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FLY LINES



photo: Dan Loughheed © 2010



OFFICIAL eJOURNAL OF THE BC FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

FLY LINES

Official eJournal of...
BC Federation of Fly Fishers

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Dan Cahill, President
cahills@shaw.ca

Ron Schiefke, 1st Vice President
rschiefke@shaw.ca

Perry Wilson, 2nd Vice President
pwilson@northlandfly.com

Phil Rogers, Secretary
pjrogers@shaw.ca

Harold Tinling, Treasurer
tinling@shaw.ca

Pat Micek, Past President
pjmconsulting@shaw.ca

DIRECTORS

Poul Bech
pbbech@shaw.ca

Justin Berry
justinmarkberry@gmail.com

Ken Burgess, Membership
burgesskd@shaw.ca

Pete Caverhill
pandlcaverhill@shaw.ca

Danie Erasmus
d_erasmus2000@yahoo.ca

Jim Prudhomme
jim.prudhomme@tremblayprudly.com

Rob Way, ORC Liaison
robway@shaw.ca

FLY LINES EDITORIAL TEAM

Richard Mayer, Editor
rjmayer@telus.net

Dan Cahill, President BCFFF

Pete Caverhill, Field Editor

Jim Prudhomme, Field Editor

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CAPTURED IN TIME

Whether it's time on the water or observing acts of nature, fly fishing has many special moments



COVER 13
 HBFFA to Host Fly Fishing Symposium II & Searun Cutthroat Symposium



BCFFF NEWS 16
 BCFFF 2010 Annual General Meeting & Dinner Gala



OUR LEGACY 18
 Preserving BC's Fly Fishing History Through 'Art of the Angle'



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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.



Editorial Lines

WHEN PONDERING what this issue of Fly Lines could be, four **Rs** came to mind... *rebirth, renewal, revitalization* and *renaissance*. While all could be viewed as meaning much the same, there is a difference when put into a context of what is happening around us.

REBIRTH... this word aptly describes the success of bringing back the searun cutthroat and coho salmon to Nile Creek on Vancouver Island. What once was, then lost, is now flourishing thanks to the efforts and dedication of the **Nile Creek Enhancement Society**. One of the key individuals responsible – **Ken Kirkby**, President of NCES – has been described as... *“a man who can move mountains”*, and in this instance, also *“grow forests”*... forests of kelp that had disappeared and are being re-established. These kelp forests provide habitat for salmon fry leaving natal rivers to begin their journey to the open seas and a host of other ocean dwellers – *searun cutts and salmon, otters, seals and more* – all integral to the ecosystem being revived.

RENEWAL... of a broken political will, broken to the degree it is wrecking havoc on our wild fisheries and their habitat. Renewal of a political will, one that understands the relevance and importance of the science behind it all, is necessary to ensure the survival of BC's wild salmon and native trout populations. The need for all governing parties to do what is right has never been more compelling. The numbers speak for themselves... *major salmon returns are down significantly with some runs heading for extinction; rivers that flowed unencumbered since the dawn of time, are now being re-channeled, harnessed in the name of 'green power'; the downward spiral of cost reduction evidenced by an ever-diminishing staff in provincial fisheries and environment workforce* ...all just the 'tip of the iceberg'.

Those in power **must** serve the people who put them there. Their responsibilities to the ordinary citizen is to envision, then contribute, to a British Columbia that is *truly sustainable*... one future generations will come to know and enjoy as *'the best place on earth'*. We must not burden the generations who follow in our footsteps with a legacy of misdirected will.

REVITALIZATION... Fly Lines is a means to an end; one means being to revitalize the BC Federation of Fly Fishers. Much as the saying goes *“build it and they will come”*, another phenomenon exists that personifies Fly Lines... *sympathetic harmonics* ...the ability to excite another with like 'harmonic resonance'.

RENAISSANCE... a renewed interest in the culture and style of our sport, our art – *fly fishing* – could be described as enjoying a renaissance with an ever-broadening interest in the passion to angle by the fly. The BC Federation of Fly Fishers as a collective entity, made whole by individuals who pursue their particular brand of this passion, will reap the benefits of this renewed interest and continue its work as the voice for our province's fly fishers and a steward of BC's fisheries.

Present times, being what they are, are demanding we do what we love doing at a higher plane and raise a stronger united voice against those actions that impact on fish and habitat.

A lot of water has flowed under my bridge in the 17 years since I stepped down as Editor of Fly Lines that evolved the BCFFF brand back then. This issue of Fly Lines, as the official eJournal of the BC Federation of Fly Fishers, should attract others who pursue our passion 'on the fly' and inspire us all... *to do more!*



Tight lines...

Richard Mayer

Editor, Fly Lines

President's Report



AT THE OUTSET, I have to say how pleased I am to be again writing my report for Fly Lines. I can't express the importance of this publication as a way of communicating with our members and to those in the fishing community.

Our Editor likens the rebirth of Fly Lines to a metamorphosis within the organization. While there may be change on the horizon, I am not certain we need to 'morph' too far. Rather, we may need to reassess our focus and place some emphasis on the growth of the organization as well as to find ways to rejuvenate the member clubs.

We are a non-profit, voluntary society, representing the interests of anglers and fly fishing clubs throughout British Columbia. This is our thirty-seventh year as advocates for ethical and environmentally-friendly angling practices, fish conservation, habitat protection, and maintenance of access to and opportunities for fishing on lakes, rivers and oceans. Through our Gilly Fund and general account we fund conservation projects and initiatives.

The hatchery system under the Fresh Water Fishing Society has been generally doing an admirable job in our lakes, therefore, our main challenges have involved anadromous fishes and their habitat. Our wild stocks of salmon and steelhead face the negative effects of aquaculture, IPPs, residential development (Brohm Creek), methane gas exploration (Skeena/Bulkley), gravel extraction on the Fraser, extensive budget cuts to MOE, lack of real coordination between various ministries and DFO, and issues respecting ocean survival (both man-made and environmental). The BCFFF has the awesome task of meeting its mandate in a period when our Government, and in particular, the MOE, has little or no resources and at times interest in fisheries issues.

We will continue to write letters, provide advice, participate on committees, lobby government by protesting lack of funding and vision on behalf of fish and fishers, but a question arises, *"Is taking on the role of activism on behalf of our members the sole raison d'être of the BCFFF?"* I believe the answer is, *"only in part."* Our role in communicating with our members; working with clubs to attract and maintain membership; finding ways to encourage youth into fishing (fly fishing in particular); improving our insurance plan; and producing quality publications, such as Fly Lines, are equal priorities. Our web site will continue to improve.

These initiatives will form the basis for change. Over the next two years, the Board will place equal focus on our partnership with our club and direct members. Each club has a BCFFF contact appointed. I hope members in their respective clubs use this person as a conduit to the Board so that we may hear from you about what you want from this organization. I encourage our direct members to do likewise. Advocacy will always be a part of our responsibilities, but we also intend to be more inclusive and participative. What resources and expertise do we have that can possibly assist your club with local conservation initiatives?

We look forward to a fuller partnership with each club and hopefully an increasing number of direct members.



Dan Cahill

President

BC Federation of Fly Fishers

issues



Raising a Voice on Behalf of Fish and the Environment

This issue of Fly Lines includes articles on salmon farming, Get Out Migration and a report on the Freshwater Fishing Regulations Advisory Committee (FFRAC).

As fish know no borders, a short article on the Northwest Steelhead and Salmon Conservation Society, Inc., will introduce this newly formed conservation organization.

Members in the BCFFF and other readers of Fly Lines are encouraged to contact the Executive or Directors, to bring any issues of concern to our attention.



Wicklow
May 31, 03

Young salmon carry a higher-than-normal number of sea lice, the result of migrating past the net-cage salmon farms where sea lice infestations abound.

The Trouble with Salmon Farms

Craig Orr, PhD

Executive Director

Watershed Watch Salmon Society

IMAGINE SOME ENTREPRENEUR building a huge floating cage off Stanley Park and then cramming it full of 500 Asian bull elephants. Five hundred mature pachyderms, each weighing 5 tons, paddling off the sea wall trumpeting and pooping up a storm.

This obviously ridiculous notion serves to illustrate the total 'biomass' that one would find in a typical BC Atlantic salmon farm of just under a million salmon, each weighing 4 – 5 kg.

BC's salmon farmers (mostly based in Norway) are certainly good at building huge net-cage salmon farms. A few years ago, Irish fisheries biologist and louse researcher Paddy Gargan toured the Broughton Archipelago and was stunned by the size of the fish farms. "Irish and Scottish farms are much smaller," Gargan noted, "but even so, they have devastated our wild fish, mainly through the transmission of parasites to wild juvenile salmonids."

Gargan, a keen angler, especially laments the loss of Ireland's once magnificent searun brown trout, now found only on the walls of storied fishing lodges.

Gargan's research, along with that of many academic and non-government scientists, has convincingly shown cultured Atlantic salmon to be a major threat to the survival of wild salmon... everywhere. Farmed salmon can produce 95% of the parasitic sea lice found in coastal waters. Baby salmon never had to run a gauntlet of millions of louse-bearing adult salmon; most adults were at sea when juveniles cruised the coast. Not anymore. Today's practice of raising salmon in pens has put lice and disease problems squarely in the path of wild fish, everywhere salmon are farmed.

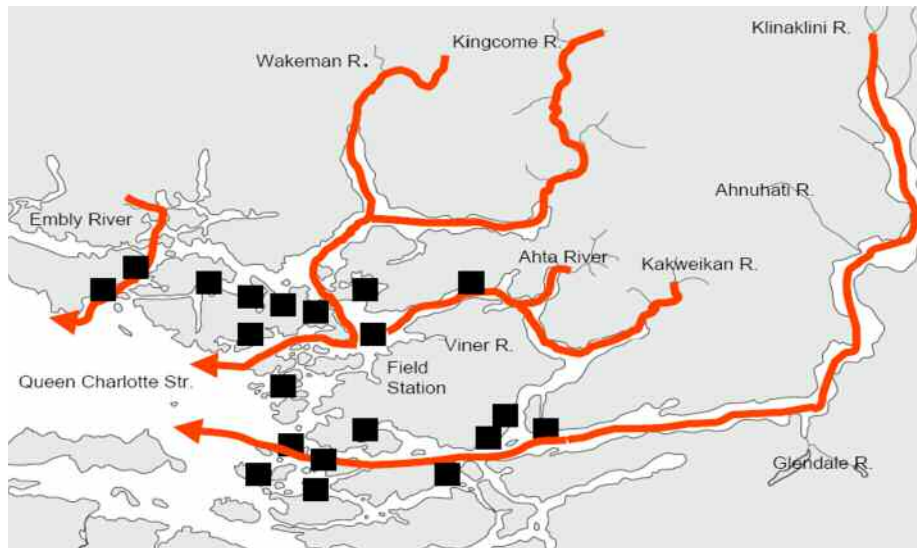
The results have been tragic. A recent peer-reviewed study fingered farmed salmon as the main cause of declines of wild salmonids around the world. In areas where salmon are farmed, wild salmon have declined on average by half.



Craig Orr (foreground) with Alexandra Morton checking out salmon farms in the Broughton Archipelago... both are advocates for change in how salmon are farmed in BC.



graphics: A. Morton



Watershed Watch SALMON SOCIETY

Watching out for BC's Wild Salmon

For more information on the Watershed Watch Salmon Society and its efforts, please visit...

www.watershed-watch.org

Numerous major salmon farms located in the Broughton Archipelago are on key migratory routes of wild salmon... impact on the young salmon has been devastating.

The Trouble with Salmon Farms, continued

In BC, species such as pink and chum salmon are particularly vulnerable to parasite ‘epizootics’ due to their small size as juveniles. After all, lice thrive by sucking the fluids from fish, and salmon weighing less than a gram don’t have much to spare.

The issue of salmon farming never seems far from the consciousness of the average British Columbian. The media is rife with images of lice-bearing and emaciated juvenile salmon. And efforts to control lice are difficult and costly, with one estimate placing the cost of chemical treatment at €300,000,000 or \$399,099,888+ CAD annually worldwide.

More troubling, those chemicals, which kill all crustaceans in sufficient concentrations, are starting to fail. Lice quickly develop resistance to such ‘biocides’, and managing lice is an expensive and losing battle.

Little wonder many are advocating for the removal of net-cage farms from our coastal waters. Land-based farming offers an economically viable alternative, according to a thoughtful report from the Save Our Salmon Foundation. And while not solving the ecological feed conundrum of using more fish flesh than is produced, land-based farming could help alleviate the plague of lice and disease that comes with farming salmon.

Trouble is, humans seem hard-wired to oppose change, especially change that has a personal, political or corporate cost. Others are too polite or otherwise distracted to push for needed change. And change must happen, and soon, if we have any hope of protecting our wild salmon.



The ‘business end’ of a sea louse.



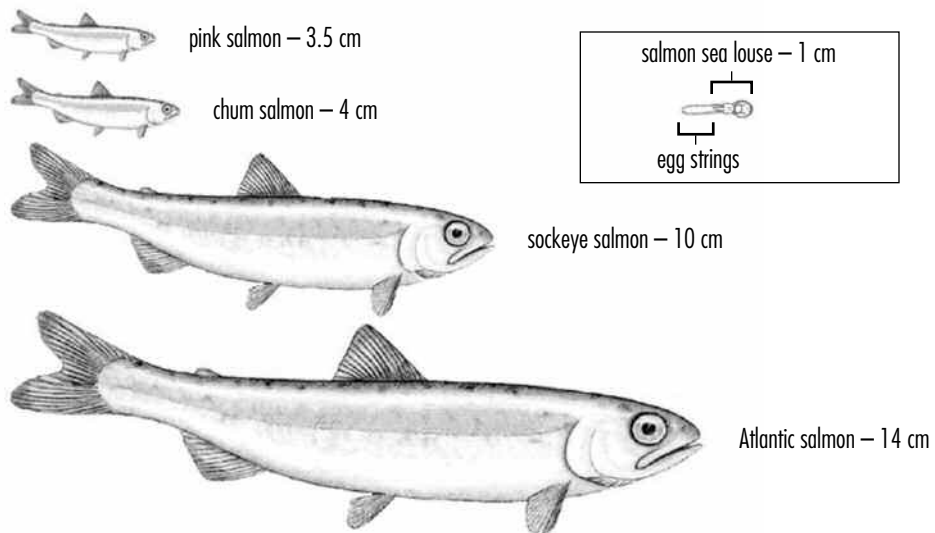
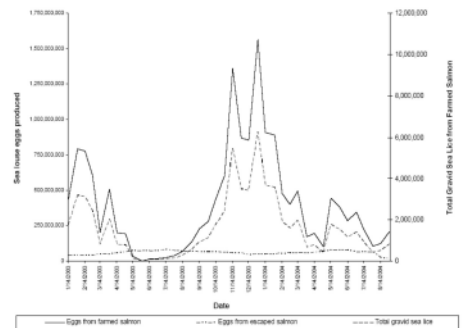
Sea lice at various stages on host fish.



above: Emaciated juvenile salmon are the result of increasing infestations of sea lice.

right: The number of sea lice eggs and adults in a typical ‘life cycle’ is staggering... eggs are in the billions; adults are in the millions.

below: Comparison of size between the sea louse and juvenile salmon... smaller juveniles are more heavily impacted.





lead photo: Rich Ronyecz

Many concerned British Columbians joined Alexandra Morton on the 'Get Out Migration' which journeyed through many communities on Vancouver Island... the ultimate goal was to deliver a message to the BC government that action must be taken now.

Get Out Migration Unites a Cast of Thousands



Alexandra Morton at start of Get Out Migration.

THE GET OUT MIGRATION was the logical next step in escalating the effort to remove the impact of salmon farms on BC's wild fish and ecosystems. Alexandra Morton began her journey in Sointula on April 22nd, anticipating many would join in as the migration headed south for its final destination... the BC legislative buildings in Victoria, BC, on May 8th.

This migration served as a further call to action... *remove salmon farms from BC waters*. Dr. Morton was hopeful this journey would help people and organizations in BC, and around the world, who are also working on this issue.

Support for the Get Out Migration was immediate with people from all walks of life in communities enroute joining Alexandra on the migration. The BCFFF lent its support financially by way of a \$1,000 cheque, and noted in a letter of support that members would be joining the migration down Vancouver Island.

A special web site – **Salmon Are Sacred** – was set up to provide information about the migration, dates when the migration would be passing through and to report on progress with online updates and photos. Rich Ronyecz, a member of the Mid-Island Castaways, joined in and took photos at the rally in Victoria.



For more information and current news, please visit the **Salmon Are Sacred** web site...

www.salmonaresacred.org

South of the Border

As steelhead and salmon originating from rivers and streams in the Pacific Northwest states also use the Georgia and Johnstone Straits as a migratory corridor, collaboration is necessary with like-minded organizations south of the border. Joint action is often required to ensure what happens in 'shared waters' does not impact on salmonids that cross over political jurisdictions.

Introducing the Northwest Steelhead and Salmon Conservation Society, Inc.

The Northwest Steelhead and Salmon Conservation Society (NWSSCS) was registered April 20th 2010 with the Washington Secretary of State as a non-profit corporation. The purpose of the NWSSCS is to protect and restore the Pacific Northwest heritage, which includes sustainable, robust populations of wild steelhead and salmon.

The NWSSCS approaches its efforts as community-based and on a basin-wide scale as each component within a basin impacts other components in that same basin.

The first basin that the NWSSCS chose to work in is the very significant Chehalis River basin, which is the second largest river basin in all of Washington State. Chehalis River basin issues that the NWSSCS is working on are many, varied and complex.

The Chehalis River tributaries located in the Chehalis River basin flow from such diverse sources as the Olympic Mountains, Black Hills, Bald Hills and Willapa Hills before entering the undammed Chehalis River as it works its way to Grays Harbor and eventually to the Pacific Ocean.

continued on page 11

Freshwater Fishing Regulations Advisory Committee (FFRAC)

Background

In 2007, the BC Ministry of Environment (Fish & Wildlife) established FFRAC to provide the Director of Fish and Wildlife with advice from stakeholders on provincial angling regulations. Regional regulations that do not have provincial significance won't be considered by FFRAC. Regions are establishing their own advisory committees to deal with regional-specific regulations. Participants on FFRAC represent major angling-related interests in BC, ie: BC Wildlife Federation, BC Federation of Drift Fishers, BC Federation of Fly Fishers, Sport Fish Institute, Fraser Valley Salmon Society, Fraser Valley Angling Guides Association, BC Resort Owners Association, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, Independent Angler.

An important reason for the establishment of this committee has been a decline in angling participation in BC's freshwaters. There is an identified need to encourage angling by making provincial angling regulations more understandable and various fisheries more accessible. The goal of MOE Fisheries is to increase provincial angling license sales by 30% by 2017.

Meetings are chaired by the Manager of Fisheries for BC (MOE), assisted by several staff members. There is also representation from Conservation Officer Services. Minutes for each meeting are produced and are available for public distribution once approved.

Two meetings are held each year – one in the Spring and one in the Fall. If needed, there are conference call meetings in the interim. The meeting schedule fits Victoria's timeline for angling regulation preparation. BCFFF has a primary representative (Pete Caverhill) and an alternate

representative (Dan Cahill). Skip Young (formerly the Trout Unlimited Canada rep) was the BCFFF alternate for over a year. Both Pete and Dan attend meetings.

Progress

Since 2007, there have been seven FFRAC meetings, as well as several conference calls. In the beginning, considerable time was spent developing a Terms of Reference. At the urging of committee representatives, an important change was made to the TOR, to make it possible to take on discussion of significant provincial fisheries management issues. This has the potential to dramatically enlarge the scope of FFRAC.

The committee has considered and discussed a number of items, primarily related to encouraging people to buy licenses and go fishing, such as:

- 1) possible licensing options, ie: 3 day license, gift licenses, 365 day license and others
- 2) e-licensing (now in place)
- 3) small lakes regulation simplification and harmonization
- 4) white sturgeon conservation license

MOE spent considerable time on regulation simplification and harmonization via a 'small lakes simplification committee' that tackled this subject region by region. This process is now mostly complete. Hand-in-hand with this has been an investigation of ways to make the regulations synopsis more user-friendly. The simplification process will move next to regulation simplification for large lakes, then rivers. Provincial FFRAC members have supported this process, including the BCFFF. The

BCFFF believes the process should review the reason why specific regulations were originally put in place, and if those reasons are no longer valid, then the regulation should be eliminated. Also, there has been considerable variation between regions with basic regulations, ie: catch and size limits. As a result, the process has identified where 'harmonization' – making the regs the same – between regions would be appropriate. Some regions have involved their stakeholders in regional advisory committees specific to regional waters. MOE's objective... to have effectively functioning regulation advisory committees in every region.

At the February 2010 meeting, FFRAC identified the two highest priorities to work on over the next 3 years. Previous to this meeting, each stakeholder group had been asked to identify priorities to MOE via email. The BCFFF submitted a 5 page paper focused on what we felt was most important...

- 1) Lack of funding for the Provincial fisheries agency, with resulting inability to effectively manage important fish stocks and angling recreation.
- 2) Identification of concerns with the FFRAC process so steps can be taken to improve its performance.

At the end of the day, the top two priorities that emerged...

- 1) Regulation simplification and better regulation consultation.
- 2) Licensing flexibility.

These will be FFRAC's primary focus over the next 3 years. However, other slightly lower priorities, such as fishery agency funding woes, will not be ignored.



NWSSCS, *continued from page 9*



Barren clearcut above Stillman Creek.

Due to past and current land use practices such as the clearcut on steep slopes above Stillman Creek, Chehalis basin property owners live in fear of the next seasonal storm that may again lead to loss of human life and considerable property damage.

The NWSSCS is working with the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority, Chehalis Basin Partnership, the Governor's Office, Lewis County, Thurston County, Grays Harbor County, the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and local property owners to develop one or more cost-effective damage prevention strategies associated with seasonal Chehalis Basin storms.

For more information on NWSSCS and its efforts, please visit...

NWSSCS.blogspot.com



Effective regulation will ensure BC retains world class trout fishing in its lakes and streams.

Issues & Concerns

Over the course of the past 3 years, issues and concerns with the committee process have emerged and been expressed to MOE...

- 1) Province provides no funding support to committee representatives for travel.
- 2) Stakeholder representation on FFRAC has been inadequate. There are a number of additional groups that should participate.
- 3) Communication between MOE and committee members has sometimes been less than adequate. 'Tools' that would allow committee members to present information to constituents and seek input from them have been very slow in coming from MOE.

BCFFF viewpoint... MOE (Provincial Fisheries) has placed considerable importance on FFRAC. However, MOE's ability to shepherd this process effectively, has been hampered by the unprecedented budget and staff changes that have occurred over the past several years.

Why does BCFFF participate on this, and other, advisory committees?

Participating in advisory committees takes considerable commitment on the part of the member organization. Meetings seem endless and progress can be akin to watching paint dry. Why do it?

It's pretty simple! These days there aren't many ways to get the

Government's attention. Advisory committees are one of the only ways for groups like the BCFFF to get issues and concerns directly to the fisheries management agency. Certainly this input is to the 'staff' side of the advisory equation, whereas the 'political' side of Government is another animal. It is hoped that important issues and concerns make their way up from staff to the politicians. Outside of this process, ways to get Government to notice are limited and very difficult.

As regional FFRAC-type advisory groups are established by the Province, there will be a need for BCFFF members to become involved so they can review plans and express opinions on local issues. This is most important!

Questions?

BCFFF members who have questions on FFRAC can contact...

Pete Caverhill
pandlcaverhill@shaw.ca

Dan Cahill
cahills@shaw.ca

bc fisheries



The BCFFF on Fisheries

The BC Federation of Fly Fishers has been working on fisheries conservation and quality angling issues on behalf of British Columbians for over 30 years.

The BCFFF's main objective is to promote the conservation of the fishing environment in BC. By networking with similarly-minded clubs, organizations, businesses and individuals, the Federation provides a voice that reflects its members' and the public's concern for the future of our province's natural resources.

We believe that concern for the future of our province's environment is not just the exclusive domain of fly fishers or other recreation groups, but should be the concern of all citizens.

It is with this broader population in mind that we strive to protect and promote our natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations to respect and enjoy.



Dan Lougheed admiring a beautiful coastal cutthroat on a Vancouver Island stream... it was a good day on the water!



Drifting deep-sunk nymphs or top-water dries are productive methods when fly fishing BC rivers.



Coastal cutthroat from a productive stream on Vancouver Island... admired and released.

Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association to Host 2nd Fly Fishing Symposium & Searun Cutthroat Symposium at University of Victoria

NOVEMBER 12th, 13th and 14th are dates to circle now on your fishing calendars. The Symposium, hosted by the Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association, is a repeat of the very successful event they held in 2004, and again uses the UVIC venue where Roderick Haig-Brown once served as chancellor.

During the Symposium registrants will have the opportunity to attend presentations by experts on all aspects of the sport at the spacious Commons Block, as well as hear important research papers on the cutthroat trout fishery read by members of the Cutthroat Trout Society. The speakers all have impressive credentials and bring lifetimes of knowledge and passion for fly fishing. Some are world class casting experts, others are instructors and video producers, and all have fished the lakes and rivers of British Columbia. To gather such an impressive group of fly fishers in one place is a significant accomplishment for the Haig-Brown club; to do so, while also hosting an academic symposium for the Cutthroat Trout Society, is truly outstanding.

Details on cost and registration to follow. Confirmed seminar leaders now include *Todd Oishi, Peter Morrison, Robert Benhke, Brian Chan, Phil Rowley, Tom Johannesen, Skip Morris, Art Lingren, Dana Sturn, Don Freschi* and *Andy Snedden* sharing their expertise on such topics as...

- steelhead fly fishing and the spey rod
- fly fishing rivers and lakes
- spring fishing BC's interior lakes
- advanced stillwater strategies
- creek mouth fishing
- saltwater fly fishing
- fly fishing gear demystified
- diversity in cutthroat trout
- biology of productive trout lakes
- fishing for salmon and steelhead
- summer run steelhead in the Skeena and Dean Rivers
- fishing the surface of a trout lake
- basic river nymph fishing

.....

This is your opportunity to learn from experts on virtually all aspects of fly fishing!
Discover more about elusive searun cutts!

.....

For more information on this event...



Pauline Loos

President

Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association

cuttqueen@shaw.ca



Original Nile Creek hatchery building that is being replaced.



Nile Creek Enhancement Society
PO Box 62
Bowser, BC V0R 1G0
TEL: 250.757.8775

Our mission is to enhance and protect the fresh water and marine habitats that support salmonids and the habitat in which they live along the east coast of Vancouver Island.

For more information, please visit...

www.nilecreek.org

Kelp beds that once flourished in the vicinity of Nile Creek... the Society is working to restore this critical habitat.



Nile Creek spawning channel, circa 2006.

Nile Creek Enhancement Society

LIKE SO MANY ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, the Nile Creek Enhancement Society (NCES) was born out of frustration and anger. A Vancouver Island stream well known for its vast runs of pink salmon had, by the early 1990s, become (as a result of development and destruction of habitat) virtually barren and nonproductive.

A small group of local citizens, with single-minded, confrontational determination, undertook the daunting task of bringing the river back. An incubation box for half a million pink salmon eggs from a nearby hatchery got the process going and later a small, covering structure formed a modest hatchery. Heavy equipment was brought in to construct side channels and to enlarge rearing ponds while undergrowth was replanted providing shade and stability. A net-pen program was instituted to maximize returns.

Over time, the salmon returned in significant numbers and in 2007 the Nile Creek Enhancement Society was awarded the prestigious Canadian Environmental and Rehabilitation Award by Canadian Geographic and the Government of Canada. Currently, a larger and more sophisticated hatchery with far greater capacity is under construction and will be ready for the 2010 fall collection of eggs.

Not content with simply rehabilitating Nile Creek and other nearby salmon bearing streams, this organization has over the last 4 years taken on the challenge of restoring the vital kelp beds that historically grew along our coast.

In most areas the kelp was greatly diminished or had disappeared altogether. The kelp forests are critical habitat to countless organisms, forming an essential unseen ecosystem for all manner of sea creatures. As there is little precedence for this type of work, members of the scientific community have been consulted and over the past 4 years several techniques have been attempted with various degrees of success. This year's refinement has resulted in a kelp bed currently growing on a reef just north of Nile Creek. Divers have discovered that the recently totally barren area is now home



NCES member checking out kelp that the Society is re-establishing.



Society members preparing kelp stock for planting.

to a multitude of aquatic life including squid, octopus, rockfish, crabs, etc. The experimentation continues as this marine reforestation may prove to be the most beneficial form of enhancement and is being carefully monitored.

The Nile Creek Enhancement Society has a number of like-minded partners that include Vancouver Island University, Trout Unlimited Canada, Pacific Salmon Foundation, Island Scallops, the Quinsam River and Big Qualicum River hatcheries, the Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society plus the Courtney/Comox Watershed working group. If I may be so bold as to suggest, that you join this growing army of volunteers by getting on board with your local stream keeper or environment enhancement organization, you and the ecosystem will benefit equally.

Dennis Fuhrman

Director, Nile Creek Enhancement Society



Peter Williams and Stuart McIntosh of the CVFF receiving cheque from Harold Tinling.

BCFFF Gilly Fund at Work

IN EARLY 2009 the Gilly Fund received an application for funds from the Comox Valley Fly Fishers to help with upgrading the **Little River Fish Hatcheries** rearing tanks. CVFF asked for \$5,900 for the tank purchase out of a cost of \$11,000 for the total upgrade. Their request was approved and the club went ahead with the upgrade.

Harold Tinling had the privilege to tour the hatchery in October and was amazed with what he saw... the new tanks were installed and in operation with around 4,000 fish in each tank. The BCFFF concluded the funds were well spent.



bcfff news



Highlights of the BCFFF AGM

The BCFFF AGM took place in Parksville on April 24th. The business meeting was well attended and the agenda was dealt with promptly.

The evening get together was a real success with 83 people attending the Dinner Gala, which featured raffle draws, presentations and our guest speaker Craig Orr.

Craig Orr is the Executive Director of Watershed Watch Salmon Society and a Totem Fly Fisher. Please visit the WWSS web site to discover the worthwhile projects and conservation activities undertaken by WWSS. The BCFFF donated \$1,000 to Watershed Watch that evening.

As part of the ceremonies, Craig was presented with the BCFFF Gilly Award. Choosing **Craig Orr** as the 2010 recipient was a unanimous decision by the BCFFF Directors. As well as the plaque, Craig received an engraved Wheatley Fly Box.

The Gilly Award is given in recognition to a BCFFF member who has continuously given exceptional service to BC's Fishery, the Sport of Fly Fishing, and the BC Federation of Fly Fishers. Craig Orr is most deserving of this recognition.

Dan Cahill
President

Rich and Donna Ronyecz (event organizers) enjoying dinner with guests.



BCFFF 2010 AGM + Dinner Gala

Why Did We Host the BCFFF AGM?

EVERY YEAR many of the province's enthusiastic fly fishers who are members of the BC Federation of Fly Fishers meet to discuss a little business and share more than a few fish stories at the Federation's AGM. It is a great chance to meet fly fishing legends, get reacquainted with good (sometimes old, but always young-at-heart) friends and further the environmental concerns of the BCFFF.

Last year none of the fly fishing clubs had the time and/or desire to host the BCFFF AGM. This year again, none of the clubs volunteered to host the event. My wife Donna and I always enjoy a good party, so I decided to volunteer to host the BCFFF AGM with Donna's permission and expert guidance!

All you need for a great party is a good reason, a great venue and a little organizing! So having such a great draw as the BCFFF AGM and Dinner Gala, a classy establishment such as The Beach Club in Parksville, we set our minds to organizing the party. With a little negotiating on dinner and room prices, and a lot of phone calls we soon had 86 people confirmed to attend dinner. As the din subsided and the dust settled, I got to sit down with a few stragglers and enjoy a nice cold large beer. With a final head count of 83, I was very happy that almost everyone showed up and those who did not, had medical emergencies.

Everyone attending thoroughly enjoyed the evening with a story from Ken Kirkby, the wonderful informative slide show from guest speaker Craig Orr, a Silent Auction, and the BCFFF Grande Raffle with 15 major prizes. During the Dinner Gala, I was lucky to have a lot of help from members like Dan Lougheed, Richard Thompson, Ron Schiefke, Harold Tinling and Peter Caverhill. Many thanks to the numerous merchants and individuals who donated products for the BCFFF Silent Auction and Grande Raffle.

Hosting the event was most rewarding with heaps of thank yous and a nice reception the evening before, where we got a chance to mingle with a few of the BCFFF members arriving in town early.

Looking forward to next year's party!

Rich Ronycz



Sampling of the BCFFF Grande Raffle prizes on display at the 2010 Dinner Gala.

BCFFF Grande Raffle Winners

Sage Z-Axis premium fly rod; Islander fly reel; Rio fly line

Lorne Strumeki, Nanaimo, BC

Donation by: Peter Morrison of Sage/Rio and Barry Stokes of Islander Precision Reels

Pitt River Lodge – 2 day/3 night Cabin Package
Cranbrook Fly Fishers, Cranbrook, BC

Donation by: Lee MacGregor and Danny Gerak of Pitt River Lodge

Fishing & Feasting Trip to Lac Des Roches

Emmett Armstrong, Parksville, BC

Donation by: Bill and Lori Jollymore

Cowichan River Package

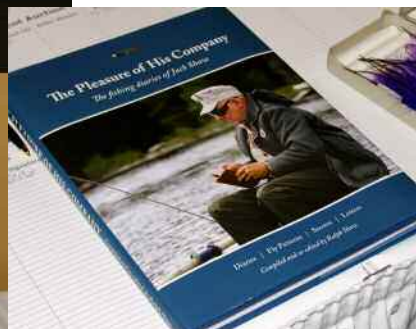
Chris Puchniak, Surrey, BC

Donation by: Kenzie and Kyte Cuthbert of Cowichan Wilderness Lodge

...more winners on page 18



The BCFFF 2010 Silent Auction at the Dinner Gala offered guests the opportunity to bid on collectibles such as signed/numbered limited edition prints and books like 'The Pleasure of His Company – the fishing diaries of Jack Shaw', as well as fly fishing gear.



BCFFF Grande Raffle Winners, *continued*

Steep Roof — Bella Coola Valley

Jim Critchlow, Nanaimo, BC

Donation by: Rob Stewart

Robert Bateman LE Framed Print

Carolynn Thomas, Burnaby, BC

Donation by: Gil Sage Remembrance

Weigh West Marine Resort (Tofino, BC)

Craig Orr, Coquitlam, BC

Donation by: Weigh West Marine Resort

Harry Lemire, tied-in-hand, fully dressed salmon fly: 'The Dirty Orange'

Comox Valley Fly Fishers, Comox, BC

Donation by: Harry Lemire (fly) and All Things Fishy (framing)

Renato Muccillo, fully dressed and framed Atlantic salmon fly: 'The Sir Richard'

Dave Connolly, Nanaimo, BC

Donation by: Renato Muccillo

Matched Pair of Framed Fly Prints (LE) of Art Lingren Flies painted by Sarah Briston; flies by Art Lingren

Pat Dawson, Surrey, BC

Donation by: Heritage Angling (prints) and All Things Fishy (fly mounting and framing)

Chris Wesson 'Grand Slam'; 4 fully dressed Atlantic salmon flies in shadow box frame

Marc Dinelle, Cedar, BC

Donation by: Chris Wesson (flies) and All Things Fishy (fly mounting and framing)

SeaRun Fly & Tackle (Coquitlam) — \$300 Angler's Shopping Spree

Dan Lougheed, Victoria, BC

Donation by: Kelly Davison, SeaRun Fly & Tackle

Corbett Lake Country Inn

James Byrne, Abbotsford, BC

Donation by: Peter McVey of Corbett Lake Country Inn

Link Lake Cabins

Gord Bacon, Kamloops, BC

Donation by: Gail Dickson of Link Lake Cabins

Custom Wood Fly Box with Steelhead Flies (box laser engraved with BCFFF logo)

Ron Mackie, Nanaimo, BC

Donation by: Ray Syrnyck (flies) and Perk Perkins of North Pole Wood Products

Art of the Angle

A Little Bit of Angling Heritage

by: **Art Lingren**

THERE ARE FEW ACTIVITIES which man participates in that have such a rich heritage as does that of fly fishing. Long before the printing press was invented in about 1440 fly fishers were casting creations into lakes and rivers to catch fish. Since Gutenberg invented the printing press there has been more books written about fly fishing than any other sport. Those books chronicle fly fishing's rich heritage from that of the old countries of Europe, its coming to North America and British Columbia's short, but very rich angling heritage. BC's angling heritage was made so much richer because of fly fishers such as Arthur Bryan Williams, General Noel Money, Tomas Brayshaw, Jack Shaw and Roderick Haig-Brown.

In more recent times, fly fishers in many of BC's fly fishing clubs have added to that heritage as have individual fly fishers. Appreciation of that heritage comes in many forms such as fly fishing related books, tackle, fly tying and angling art.



Summer Steelhead painting by Thomas Brayshaw, one of the author's favourite artists.

I plan to write more on books in future Fly Lines columns so will leave it with the statement that without fly fishing books, our heritage would be far less rich.

Individual fly fishers appreciate their heritage in different ways. Some are bamboo rod enthusiasts and

appreciate that aspect of our angling heritage, and there are many craftsmen who spend countless hours building bamboo rods and keeping that part of our angling heritage alive. Personally, I have a great appreciation for older pre-1970s Hardy reels. They are special to my angling heritage because some old Hardy reels connect me to Rod Haig-Brown, because of his preference for those reels, and they connect me to many of my fishing chums such as Bob Taylor, Bob Clay, Rob Brown, Bill McMillan and Andrew Williams, all who appreciate that part of tackle angling heritage.

Fly tying is another important aspect of angling heritage. Dressing fine flies and in particular those tiers who dress the classics carry on the traditions associated with the fly tier's angling heritage.

Angling art, whether photographs, oil, acrylic or watercolour paintings, is one of the less-appreciated forms of our angling heritage. I find it unusual that so many fly fishers I know who are passionate about their sport have no angling art in their homes. Tom Brayshaw prints are some of my favourite art, but I have a number of pieces from Lucas Raptis when he was active in the fly fishing community and doing his masterful pieces. My newest pieces are watercolour fly prints by Sarah Briston.

Last year Blair Thomas of the Osprey Fly Fishers asked what I thought about a project he felt would document Pacific Northwest fly tying heritage. He had become familiar with Sarah Briston's Atlantic salmon fly paintings through her web site. Sarah lives in Scotland, where she teaches art and paints. Blair's idea was to have Sarah paint the flies and then make a limited set of prints.

CONGRATS + THANKS for your support!



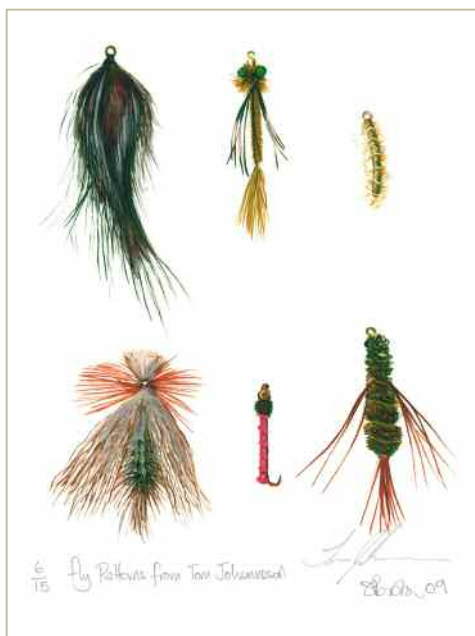
Sarah Briston watercolour of Harry Lemire's Rory Ross.

The print runs would be small between 15 and 25, and they would be exclusive in that they are numbered and signed by both the artist and fly tier. So far Sarah has painted flies dressed by Art Lingren, Harry Lemire, Jerry Wintle, Ron Grantham, Brian Chan, Phil Rowley and Tom Johannesen, and she is or will be doing flies from Chris Wesson, Bill McMillan and Steve Brocco in the near future.

As part of this project Blair wanted to use some of the prints to raise money for fisheries-related conservation. For example... in a print run of 15, about 5 prints go to Sarah Briston, Blair Thomas and the fly tier, with the remainder – about 10 – divided in half for sale and donations to organizations for fundraising. This project is in its infancy, but to date, prints have been donated to a number of conservation groups such as the British Columbia Wildlife Federation, Pacific Salmon Foundation, Kingfisher Rod & Gun Club, BC Federation of Fly Fishers and Washington Steelhead Coalition.

Sarah Briston watercolour of Tom Johannesen's Stillwater Patterns.

Blair Thomas has a web site **Heritage Angling** at www.heritageangling.com where prints can be found by clicking on 'Fly Fishing Prints' in the left sidebar of the home page. On the Limited Edition Fly Art page, at the end of the paragraph dealing with prints for fundraising, there is a (click here for a donation request form). A signed Sarah Briston print from a Pacific Northwest fly fisher, when framed, is an attractive piece of art and there is often someone at a fundraiser who will bid on it so they can own a little bit of angling heritage.



Art Lingren with a BC steelhead on one of his many trips to a favoured water.

About the Artist



Sarah Briston was born in Newark, England, and was for 15 years a full-time teacher of Art before moving to Speyside in 2004, to make a living as an artist

and part-time teacher of Art. The start of her obsession with illustrating flies coincided with her move to Speyside.

Her early illustrations, and the ones for which she became most known, were of classic salmon flies. In 2008, her interest turned to the famous Spey patterns. She approached 16 great tiers from Europe, America, Canada and Australia, each with their own style and approach to these flies.

More recently, Sarah has agreed to illustrate the flies of several accomplished British Columbia and Pacific Northwest tiers for Heritage Angling, as described in the article.

If your club is interested in fundraising with fly fishing art, visit the **Heritage Angling** web site!



TRIBUTE TO ...
Gil Sage : 1948 – 2009



IN RODERICK HAIG-BROWN's book *Fisherman's Fall*, he describes Fall as the best time to choose to die. Appropriate? Perhaps. It is the season when leaves are falling and salmon are returning to spawn and die. It is a fitting finale before the quiet of winter.

On October 5th 2009, as the leaves were turning to their glorious colours and the salmon were moving toward natal streams, we lost **Gil Sage**. Gil had been diagnosed with colon cancer three years earlier and he braved the requisite operation, chemo and finally, radiation treatments, extending the inevitable.

Despite the dark sentence facing him, Gil accepted it without complaining. He often commented there wasn't a lot he could do... he had to *"go with the flow."* His desire was to make the most of the time he had left; to fish as much as possible and get his life in order. Gil had some great fishing. As if the gods of angling were looking down on Gil, they gave him steelhead on the Vedder River and good numbers of rainbows on Interior lakes.

Gil's best friend and fishing partner – *Steve Hanson* – was with Gil every step of the way to the end. No one will miss Gil more than Steve.

Gil's passion was fly fishing. Over the years he fished for many species of fish in a variety of interesting places, near and far. He loved chasing steelhead on the Dean, casting dry flies for rainbows on the Skagit and tricking trout on Leighton Lake.

Early on, Gil recognized he had to do more than tramp the streams and row the lakes. He had to devote scarce time and become an advocate for fish and fishing if there was to be a future for challenging fish and inspiring waters. In the mid-eighties, Gil worked with other anglers to form the *'Skagit Anglers Committee'*, to make the angling community aware of what they would lose in BC if the High Ross Dam project in Washington state was allowed to proceed. Nine kilometers of

free-flowing BC Skagit was at risk of becoming reservoir. This committee assisted the *'Run Out Skagit Spoilers'* or R.O.S.S. Committee, to defeat the project. Gil and the SA Committee continued to have influence on the BC Skagit, for the benefit of anglers, by contributing to the BC Parks Master planning process for the Skagit and providing comments on the BC Parks Fish & Wildlife Management Plan.

Over the decades, Gil contributed greatly to the Osprey Fly Fishers, the Totem Fly Fishers and the BC Federation of Fly Fishers. He held a variety of executive positions, including President, in all of these organizations. His greatest efforts were devoted to the BCFFF, going through the Director-to-President route a number of times.

Gil could always be relied upon for his practical wisdom on organizational and environmental matters. He attended many advisory and public meetings on behalf of the BCFFF. He was always well organized, and provided a model of advocacy and attitude to life (and death) that we would all do well to emulate.

In September 2009, the BCFFF Board voted to create *'The Gil Sage Conservation Award'*. The award would be available annually to provide assistance (up to \$2,500/year) for students in post-secondary schools, or others, working on fisheries research or projects. This concept was presented to Gil, in hospice, several weeks before he died. He was very pleased!

Once again, a late October wind will be whipping the colour from the trees. Soon these leaves will be brown, wet and gone. We'll miss the beauty of fall and we'll miss... *Gil Sage*.

Pete Caverhill
adapted from an earlier tribute



Gil (2nd from left) with Peter Caverhill, Tom Murray and Peter McVey at Corbett Lake.



Rex Scholfeld congratulating Gil Sage (l) for winning the Roderick Haig-Brown award for his work on the Skagit River (R.O.S.S.).



Gil (l) into a bull trout on the Bella Coola during a 2004 fishout.