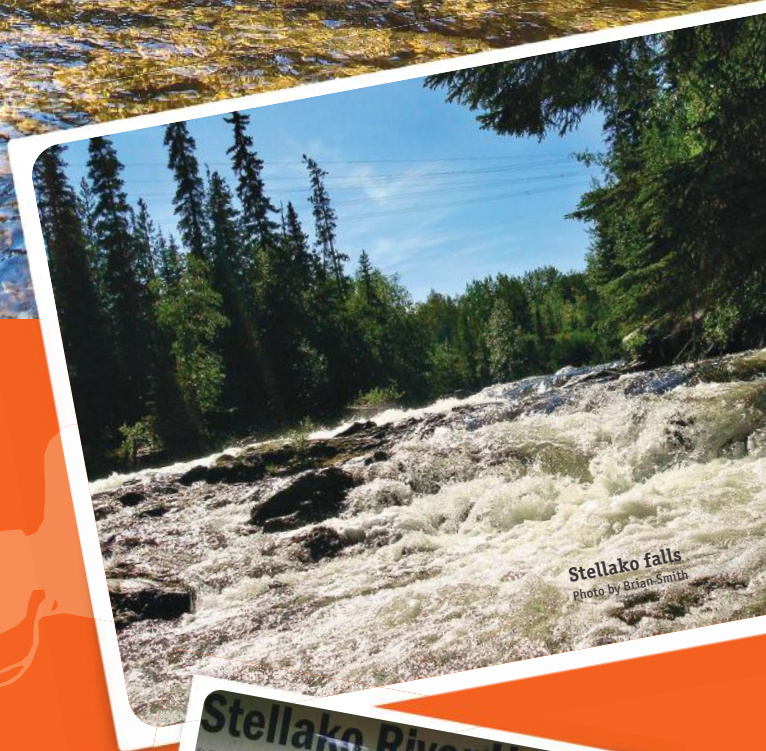
Stellako upper Rock Garden
Photos by Brian Smith



Summer evening under the bridge
Photo by Colin Ewart



Stellako Big Fir
Photo by Brian Smith



Stellako falls
Photo by Brian Smith

Stellako River Habitat

Stellako River provides one of the highest quality resident rainbow trout fishery in British Columbia. Relatively undeveloped riparian areas, aesthetics, stable flow conditions and large resident rainbow trout to 3 kg combine to provide a quality angling experience that is rare in British Columbia. Historically the Stellako River was used as a conduit for driving logs from Francois Lake to Fraser Lake. These log drives were conducted regularly from 1914 to 1948 and railroad ties were driven sporadically until 1957. Many physical features of the river have been given names that are associated with historical logging activities. Some features have been named for structures built to assist in driving logs (i.e. Wingdam, Tie Chute) and some features have been named for local resident and

people that drove the logs and ties (i.e. Hardesty's Pool, Millionaires Pool, Carlson's Rapids). These names are still used by anglers to describe fishing sites along the river.

In 1981, the North half of D.L. 2562 (87 ha) was purchased with Habitat Conservation Trust Funds. This purchase ensures the protection of the riparian environment for fish and wildlife. The Habitat Conservation Fund was created by act of the legislature to preserve, restore and enhance key areas of habitat for fish and wildlife throughout British Columbia. Hunters, anglers, trappers and guide contribute to the Fund's enhancement projects through license surcharges. Voluntary contributions to assist in the work of the Fund are welcomed.





The beauty of Wicheeda Lake water
Photo Erich Franz



More Wicheeda beauty
Photo Erich Franz



Photo by Pat Demeester



Photo by Pat Demeester

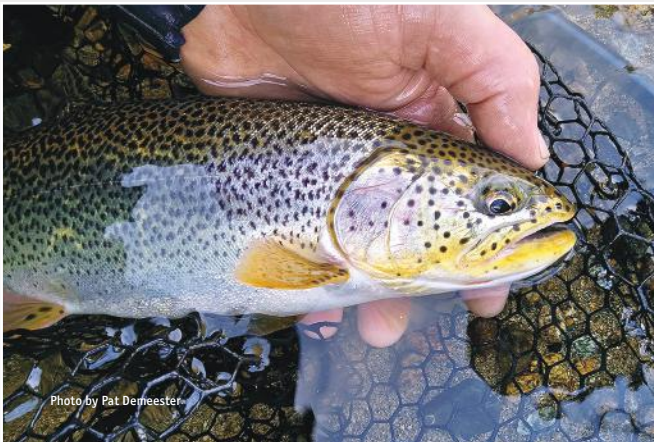


Photo by Pat Demeester



Coastal Cutthroat Trout
Photo by Pat Demeester



Photo by Pat Demeester

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