



Flylines

FALL 2015 October, 2015



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Membership: Open to all persons, and members of associated clubs. Direct memberships are \$20 payable to the Membership director.

BCFFF UPDATE October 1 2015

The long hot dry summer in British Columbia has come to an end, with some welcome relief for water levels and water temperatures on many rivers in BC. The past 4 months have been the driest on record in many parts of BC. This led to angling closures on many rivers, including 99% of Vancouver Island. This was encouraged and supported by the BCFFF as the very low and warm waters are a huge stress on fish. Lots of fishing opportunities still existed on the lakes, while the beaches and Campbell River provided excellent pink salmon fishing for the smoker. See the BCFFF biologist certified document on water temperatures and ethical angling:

<http://www.bcfff.bc.ca/index.php/documents/file/68-temperature-in-ethical-angling>.

We are excited to announce the 2016 BCFFF Annual General Meeting will be held at Corbett Lake on April 30, 2016. It promises to be a fun gathering of fly fishers with the common purpose of promoting the BCFFF goals. Phil Rowley will be on hand for fishing analysis, and expert casters and fly tiers will round out the day. We expect this event to fill up quickly. For more info:

<http://www.bcfff.bc.ca/index.php/event-calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2016/04/29/4/-/2016-annual-general-meeting>.

Current events. BCFFF has received a bequest of \$10,000 from the estate of Charles Thomas of Hope, BC (as did each of the FFSBC and HCTF). Obviously, somewhere along the line, in the life of Charles Thomas, he was impressed with BCFFF, enough to include us in his will. We are working to develop a potential partnership with the Fresh Water Fisheries Society of BC, and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation to potentially install a lake fishing platform near Hope, BC.

We are developing a Quality Angling Document (not an easy BCFFF vision to define).

The BCFFF website has been updated with a PayPal option for direct member payments for easy signup. Stay tuned for a rod raffle prize on our website. To receive monthly news updates from BCFFF, click on the following link: <http://www.bcfff.bc.ca/index.php/list>

The BCFFF board is healthy with a dozen board members, including many fish experts and biologists. We try and meet monthly by conference call, and occasionally in person. Our goals over the years remain Conservation, and preserving and creating Quality Angling Opportunities, with Fly Fishing a useful conservation tool. Selective fishing, forest harvesting, and quality angling are the current hot topics.

*Cheers Rich Ronyecz,
BCFFF President*



Rich Ronyecz and friends on the Dean River

The following article was extracted from the website below, and is included to acknowledge the work done by the Penticton Flyfishers Club.

<http://infotel.ca/newsitem/flyfishers-club-looking-forward-to-more-upgrades-along-penticton-creek/it23308>



Penticton Flyfishers Club spokesperson Bruce Turnbull with the newly restored section of the Penticton Creek channel in the background. This stakeholder group is working with the city and other committee members to move the revitalization program forward now the initial phase is complete.

(STEVE ARSTAD /InfoTel Multimedia)

September 22, 2015 - 9:00 PM

PENTICTON - With more work left to be done on the Penticton Creek restoration project, one group is stepping back from the aging river channel just long enough to admire the view.

"I like looking this way — not behind me," Penticton Flyfishers club spokesperson Bruce Turnbull says as he surveys the 80-metre completed portion of the channel east of the Ellis Creek bridge.

Turnbull is referring to the creek-like look the newly built portion of the river now has, compared to the lined concrete ditch running to Okanagan Lake on the other side of the bridge.

Finishing touches continued on the project Saturday, Sept. 19, when volunteers with the Toronto-Dominion Bank met at the site to replant native species of trees along the riverbank's edge in one of the final finishing touches to the project.

Turnbull says he's happy to see the project get underway. Liability issues cropped up when plans were first put forward to rebuild the channel in 2006.

"It's nice to see it get going, nice to see the city on-side," he says, noting the numerous funding contributors to the first 'showcase' phase of the project.

Turnbull was part of Penticton River Channel Restoration Committee discussions which took place Friday morning, Sept. 18. He says the group is now working on completing a master plan for the creek to rebuild the concrete lined section completely from Okanagan Lake to Nkwala School.

"There's less work to be done the further upstream we go," he says. "This was a big first step — to convey to citizens the benefits of doing this. It's a huge enhancement to the city — it's a park." Turnbull says, adding the new section has also been built to withstand a 1 in 200 year flooding event, compared to the original concrete lining's 1 in 50 year specification.

The Freshwater Fisheries Society was fortunate to be able to contribute to the important work of the Penticton Creek Restoration Committee. Many partner agencies are working with The City of Penticton on this initiative. Substantial funding came from Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and Recreational Fisheries Partnership Program.

Check out the time-lapse video of the project on the website noted above.

The new section is not only functional, it's pleasant to look at. Engineers created a more river like setting that will also enhance efforts to restore kokanee and other species to the creek. Turnbull says when the original concrete lining was poured, little thought was given to fish habitat, and the resulting wide, flat concrete river bottom often meant fish attempting to make their way up the creek were under constant stress.

"They had no means to rest after fighting the current all the way, and often the water was so low in the channel, their fins were out of the water," Turnbull says.

The new section has built in pools, with strategically placed rocks to allow fish an opportunity to rest while fighting their way upstream.

Turnbull says the fly fishers club has been counting kokanee at a trap located at the mouth of Penticton Creek. The Freshwater Fish Hatchery Society and the fly fishers club captured fish for the last two years, for a small hatchery located up the creek, and collected eggs that will be used to restock both Penticton and Ellis Creeks.

"Our counting methods are more accurate this year. So far, 2,700 kokanee have come up the river, and we're still counting," Turnbull says.

Previous counting methods averaged counts of 1,200 fish per year.

Turnbull says the committee hopes to have the master plan completed this winter. Following that, they will start to pick the sections of the creek to work on, based on funding levels.

"It's the start of what I hope is a lengthy project," Turnbull says, adding enthusiasm shown by city employees for the project has been 'magnificent'.

A fish Out of Water...Is? (Considering the Question of Salmonids and "Air Exposure"?)

We've all done it - ripped that wonderful trout or steelhead from its' watery environment to snap a photo or two. Many of the waters that we now fish have fragile wild populations of our quarry where the law says that they must be released. We have become more concerned and conscientious, and we know not to drag our catch onto the beach for release, or to lift and fumble it so it drops onto the rocks. Now there is a concern about exposing our catch to our environment. It's called *air exposure* and there is a growing movement to convince us to keep our catch in the water. Some are even advocating "non-removal" as an angling regulation.

We don't have to look too far on the internet to see dozens of photos of happy anglers with their catch held high. Many of these photos belong to anglers who are knowledgeable and concerned about the fish and the future of angling. Some conservation organizations have even been caught with fish-out-of-water magazine cover shots! It's tough to deny the appeal of these "hero shots". They capture the successful results of a day on the water or perhaps the fish of a lifetime. Human nature needs these things- or does it? Can there be a new way of satisfying this human need? And, what does science say about the effect of air exposure on the fish we chase?

Science is identifying some of these more "hidden" impacts. We know that fish can be physically damaged by the catch and release process if we don't exercise proper care and attention in handling them. There are many studies over the years that substantiate this harm. These are direct (lethal) results where the fish dies during, or soon after, release. However, what about the indirect (sublethal) impacts on our catch, where the fish later suffers impacts that will impede it in some way? These concerns are "emerging". One of them is being called "air exposure", or removing the fish from the water for a time, usually to snap a photo. Apparently, some new studies are showing that this has the potential to affect the eventual reproductive capability of the air-exposed fish. So, in a fragile wild salmonid situation that is under heavy catch and release pressure (i.e. wild steelhead), this could be very detrimental to the sustainability of the population over time.

There is a growing movement in the Pacific Northwest, particularly south of the line, to advocate that anglers not remove their catch from the water. This idea is also being discussed here in BC by a few organizations and the provincial government

So what should BCFFF do? Maybe we could push for angling regulations that state non-removal? Or, we could ask our own organizations to start pumping the non-removal ethic? Maybe it's best to do both?

When we are a-stream, perhaps we should be asking ourselves some questions about the about removal of our catch from the water: Is this a totally wild population of fish? Is their sustainability at risk or at least questionable? How accessible to angling pressure are the fish now or in the future? If our answers are yes (or even 'maybe'), we can then act accordingly when we are fortunate enough to have these fish take our flies.

Everyone has a camera these days. Access to "show-and-tell" on the internet is readily available. We can keep our ear to the science and spread the findings. We can preach for better fish handling, and we can practice what we preach. We can suggest better, less harmful, picture-taking techniques. And - definitely, --- we can continue to discuss this issue and search for solutions.

Peter Caverhill March 10, 2015

See the following website for additional information about **handling fish** while photographing:

<http://www.bishfish.co.nz/articles/fresh/grip-and-kill.htm>.

ANNOUNCEMENT

British Columbia Federation of FlyFishers Annual General Meeting 2016 will be hosted by **Corbett Lake Lodge**

April 29-May 1 2016

Friday April 29 , 7pm Reception

(\$10-15 payable upon arrival to Corbett Lake Lodge).

Saturday ,April 30 , Cost \$75.00 for meals* includes tax and gratuity

>Breakfast, lunch and a prime rib dinner (dinner only option 50\$)

>Fishing: Included **Catch and Release **

>Annual General Meeting 9am

>Fly Tiers: TBA

>Dinner/Auction /Speaker 6:30 pm

Lodging is 50\$ + tax(approx. \$56 total) per person per night(2-7 per room/bungalow).

Let us know who you prefer to stay with.

If camping: Must be self -contained 20 dollars per RV(max 2 people per RV)*Limited space available.

Boat rentals are included, although we encourage attendees to bring their own water craft, as there are only a limited number of lodge boats available.

Guest speaker/Fishing analysis: **Phil Rowley**

FFF Casting Instructor: **Dennis Grant**

This event promises to be a fun opportunity for like-minded anglers looking to further the BCFFF goals of Quality Angling Opportunities and Conservation.

Contact pjrogers@shaw.ca or vipcare@hotmail.com to reserve your attendance. The lodge has limited space for 47 guests and is licensed for 60 in the restaurant(AGM dinner) so we encourage you to book early. Payment expected by Jan 15,2016 .

Use the same contact info if you have a donation for the silent auction.

“The Baker” and “The Judge”

(With the taste of a good single malt via the cork.)

The two flies below have been artistically tied by Will Bush, who resides in BC's Okanagan. They are perfection from any angle.



The Baker

“The Baker” was originated by Captain J.H. Hale and it appears in his 1892 book entitled “How to Tie Salmon Flies”.

Will has tied this fly using all original materials (very rare and expensive!). No substitute feathers have been used. The hook used was hand made by Ronn Lucas, Sr. from Oregon. It is a 6/0 Phillips Jones.



The Judge

“The Judge” was originated by Captain J.H. Hale and it appears in his 1892 book entitled “How to Tie Salmon Flies”.

Will has tied this fly using all original materials (very rare and expensive!). No substitute feathers have been used. The hook is a 7/0 Partridge (old).

For the finishing touch, these flies were mounted on a section of an old cane rod (Pezon and Michel) and displayed under a bell jar so that they could be appreciated from all angles. This concept and execution is by “All Things Fishy”, Port Moody, BC (604-461-4503) Will donated the flies to the BCFFF and they were auctioned at the 2015 AGM.

Will Bush bio:-

Will Bush was lucky enough to be raised on a small ranch on the banks of the Similkameen River in southern B.C.. His good fortune continued as he was able to hang out at Cathedral Lakes Lodge, where his mother worked as the secretary. It was there, at a very tender age, he found his passion for fly fishing. His next introduction to the sport – tying – would come from a family friend when Will was only eight years old. It was then that Will became addicted to both and spent as much time as he could tying and fishing all of the “famous” waters of British Columbia.

Twelve years ago, Will decided to step outside his comfort zone with tying and took a classic salmon fly tying course. That class ignited a passion for all things Spey and fancy feathers, leading to numerous trips to the Skeena region and the various rivers around Vancouver, British Columbia. Most of Will's original and traditional steelhead flies, which cover all situations, are tied with the Skeena drainage in mind.

Will offers two kinds of flies: fishing flies and presentation flies. He strives to keep a traditional quality to his fishing flies; using top quality materials and tying them in such a way to make them as durable as possible. All his Spey flies are tied with a counter wrapped rib, this takes a little longer to tie, but results in stronger hackle. Very important as steelhead have very sharp teeth and can cut a hackle stem in one take. The counter wrap keeps the hackle from totally unraveling; extending the life of the fly.

Will is known for his beautiful full dressed patterns and upon request, will gladly tie any pattern using as many “traditional” materials as is possible.

Submitted by Peter Caverhill

Dean River Experience

The BCFFF was founded for the conservation of BC watersheds and fish, along with preserving the Quality Angling Experiences(QAE) available in BC . What qualities are necessary for a QAE ? Setting, Location, Solitude, Friends, the Chance to catch quality fish are all factors. As human population increases and many resources decline the QAE may become elusive. The following report is one of 7 memorable days, many fishless, but all days enjoyed as a quality angling experience. The following article was written by Clark Closkey, Totem Flyfishers group 3 leader, August 11 to August 18 2015. Photos courtesy of Craig Orr. *Submitted by Rich Ronyecz*

The Totem camp became a “Dry Line Only” zone during our Group 3 week on the Dean. Water, weather and light-angling-pressure conditions allowed us all to practice our beloved dry line/surface fly fishing for those remarkable Dean Summer-run steelhead for the entire week.

The weather was warm, (into the high 20's, maybe 30 most days), and the water varied from 53°F to 58°F, allowing not only for T- shirt and light pants but also wet-wading in water that remained clear all week. Visibility varied from 3 feet to 6 feet and we never found the need to “go wet” except to cool off. Our choice of flies included the skating sedges, bugs, spiders and caterpillars, in sizes 6 through 10, and natural colors were most productive. There were numerous highlights but personally the best highlight was just after landing on the river and knotting on one of two Buck Bugs presented to me by Craig Orr (to commemorate my Silver Anniversary on the river, 25 years ago in 1979), stepping in, and on my very first cast having a steelhead take the high floating creation. I landed that fish and also hooked and landed a second, minutes later. The second fish was followed by a 17 inch cutthroat which topped off a very fast start to a great week for me.

Arriving on a Tuesday, we didn't meet the guardians Jeremy and Tristan until Thursday. Jeremy is a musician and a highly personable young man;Tristan is quieter and much more serious about his fly angling. After a long chat and their gathering of essential data, we started social talk and eventually invited them for dinner on the following Monday, the night before our departure. The night would not only be for dinner but also a lesson on dry-fly fishing for an enthusiastic Tristan.

They arrived on Monday around 4:30 as I was preparing a hot Italian sausage braise. After a social drink we started to talk about the week's fishing. Our week had started off quite slowly with only the occasional fish rising to our flies.. But things had improved and we all hoped that Tristan could experience the thrill we felt in surface fishing. After dinner we all booted up and Ken had the honour of first on the pool. Rich was behind him, then Tristan was third, with me behind, coaching him. Craig, who had gone down to the Bend Pool alone, had donated a Grantham sedge, Rich donated a leader, and I provided some fly dope. Tristan was really excited to try for steelhead on a dry fly. It was just after 7:00 when the first fish grabbed Rich's fly. It was nice doe of 10 pounds and a reel screamer and put up a great battle. Jeremy had volunteered to do the photography, not knowing that we would keep him running that night. Rich beached his fish and was sitting on the log, with Jeremy on his way down to Craig, when my Hardy Zenith screamed and a 12 pounder cartwheeled across the surface into the air with my bug in his jaw. Jeremy came running back. While I played the green fresh-run fish, Ken yelled, he was into the third fish and we had our second double of week! I landed my fish and after Jeremy photographed mine he ran over to Ken who was locked into a real battle near the tail-out. We all knew this fish was big and would take some time to subdue. Gathered behind Ken, we stood on shore and watched the spectacular leaps and runs and the give and take battle. Finally it tired and Rich grasped its caudal peduncle and held it firm, the small Grantham Sedge embedded in its lip. Measured twice at 36 ½ by 18 ½, a beautiful unmarked Dean River summer-run specimen. By now the guardians could not find

words to describe what they were witnessing. Three steelhead hooked and landed on dry flies within an hour! Jeremy again decided to walk down to see how Craig was fairing at the Bend Pool. To his amazement he arrived just in time to see Craig begin playing his second steelhead of the evening, both of which he landed! While Jeremy was photographing Craig, Tristan, now fishing the tail-out let out a whoop and we all thought he had hooked his first steelhead on the dry, but no, it turned out to be a good sized cutthroat. He will have to wait for his first but it will happen and it will be memorable. We had beached 5 steelhead that evening on surface flies.

These weeks on the Dean are always about the people in the group and ours was exceptional. Rich, the only non-Totem, is a bundle of energy, a forty-something amidst 3 sixty-somethings, and is in great physical condition. He has so much stamina I dubbed him the "Energizer Bunny on Red Bull" doing yoga poses on log jams, of all things, and scampering across the rock-tops down to the bend pool! But if you want dishes done or water carried, there is no one better for the job. In addition, he is a fine fly-fisher and has a great appreciation for the fish and conservation and almost a reverence for the art of surface fly-fishing for steelhead. At every opportunity he will try to convert the "tip/truder" angler to dry line and surface flies by sharing flies, advice and encouragement.

Craig and Ken, both Totems, are exceptional camping buddies. Both are easy going and keen to pitch in and help around camp. Ken is also a chef from a previous life, so can be called on for cooking at any time. Craig and Ken are fine fly fishers and also love the surface fly angling. It is truly a treat to spend a week with them all in camp.

Just a final note to say how proud I am to be a Totem at that Dean River camp. We are highly respected by the angling community. The legacy of Bob Taylor and Lee Straight lives on in that place and we are honoured by other anglers who come to visit and say they will not fish our water out of respect, but just want say hello. BC West Guides did not bring clients across the river but hollered good mornings across the water. The Seattle boys, Joe Brown and David Anderson camped on Cottonwood and came for a visit but said they would not fish the Totem run. James Reed and partner Oregon Bill also paid their respects to the Totem camp but said they would not fish our run while camped up river. I am very humbled by that kind of respect and we must do everything in our power to preserve and protect that highly regarded place of honour



Dean River courtesy by Craig Orr



Flies for the Dean River courtesy by Craig Orr

FLYTYING CORNER

As days get shorter and night gets longer, we tend to fish less and tie flies more. You could say that October is the beginning of fly tying season! The World Wide Web is full of sites providing information about flies and how to tie them. And of course, web surfing has become a favorite winter activity so what better topic to check out? I hope you enjoy the following URLs. But first, I will provide a few tips.

- Develop the habit of tying 10 flies at a time. Not only will this help you improve on fly proportions, but will also help you tie more quickly.
- Obtain whole flies whose qualities you like, whether shape or colour or whatever. Purchase flies from retailers, and barter for flies from your colleagues.
- Use substitute materials. Many tying videos promote special materials new to the market, but assess whether you need them. My tying cabinet is full of stuff I bought on a whim and used for only one pattern!
- Search for new materials or new suppliers for the old standbys. Dollar stores are amazing.
- Flatten barbs and sharpen hooks at the vice. I have promised myself to do this and often wished I had when I'm standing up to my knees in some river or the ocean.
- Watch the fly tying videos. They not only show you the recipes, but you also get a feel for how quickly you could probably tie after some practice. They also supply considerable info about sources for fly fishing gear, fly tying materials, and new patterns.
- You Tube has many excellent videos for fly tying. Search by familiar names and good tiers. I like videos by Norm Norlander, and Davie McPhail. But there are many other excellent tiers out there.
- Check out the websites for BCFFF member clubs; they are an exceptional source of fly patterns for their local waters.

<http://saltwaterjournal.com/fly-tying/pink-salmon-half-assed-handlebar/>

<http://members.shaw.ca/thepikes/july01.htm>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=tying+flies+for+pink+salmon&FORM=VIRE6#view=detail&mid=2522A681151B565B9D382522A681151B565B9D38>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kC9nRodFls>

<http://www.sea-run.com/pinksalmon/>

<http://flyguys.net/fly-patterns/caddis/the-mikulak-sedge>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=tying+flies+%2b+norvise&FORM=VIRE3#view=detail&mid=BC794DF0691601D9918ABC794DF0691601D9918A>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=tying+flies+%2b+norvise&FORM=VIRE3#view=detail&mid=A7CD2FDCEEFE15807102A7CD2FDCEEFE15807102>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCNtJo2qHCo&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=Nor-Vise+List&utm_campaign=b6fceed9a8-Nor_Vise_Newsletter_November_201111_19_2011&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c49f829832-b6fceed9a8-32299309

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRT0OryiLyQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61DFwugUJbU>



Dragon Lake September 2015