

FLY LINES

Official eJournal of the
BC Federation of Fly Fishers

ISSUE No1 | SPRING 2023

SUMMER IS DRAGONFLY TIME:

SEE BACK CASTS FOR SOME
TIMELESS PATTERNS FROM
DOUGLAS WRIGHT *page 13*

ART LINGREN: THE ULTIMATE COMPLIMENT

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TENKARA FISHING

SEE ARTICLE AND CATCH ONE
OF THE NEW WAVES IN FLY
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Join Us!

TODAY IN OUR MISSION

to conserve and protect BC's sport fisheries

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JOIN THE BC FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS TODAY AND PROTECT OUR FLY FISHING FUTURE FOR TOMORROW!



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VOICE WILL PROTECT
AND CONSERVE
THE FUTURE OF FLY
FISHING IN BRITISH
COLUMBIA**



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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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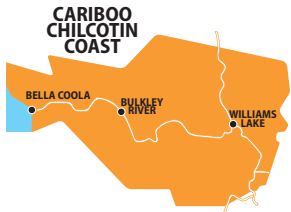
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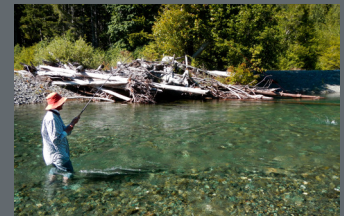
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Cover Photo: A nice trout from under the woodpile
Photo credit: Rory Glennie



President's Message

It is early May on Vancouver Island, a time when lakes, rivers and beaches can be extremely productive. It is also when my favourite beach can prove extremely productive for sea run cutthroat, (a fish I have grown to love and appreciate, while our beloved steelhead runs continue to decline) and — as I write this — fisheries are opening up throughout our wonderful province.

I would like to thank everyone that participated and helped organize the 2023 Corbett Lake AGM. After many years of virtual meetings, a face to face AGM was long overdue. As well, I would like to thank all the organizations, clubs, as well as individuals, who donated to our silent auction, which proved to be extremely successful.

The next few months will be busy ones, as we see the results of winter kill, non-selective fisheries, ocean conditions and more.

The BCFFF will continue to represent fly fishers on these issues and others, when meeting with various levels of government, public consultation processes, as well as our many partners, to help ensure that conservation, as well as angling opportunities continue to exist and grow.

Furthermore, should any clubs or organizations have projects they wish to take part in, I encourage you to reach out to the Trust Fund committee to see how the BCFFF can help.

Both Brian and I are very happy with this issue of Flylines and look forward to an even better "Third issue" since its relaunch. Flylines is a reflection of the BCFFF and our values. It is "your" journal, so please reach out to us if you wish to contribute, or have ideas to share with us. The next few months will offer the best of angling opportunities in our province, I wish you all a successful season — wherever your angling adventures take you.

Myles Armstead

President of the BC Federation of Fly Fishers



DONATION

On behalf of the

BC FEDERATION OF FLYFISHERS

We like to thank the following organizations, companies and individuals who donated to our 2023 Silent auction:

- John Braybrook
- Pat George
- Jeffrey Delia
- Mike's reel repair
- Brian Smith
- Dean Hodgson
- Canadian Llama
- Len Piggim
- Big Rock Sports
- Polar Coachman FF
- Corbett Lake Lodge
- Art Lingren
- Paul Jennings
- Peter Caverhill

We appreciate your support!



For Donations and general questions please contact BCFFF Jesse Blake or Brian Smith at blake.drifter.jesse@gmail.com flyfishingnut47@gmail.com



Club News/Reports

COMOX VALLEY

Comox Valley Flyfishers

by Dean Hodgson

Our fly-fishing club consists of 60 to 100 members, of which 40 are the active and contributing types of individuals. We meet three times per month from September to June, which involves Board of Directors, a fly-tying night, and a General Meeting. Our monthly fish-outs begin the end of February and run through to early November, ending with the onset of winter. Lakes and rivers in our area that we typically fish are: the Quinsam River, nymphing or dry-fly fishing for cutthroat; Horne Lake, fishing for staging and spawning cutthroat; Maple Lake,



for early season rainbow fishing; the local beaches, searching for sea-run cutthroat; Spider Lake, one of our stocked rainbow lakes; Elk River for resident rainbows, and again beach fishing in the late summer and fall for pinks and Coho salmon.

Our fly-tying sessions are geared towards tying flies appropriate for the upcoming fish-outs, and our general meetings often include a presentation on the upcoming fish-out, and rigging up gear for those who need it.

Several of our members work as volunteers at the Oyster River Hatchery. On the days where extra bodies are required, such as seining for brood stock, taking eggs, or clipping coho fry, many club members turn out to assist.

Interesting Fishery:

During the last few years, we have assisted biologist Scott Sylvestri in the collection of cutthroat trout brood stock from Horne Lake for the BC Freshwater Fisheries Society Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery

Photo of Dean Hodgson CVFF President credit Rod Hamilton

located in Duncan. Fish traps are set in various locations around the lake. Fisheries has a truck with an aerated tank, and on the days which they clear the traps and transport the fish to the hatchery in Duncan we coordinate our fish-outs and give them a hand. When one of us catches a fish that looks like a mature contender for brood stock, we text Scott; he comes by in his boat, takes our net with the fish in it, dumps it in the tank he has on board and returns our net to us for the next go. They have now switched locations and are collecting their brood stock from Cowichan Lake.

It is a fun fishery in a very picturesque location at the head of Horne Lake, situated where the Big Qualicum River pours into the lake and nestled in the mountains of the Beaufort Range, one mile from the Horne Lake Caves. It is usually a cold day of fishing on the lake at the end of February, so our days of fishing are weather dependant under generally windy conditions.

PRINCE GEORGE, BC

Polar Coachman Flyfishers

by Brian Smith

The Polar Coachman Flyfishers, of which I am a member and current Past President, are the newest member club of the BCFFF, joining in late 2022. This report by Jeff Kormos, President, is an intro for BCFFF members to the club, its formation and mission statement. As you can see by Jeff's report, we are very active in the conservation and preservation of our northern BC fisheries, and are looking forward to being a valued member and contributor to the BCFFF for many years to come.

The Polar Coachman Flyfishers Club (PCFC) was formed in the 1970s by some dedicated and conservation-minded fly anglers in Prince George BC. The club

????????????

Totems Fly Fishing Club Report

by Lorenzo Cirillo

The Totems Fly Fishers are heading into 2023 with a great deal of enthusiasm and optimism. During Covid, the club ushered in a number of new members that have contributed a great deal of renewed energy into the club. We continued to meet during the pandemic over Zoom but started to meet face-to-face once again in April of 2022. In January, the club solidified its groups that will

head into the Dean River for our annual foray onto this fabled river. Despite waning numbers of steelhead the last few years, our members faithfully make their way to the Dean to not only admire this great wild river but to continue our stewardship and advocacy for its health.

Our first outing of the year took place in late January on the Chilliwack/Vedder river system. It is never easy to swing a fly

on the most heavily-fished river system in the province; however, we all managed to find some space. Despite frigid temperatures, iced guides and relentless outflow winds, ten members showed up.

As always, lunch is provided at our outings, and our outings chairman put together a hearty and soul warming chilli for lunch.

Looking ahead, the Totems have future outings planned for the Squamish, Harrison and



Skagit Rivers. Interior lake outings will include Peterhope Lake as well as Lac Le Jeune. The Totems are looking forward to sharing our news and updates with the renewed publications of Flylines!



became a registered society in 1992 and comprises of about 50 members who support the club's mission to "promote the enjoyment of fishing and to encourage conservation in the Province of BC." The club meets twice monthly at the Spruce City Wildlife Association's (SCWA) hatchery building, where it takes an active role in advocacy, education, and in the pursuit of fly-fishing as a worthwhile hobby and pastime, while promoting the sport as a tourism draw for the City of Prince George and surrounding area. In addition to regular club business meetings, they host a fly tying night and a social lunch at a local pub monthly.

The PCFC's ongoing support of local conservation efforts includes: volunteering and assisting ongoing "fry feeding" obligations at the SCWA Hatchery; providing letters of support for Steelhead Society of BC, BC Federation of Fly Fishers, SCWA, BC Wildlife Federation and Ministry of Environment in their ongoing endeavors to protect and enhance the fisheries resource in northern BC; completing the installation and rehabilitation of coarse fish weirs at Hart Lake; the purchase and placement of fishing docks at Shane and

Tory Lakes to remedy difficult public access and to protect and enhance sensitive shorelines at popular fishing spots; and, participating in river clean-up activities with our partners at the SCWA.

The club is also active in promoting fly fishing through teaching fly tying courses, fly casting demos, hosting the International Fly Fishing Film Festival and hosting Fishing Forever in partnership with the BC Wildlife Federation. The Fishing Forever program is dedicated to making fishing accessible. In the past we have hosted the Canadian Institute for the Blind, Spinal Cord Injury BC, and the Prince George Brain Injured Group. The club is also supporting the SCWA's construction of a trout pond with a casting platform next to the hatchery building. The pond will provide even greater access for beginner fishers and support new opportunities to demonstrate fly casting and fishing techniques to a variety of new fly fishers of every ability.

Jeff Kormos, President

For more information, please visit <http://www.polarcoachmanflyfishers.com>

KAMLOOPS FLY FISHERS

KFFA News

by Len Pigginn

KFF has 63 members in the club for 2023, which includes 5 new members.

A project the club took on this winter was rod building, with 15 members building new fly rods. The cost including parts was under \$300.00 each, and I would put these fly rods up against any \$800 plus fly rod that I sold at Wholesale Sports.

March 25th is our Fly Casting Session put on by Drew Alway from Always Fly Casting <https://alwaysflycasting.com>. Beginner session in the morning & advanced in the afternoon. Six Members per session with Pizza lunch.

Update on the Paul Lake Boat Launch Human Rights Complaint: we have sent a letter to Human Rights Tribunal & the Attorney



Our "Method Session/Fly Tying 101" lessons began with Hermann Fischer tying the Dragon Fly Pattern that he was supposed to do in March 2020...so we're back with regular meetings now.

We have Andrew, the Humminbird representative, and Kelly from Chrome Catchers presenting at our February "Method Session/Fly Tying 101" class.

Our local Conservation Officers will be attending our February dinner meeting as our guests, and they will give a short presentation followed by a question-and-answer period. It's been a long time since we have done this; it's good for the COs to meet our members and answer their questions. Andrew Hall will be tying his Mayfly & Shrimp patterns at our March Method Session/Fly Tying 101.

General advising them that mediation has been terminated. and we wish to proceed with a Public Hearing. I will provide a better update at the Corbett Lake AGM.

Invite: If a BCFFF club is planning a fish-out in Region 3 please let me know as we will be getting our fish-out plans together soon. s. Len Pigginn President KFFA kamloopsflyfishers@gmail.com

Photos by Len Pigginn



THE CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN FLYFISHERS CLUB

Article By Paul Carnes



CAMPING TRIPS TO VARIOUS LAKES AROUND THE WILLIAMS LAKE AREA DURING THE SPRING AND SUMMER MONTHS. SOME MEMBERS ENJOY GOING TO BELLA COOLA FOR CUTTHROAT IN THE SPRING AND COHO IN THE FALL, AND A FEW MAKE THE OCCASIONAL TRIP TO THE BULKLEY RIVER FOR STEELHEAD

Photo of the club at Palmer Lake fish-out 2022
photo by Paul Carnes



There were two main projects the club wished to be involved with shortly after they organized. In March of 1995 the Federal government decided to close the Quesnel River Hatchery, which was rearing chinook salmon fry for release into the Quesnel River and tributaries. The club met and partnered with the Likely community, purchased the facility from DFO for one dollar, and then quickly raised money to feed the salmon fry until their release in September when they had a greater chance of survival. The non-profit society, consisting of First Nations, industrial partners, local community groups and the Cariboo-Chilcotin Flyfishers operated the facility as the Quesnel River Enhancement Society for five years in cooperation with the province, focusing mainly on sockeye salmon enhancement for the

Quesnel and Horsefly Rivers.

In 2002, The University of Northern BC took over the facility with a \$7.1 million endowment grant from the province, and now uses the site for land and fisheries research projects. Students and researchers focus on landscape ecology and fish biology, as well as examining the effects of land-use activities such as ranching, mining, logging and road construction, and how the habitat and fishes are affected by such activities. The hatchery maintains some fish inventory for their research, and does some short-term contract work when called upon, but no longer operates as a hatchery.

In 1996, The Cariboo-Chilcotin Flyfishers Club was awarded the BC Federation of Fly Fishers Conservation award for their efforts with the Ballon Lake-Hanceville Project, and were also recognized with the Jack McKill Conservation award by the Williams Lake Sportsman Association for spear-heading both the Ballon Lake Project and the Quesnel Lake Hatchery programs.

Our club has scaled back in numbers and has felt the effects from Covid, as it has been a hard to meet and gather. We have fourteen members, and have settled into a routine of fly-tying in the winter months, and holding club fish-outs and camping trips to various lakes around the Williams Lake area during the spring and summer months. Some members enjoy going to Bella Coola for cutthroat in the spring and Coho in the fall, and a few make the occasional trip to the Bulkley River for steelhead.

The Ultimate Compliment

Article by Art Lingren

Art Lingren Intro

by Brian Smith

Art Lingren, BCFFF Historian, author of twenty-five books and journals on fly-fishing, member of Totems Fly Fishers for over forty years and honorary member of the Loons Fly Fishing Club, is now eighty years young and still producing fine literature for all generations of fly fishers. In his younger years, Art's fly-fishing thoughts were influenced greatly by the writings and teachings of Roderick Haig-Brown, Tommy Brayshaw, General Noel Money, and Martin Tolley — all gone now, but fondly remembered by this generation of fly fishers for their generous contributions to the art and science of British Columbia fly-fishing lore. Art belongs among that cherished group for his writings; albeit and sadly, his beloved steelhead has become but a mere shadow of its former glory. When I spoke to Art for this interview, his mind raced off to his upcoming annual trip to the Bella Coola country for spring cutthroat fishing, and to his treasured September trips to the Tlell River on Haida Gwaii with his son Charles, two of his fondest places to wet a line. Art Lingren has been a precious gift to this generation of fly-fishers. It is our immense pleasure to honour him with this guest feature of BCFFF Flylines.

"The Leonardo Da Vinci of The Steelhead World"

It is nice to get positive feedback on my fly-fishing related work from likeminded fly fishers. Compliments do vary. For example: someone paying good money for a fly or flies or a special book, I donated to an NGO. Recently three framed flies at an NGO fundraiser sold for \$750. I often get written compliments some are short — a word or two— such as Darryl Rigets' after picking up



Jennifer La Follette photo

a paperback copy of *A Steelheader's Journey* he says, "she's a beauty!" or this longer one from Neil Cameron in Campbell River on that same book:

I finally finished the book.

I loved it.

The only problem is you made me envious!

I would never have expected you not to catch a steelhead in June. Then again, I would never have expected you to catch one in your pajamas!

Earlier in November at a book signing hosted by Jennifer and Joel La Follette at their Royal Treatment Fly Fishing shop in West Linn, Oregon,

Frank Amato who lives close by, dropped in for a visit. We don't get to see each other that often but Amato Publications did my first book in 1993. Frank and I became friends shortly after and we have been friends for coming on 30 years.

Starting in 1993 with *Fly Patterns of Roderick Haig-Brown* and my ninth book *The Roderick Haig-Brown Centennial Edition of Fly Patterns of British Columbia* in 2008 Amato Publications did nine of my books. ▶

IT WAS BEFORE COVID THE LAST TIME FRANK AMATO AND I SAW EACH OTHER, AND WE ARE GETTING REACQUAINTED, WITH MY WIFE BEVERLEY LOOKING ON.

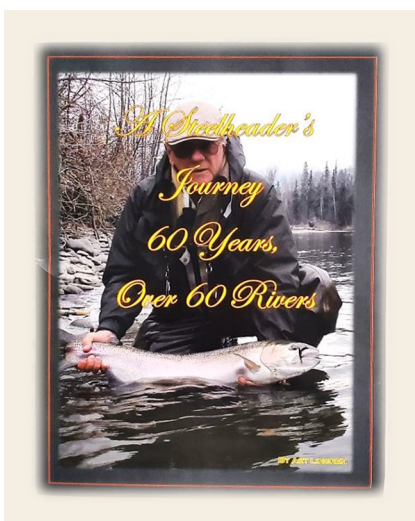


In 1993 Frank Amato published my first book *Fly Patterns of Roderick Haig-Brown* and my last with him *The Roderick Haig-Brown Centennial Edition of Fly Patterns of British Columbia* in 2008. (The original blue covered edition of *Fly Patterns of British Columbia* Frank published in 1996 and it is the bible on BC historical flies.)

“The Leonardo Da Vinci OF THE STEELHEAD WORLD”

► Columbia related. And over the years I have given Frank copies of my self-published books that I thought would interest him. At the West Linn book signing I gave Frank a copy of *A Steelheader's Journey-60 Years, over 60 Rivers*.

In the late morning of November 29th, the phone rang and when I answered Frank's familiar voice was on the other end. Last night he read about 60 pages in the *A Steelheader's Journey*, and he said how much he



enjoyed it and asked if I needed help for USA sales. I wish I had printed more books, but I told him that all the books I had printed were sold, some directly by me and others to British Columbia fishing shops. Frank asked if I had the book printed in Vancouver? “Yes, I said” through Jim McKinnon at Initial Print on Hastings Street in Vancouver. We got into a discussion on why I self-publish. I don’t do large print runs and have to guess the size of the market before spending a lot of money printing books and I don’t want a bunch left over. I told Frank that most people buy a softcover, but a softcover book is not as permanent a record as a limited-edition hardbound book. I like nicely bound books for my library and my aim when doing a self-published book is to get a specially bound edition for my library. Gwen Kushner in Campbell River— who is now well into her 80s, and whom I met through Van Egan around 30 years ago — has made

me some beautiful books. Gwen is not able to do anymore projects for me and I have commissioned a bookbinding company in Sooke, British Columbia to do a set of *A Steelheader's Journey-60 Years, over 60 Rivers* limited editions.

Frank wanted to know where my interest in fly fishing history came from — I do have an inquisitive mind. Haig-Brown sparked some of that fly fishing historical interest in his “Fishing Books” section in *A River Never Sleeps* (1946). Haig-Brown was dear to the hearts of both of us. In addition to being an accomplished steelheader with the ability to use the software programs needed to produce a book Frank commented on the number of other skills I had to have to make *A Steelheader's Journey-60 Years, over 60 Rivers*: writer, book designer, graphic artist, fly developer and fly tier of steelhead flies that compliment my fly-fishing presentation methods and a tier of classic Atlantic salmon flies, photographer, researcher, historian, diarist and storyteller. Sixty years is a long time and relying on memory often results in inaccurate recollections. For most of my fishing life I kept good records in my fishing diaries and from them I was able to provide accurate details on many of the stories in the book.

I am a fly-fishing history buff and my early fly-fishing years, I became interested in British

Columbia fly fishing history. Over many years I spent a lot of hours in libraries, special collections, archives, and museums searching for pictures and books specific to British Columbia fish and fishing. The historical information gleaned from those searches is evident in much of my writing and one thing I thought would be useful to others with a like interest I put together a bibliography on *British Columbia Angling and Fishing Literature* from 1865 to near present day.

I searched bookstores and antiquarian book catalogues for many of those titles and from collecting and reading those works I learned more about early British Columbia



This bound book in my collection is a check list of the literature to 2007. I kept it updated on my computer to about 2021 but have not added anything since then— too many self-published by individuals or clubs which I am not aware off.

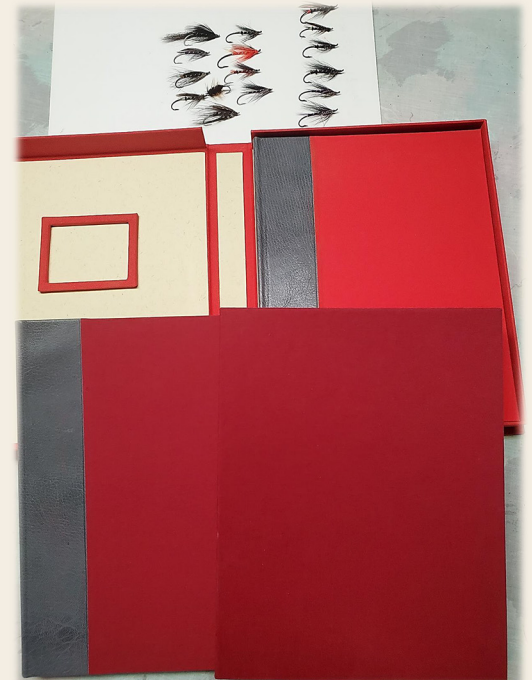
FRANK WANTED TO KNOW WHERE MY INTEREST IN FLY FISHING HISTORY CAME FROM — I DO HAVE AN INQUISITIVE MIND

fly fishing especially about historical fishing flies and steelhead than anyone in this province. I document certain aspects of fly-fishing history in the 25 books I have written and illustrated. For example, ever wonder where the word steelhead came from— attested to in an early 1880's fisheries journal and that little tidbit is in my Thompson River Journal. Frank commented on my books on fly fishers such as the book *Steelhead Influences — General Money, Tommy Brayshaw and Roderick Haig-Brown*, other books on Peter McVey, Harry Lemire, Bill McMillan, Bob Clay, and my treatise on Syd Glasso flies are all historic records detailing important aspect of Pacific Northwest fly fishing.

I have been and continue to be a meticulous record keeper and with journals for almost 60 years. I am also a keeper of other historic records as well such as old photos, newspaper clipping and old magazine articles. I am the book's photographer, and this book contains many pictures of fish, other animals, people, scenery, and macro photographs of flies. A jack of all trades. Through this lengthy discussion Frank mentioned more than once in our talk that in his long association with steelhead anglers and writers he has not come across anyone with such a variety of skills, done well and he said that I am, "the Leonardo da Vinci of the steelhead world." I am a modest man, but my heart swelled when Frank reiterated that ultimate compliment through our conversation. Da Vinci was a multi-talented genius, I am not a genius, but I am multi-talented when it comes to all the skills necessary to produce *A Steelheader's Journey-60 Years, over 60 Rivers*. Frank, thank you for that ultimate compliment.



Some of my fishing diaries or journals as I call them



Two samples leather hardbound in slipcase and the other in a clam shell box. The slip cased book will have a fly mounted on inside cover. The clam shell box and book will have two flies one in the clamshell and the other in the inside front cover. I prefer the darker red binding and will have the book binder do the remaining books in that colour.

“I have been and continue to be a meticulous record keeper and with journals for almost 60 years. I am also a keeper of other historic records as well such as old photos, newspaper clipping and old magazine articles”

HISTORY

REMEMBERING RON GRANTHAM

Article by Art Lingren

Ron Grantham—my old high school friend, Ron spent his last two years at Lord Byng. After high school we didn't see or hear of each other for years but when I was membership chair for the Steelhead Society of BC, I would sign the membership cards and Ron sent a message asking if I was the Art Lingren he went to school with.

We both fished the Thompson River and around 1980 when camped in the Y Run, Ron heard I was there and came over and introduced himself. I had a mop of hair back in school and when Ron saw me on the Thompson he said, "What happened to your hair?" In 1983 I joined the Totem Flyfishers, Ron was already a member. We became closer through that association

and saw each other on club fish-outs and some fishing trips such as the Dean and Bella Coola. On my northern journeys I would often visit his camp on the Bulkley River. He was a man of many talents—poet, editor, fly inventor, bamboo rod builder and enthusiastic steelhead fly fisher. Ron, one year older than me, died on August 24, 2018.

Rick's Lake, 2015



Bella Coola River, April 2012



A picture of his famous Grantham's Sedge steelhead fly



Dragonfly Nymphs

2003

By Douglas Wright



Douglas Wright intro

by Brian Smith

This is an excellent piece of work by Douglas Wright on dragonfly nymphs, one of the key insects roaming around our BC lakes during the summer months.

I especially like Douglas's use of mostly natural materials when tying his nymphs; they really take on a "buggy" appearance, and offer the illusion of lifelike motion when swimming or at rest in their environment.

My old friend and mentor Jack Shaw would be impressed, Douglas!

I clearly remember that miserable August afternoon. The wind had howled, there had been no hatches and the fish were not accepting anybody's offerings - a typical "bad day."

The previous days had been very warm and bright; common during the times of the summer doldrums. I secured one of my new darter nymph creations using a Trilene Knot, waved four quick false casts and launched my clear intermediate sinking line onto the edge of a large chara weedbed. Patiently waiting for the fly to submerge to the depths of the lake, the line suddenly tightened and my rod was almost viciously torn out of my hand. The line stretched and the rod wobbled and bounced from the immediate headshakes of the large rainbow. The fish sailed out to the middle of the lake, peeling line off my reel as if there were no drag set at all!

Still stunned, I quickly try to gain the upper hand of the fierce battle, palming the exposed rim of the reel and putting my rod to its max. The battle continued for a few added nerve-racking minutes, with two more hard runs and the classic acrobatic leaps the Kamloops strain is known for, the big doe was finally brought to hand. An honest four pounds, the eye blinding trophy was not so long, but very chunky! Rid of the newly successful imitation, I cradled the

fish in the stained water until I felt the muscles within the wrist of the tail contract, and the fish darted out and down from my hands giving me a bit of a shower. I rinsed my hands in the warm lake water, picked up my rod, and made another cast in hopes of another spectacular experience. It seemed the fish were concentrated around this large weed bed picking off dragonfly nymphs in their preferred habitat. They would hit my offering as it sunk to the bottom of the lake, as I slowly crept it alongside the weed bed or as it hovered right above the thick vegetation. Dragonfly nymphs definitely saved the visit to this lake during the hot summer.

Dragonfly nymphs can play a significant importance for trout in stillwaters. Their availability throughout the year makes them a staple food source. Fishing dragonfly nymphs can offer spectacular fishing, especially when the carnivorous nymphs start their early summer migration towards the shore of the lake to emerge into the winged adult stage of their lives. Other times to consider fishing a dragon nymph can be during the times of the year when other insect hatches are not



STILL STUNNED, I QUICKLY TRY TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND OF THE FIERCE BATTLE, PALMING THE EXPOSED RIM OF THE REEL AND PUTTING MY ROD TO ITS MAX

abundant, such as during the early ice-odd conditions, when the water is still cold and the fish are forced in the shallows, the late summer doldrums, or in the fall as a searching pattern. For many fishers, dragonfly nymphs are a favorite food source to imitate when there's no obvious hatches taking place. They often provide confidence when fishing unfamiliar waters because of their larger size and availability. When at a lake for the first time, many anglers, especially those who are new to the addiction, would most likely feel more confident fishing a size 6 dragonfly nymph than a size 16 scud. Whether anchored and casting, or quietly trolling in a float tube, a fish seldom refuses one's well presented dragonfly nymph pattern. To me, they offer great excitement. One minute you can be anxiously, but slowly creeping your imitation down by the lake bottom, and the next, your rod is almost torn right out of your hands and the reel begins to sing!

Although the dragons of the Lillulidae family, (commonly referred to as "sprawlers") are more widespread, the Aeshidae dragonfly nymphs receive more attention from anglers. Larger in size, often exceeding 2 inches in length, the Aeshidae, or "darners" dragonfly nymphs go out and hunt for their food, leaving themselves vulnerable to a hungry trout. The Lillulidae dragonfly nymphs patiently wait and ambush their prey, covering themselves with lake bottom silt and debris with their furry spider-like bodies. The sprawlers are quite a bit shorter than the darners, and have a flat, wide body. The darners on the other hand, are usually longer and their bodies are fat all around. Colourations for both species vary from lake to lake. Stillwaters with murky or stained waters will often have darker olive and brown dragonflies while clear waters will have much lighter coloured nymphs.

Dragonfly nymphs camouflage well with their surroundings, and from my observations, the sprawler nymphs always appear to be a little lighter in colour than the darners. With these few features in mind, I have designed several variations of other dragonfly nymph imitations that have been fairly productive for me.



ARIZONA DRAGON

Slightly less flashy than Phil Rowley's Draggin, my Arizona Dragon shares quite a few of the same features for waters that are clearer. My original has knotted pheasant tail for the legs, but I have tied some with rubber or silicone legs when extra movement is needed.

The first few times I fished this pattern, I was rewarded with many fish that were eagerly taking this imitation. This really surprised me because I did not get a single sniff on one of my other dragonfly nymph patterns I just previously tried. The hits were strong and vicious — I've never been so alert before.

After all, I didn't want to lose my favorite rod. It's a fairly easy pattern to tie and looks good in the water. I tie the Arizona Dragon in sizes 6 and 8, which covers most situations. Fished around weed beds is where this darter imitation can be productive. Try using a slow retrieve mixed with a few sharp, erratic pulls to entice an aggressive strike.

Arizona Dragon

Hook:	3x long curved nymph hook, such as Mustad C53S or equivalent
Thread:	olive 6/0
Tail:	10-12 strands of pheasant tail
Underbody:	wool
Overbody:	Arizona Synthetic Peacock dubbing spun in a thread dubbing loop and further spun with a fine copper wire loop. Legs: knotted pheasant tail, or rubber or silicone legs
Legs:	knotted pheasant tail, or rubber or silicone legs
Thorax:	peacock herl or same as body
Wingcase:	brown or olive Raffia/Swiss Starw
Eyes:	olive or black knotted ultra chenille



AFTERSHAFT DRAGON

This is my favorite darter imitation. When carefully looked upon, the front of a dragonfly nymph's abdomen really pulses as they breath. Because I am always looking for a way to attract a fish to my offerings by using a flashy substances or one that moves well in the water, I came to use filoplume for the thorax to suggest this pulsing motion. Filoplume, or aftershaft, is the little tag feather attached to pheasant rump or sometimes hackle feathers. They pulse and undulate in the water very nicely and add life to any fly.

For me, the Aftershaft Dragon has been a successful fly when fished in waters that are generally clearer, where fish can be very inspective and shy, only accepting offerings that closely resemble the real thing. I usually tie this fly on a size 4 hook and sometimes a 6. This pattern is fun to tie and has been productive for me on a number of occasions and has earned a good spot in my fly box.

Aftershaft Dragon

Hook:	3x long curved nymph hook, such as TMC 200R or equivalent
Thread:	brown or olive 6/0
Tail:	10-12 strands of pheasant tail
Underbody:	wool
Overbody:	brown or olive dubbing
Back:	olive or brown Raffia/Swiss Straw
Rib:	medium gold wire
Legs:	knotted pheasant tail
Thorax:	natural, brown, or olive aftershaft/filoplume
Wingcase:	same as back
Eyes:	brown, olive, or black knotted ultra chenille



BOTTOM WALKER

Spending much of their time amongst weeds and vegetation, dragonfly nymphs can be very challenging to fish. Snagging weeds and debris makes for a difficult and frustrating time on the water. Patterns like the Bottom Walker (made almost entirely of deer hair, a natural and buoyant material), originated by Alfred Davy, can be deadly when fished on a full sinking line. The line will be down and dirty in the weeds, while the buoyant materials will cause the fly to hover right over this structure, depending on the length of the leader. The wide profile of the Lillulidae nymphs can be hard to achieve in a fly design. This is another reason why deer hair is often used in sprawler patterns. Spinning and trimming deer hair is one of the easiest ways to create a pattern with this broad profile. By trimming the spun deer hair to a different shape, you can also come up with a buoyant darter imitation. The ribbing, which is made of a scruffy and slightly stiff dubbing, suggests the silt and small debris that the sprawlers use for camouflage very well, and gives the fly that added “buggy” look.

I tie this pattern slightly different than Alfred Davy, but it resembles and basically is a Bottom Walker. Alf’s original recipe can be found in *The Gilly*, a terrific, detailed book on fly fishing lakes. This fly design has been around for years, and it is one of the most effective dragonfly imitations I know of. The addition of a hard monofilament weed-guard will further reduce the chances of hooking debris when fishing areas of structure. Tie a few in shades of brown as well, for greater flexibility when on the water.

Bottom Walker

Hook:	3x long curved nymph hook, such as TMC 200R, or any hook will do
Thread:	6/0, colour to match body
Body:	natural deer hair, spun and clipped to shape
Rib:	olive dubbing in a dubbing loop
Legs:	dyed olive pheasant rump or mallard flank
Wingcase:	peacock herl
Thorax:	natural deer hair, spun and clipped to shape
Beard:	natural pheasant rump or moose

Although these are some of my most favorite patterns, I do carry a selection of other well known dragonfly nymph patterns as well, and have had great success with them.

The possibilities are endless and the only limit is your imagination. Fishing a dragonfly nymph pattern can produce surprising results. They are well known to bring out vicious strikes and big, aggressive trout. Next time you’re on that favorite lake; don’t be afraid to try a pattern of this staple food source!



VIRTUAL DRAGON

Browsing through all of my bookmarked fishing websites one day, I stumbled across one of Al Campbell’s flies in the “Advanced Tying” section at Fly Anglers Online website (flyangersonline.com). Al Campbell is a regular contributor to the site and ties an awesome fly! The one that caught my eye was his “Virtual Stonefly”.

The abdomen was very unique in that the underbody was made of different colourations of dubbing which could be seen through the translucent overbody of Larva Lace, giving the finished fly that mottled camouflaged look; very realistic! Al coupled this body design with a bunch of other clever additions to create a very realistic stonefly nymph imitation. This made me think that possibly I could use some of his ideas, mainly the body style, to create a realistic dragonfly nymph imitation, a “Virtual Dragon”.

After several attempts at the vice, some cursing, and mind cramps, I finally ended up with a fly pattern that I was satisfied with. This fly will probably catch more fishermen than fish and I would not want to tie them commercially. It will put your tying skills and patience to the test, but it can be kind of fun to tie as well!

Virtual Dragon

Hook:	3x long curved nymph hook, such as Daiichi 1270 or equivalent
Thread:	brown or olive 6/0 or 8/0
1st Underbody:	wool
2nd Underbody:	mixture of different coloured Eyes: brown, olive, or black knotted ultra
Overbody:	chenille dubbings (light, dark, olives, greens, browns, etc.)
Back (3rd Underbody):	brown or olive Raffia/Swiss Straw marked with permanent or pantone felts (everything is then secured with mono tying thread)
Overbody:	clear, light olive or tan Larva Lace, V-Rib, Nymph Rib, etc,
Legs:	knotted pheasant tail coated with head cement or clear nail polish
Thorax:	Arizona Semi-Seal #25 or your choice Wingcase: tan Scud Back, large ¼”
Eyes:	melted monofilament

Lady Caroline

Spey

by Scott Norris



Scott Norris



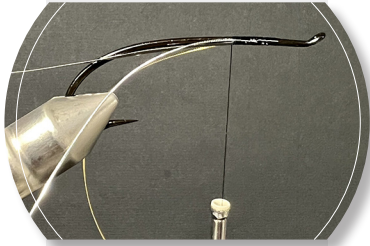
Lady Caroline Spey intro

by Brian Smith

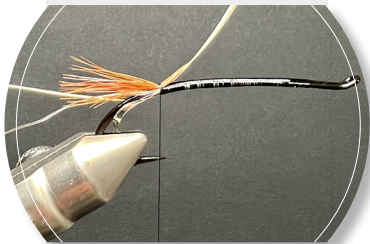
Scott Norris is the new and current President of the Totems Fly Fishers, one of the oldest clubs in the BCFFF group. He brings with him a fresh look and a lot of talent for tying the old classics like “The Lady Caroline”, one of the oldest and most popular of the characteristic flies in the Spey family. The originator is unknown, but its birth was early 19th century, first appearing in Pryce-Tannatt’s book *How to Dress Salmon Flies* (1914). Early on, it was ribbed in several different ways

depending on the tier be it George Kelson or James Hardy, but this version by Scott Norris is the Pryce-Tannatt style, which dressed the fly with three spaced ribs over a body of mixed Berlin wool, one part olive-green and two parts brown.

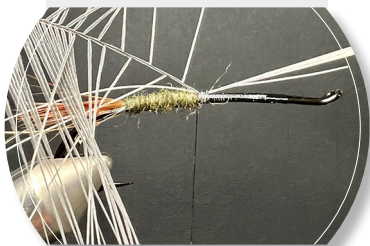
Most steelheader’s know that the Lady Caroline is a “must” working pattern to have in your fly box. Scott goes into great depth to teach us how to tie it; now tie some up and “go swing-one” through your favourite riffle.



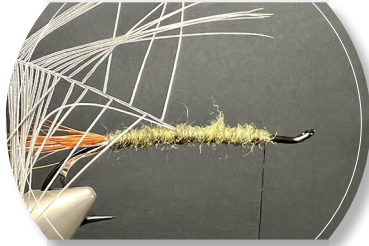
1 Tie-in three ribs behind the return-eye of the hook shank: gold oval on far side, flat silver on bottom, silver oval on near side.



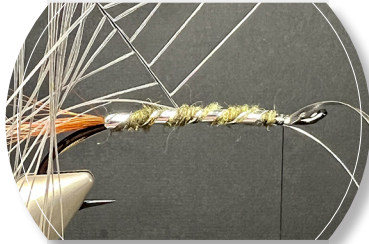
2 Secure the 3 ribs down the hook shank and stop your thread in line with the hook point. Keep the ribbing material in line with their tie-in points so they remain on the far side, bottom, and near side. Tie-in a Golden Pheasant rump feather at the tail.



3 Apply the body dubbing material and wrap it 1/3 of the way up the hook. Tie-in your Spey hackle. Tip: where you tie in the hackle will depend on how long the feather is; the longer it is, the further back you can tie it in. If it's a short feather, tie it in closer to the eye of the hook.



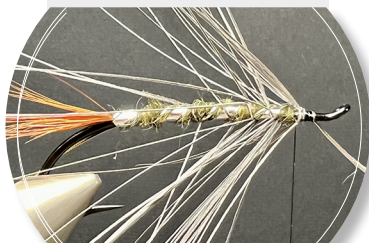
4 Continue the body dubbing, stop at the return eye of the hook.



5 Wind the flat silver tinsel up the hook shank 3-6 turns depending on the length of the hook shank.



6 Wind the flat silver tinsel up the hook shank 3-6 turns depending on the length of the hook shank.



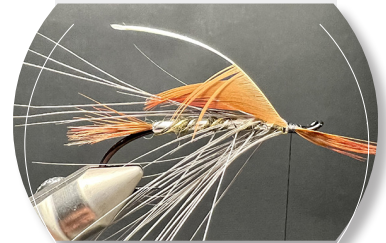
7 Wind the hackle forward in the opposite direction you wound the tinsels, crossing over them



8 Closeup of Step 7



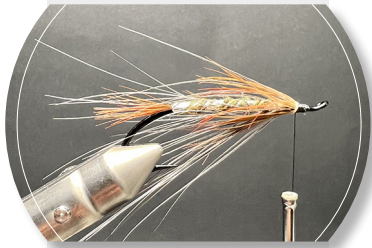
9 Wind the gold oval tinsel in front of the flat silver. Tip: this tinsel will cross over the hackle, giving the fly more strength and durability. Use a bodkin or pin to move hackle fibers out of the way so they do not get trapped by the tinsel.



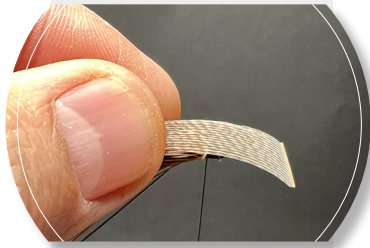
10 For the throat, strip one side of your Golden Pheasant rump feather, and tie it in by the tip where you left off your body hackle.



11 Wrap the throat feather and trim away the butt ends



12 Tip: with your fingers, press the hackle and throat feathers down on the body, moving your hand back towards the tail as you do so. This will shape the fibers in a more sweeping esthetic.



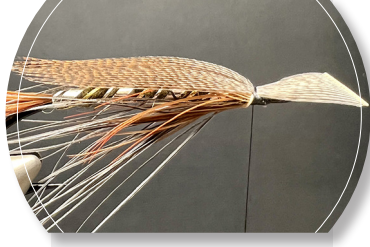
15 Take your matched pair of bronze mallard flank feathers; on each, measure a wing thickness of about 0,25 inch, and pull the fibers straight out from the stem of the feather.



18 Using a pinching loop, secure the wing on top of the hook shank. This will be the under-wing.



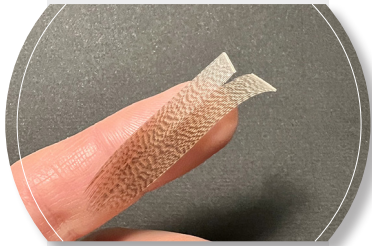
13 Wrap the throat feather and trim away the butt ends.



16 Trim them away from the main body of the feather, keeping the stem intact. Match the top of the feathers so they are touching.



19 Take another pair of inch, matched sections of bronze mallard; one at a time, tie them in on top of the under-wing in the exact same place as the under-wing was tied in.



14 Tip: with your fingers, press the hackle and throat feathers down on the body, moving your hand back towards the tail as you do so. This will shape the fibers in a more sweeping esthetic.



17 Fold the feathers between your thumb and forefinger so that the top edges match up, and lay the feathers on top of the hook shank.



21 Take another pair of inch, matched sections of bronze mallard; one at a time, tie them in on top of the under-wing in the exact same place as the under-wing was tied in.

MOST STEELHEADER'S KNOW THAT THE LADY CAROLINE IS A "MUST" WORKING PATTERN TO HAVE IN YOUR FLY BOX.

"Picking a Fishing Brain"

by Brian Smith



Pat George: Member, Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association, Victoria, BC

Having one place in the world to fish, where would that be? And when?

If Pat were to choose one place to return to, it would be the rivers of Montana: the Gallatin, Yellowstone, Bitterroot and Rock Creek during the month of June after freshet. The rivers are softening at this time, and you can follow prolific hatches of Salmonflies, mayflies and caddisflies up and down the elevations of your favourite rivers. The State of Montana prides itself in its protection of the fly-fishing tourism trade; conservation of its precious resource and manners are utmost in the minds of Montanans when it comes to fly-fishing. In the years Pat and his buddies visited Montana, they scrimped and saved every month to put cash aside in order to get there. At now 80 years old, Pat's memories of his favourite places in Montana still linger in his heart, and like many of us, Pat wishes he were 40 again...

Having one rod to fish that place with, which one would you choose?

Like most of us, Pat has at least fifteen rods to choose from depending on where he fishes, but his favourite for Montana and like places is a Sage RPL111 9-foot-3 inch for a # 5 line, custom built by Andy Snedden of Custom Rod Builders, Victoria. Pat says Andy's workmanship is "superb" and the Sage is one of many that Andy has built for him.

Having one reel to put on that rod, which one would you choose? And what line?

Pat loves his Abel Super 5. I can attest to the Abel, as I have several myself. They are simple, well made in the USA, and the drag system will stop a train, so-to-speak.

As far as a line goes, a # 5 weight-forward works well with his favourite rod, and you need distance on most of the Montana rivers.

Having one fly to use, which one would it be?

This is a tough question, as so much depends on the time of year, water

conditions, and lake or river you are fishing. Pat chooses a Woolly Bugger, as he fishes lakes and rivers mostly in the greater Victoria area. Many of the Island waters are now infested with bass, perch and goldfish, all illegally dumped by ignorant people, some that wish to change our ecosystems to an invasive, unnatural species fishery. Pat also loves to fish the chironomid, especially when he visits the Interior of our province, but the Woolly Bugger is his go-to because it takes all species of fish wherever he fishes.





DESTINATION

Text and Photos By Rory E. Glennie

TENKARADIS

An Intro to Rory Glennie

by Brian Smith

Rory, in his own words, does not wish to come off as a “self-aggrandizing” person, but a quick check with ‘google’ will tell you all you wish to know about this extremely talented writer and fly-fisherman. His many awards and accomplishments in the literary, conservation and far-reaching fly-fishing fields tell the story far better than I can ever hope to. Please ‘google’ him! Rory lives in Parksville, and is one of the founding members of the Comox Valley Fly Fishing Club, a long-time member and supporter of the BCFFF.

From its birthplace on an island along the far western edge of the Pacific Ocean, Tenkara style fly fishing has successfully emigrated to an island along its far eastern edge. Much like the mountainous Japanese birthplace of Tenkara, Vancouver Island is blessed with countless waters particularly suited to this style of fly-fishing. Many small

streams during normal/low summer flows, up until the rains of late autumn raise water levels beyond comfort level, offer good trout fishing opportunities.

Simplicity in Tenkara style fly-fishing frees your mind to concentrate on becoming one with the environment. Dress in muted Earth tones to blend in. Move with purpose and dexterity so not to alarm



your quarry. Cautiously ease into the water only when absolutely necessary. Visualize the rise before making the cast. Meld with the moment... and enjoy the surprise as the shock of reality snaps you back into being when a good trout takes your fly.

After the snowmelt, usually sometime in June, the mountain waters once again become available to Tenkara devotees. As with most high elevation fisheries, the feeding/growing season is relatively short, so trout moving into streams are very active, opportunistic feeders. If the fly presented looks remotely like a bit of food it will likely get smashed. Key areas to concentrate fishing effort on are the streams, of course, and the inlets and outlets of the ponds and small lakes; these zones offer a moving delivery system for food to hungry fish. Mostly of rocky substrate, the footing is mostly quite stable for wading out into the lake. As an example; on the Southeast flank of Mt. Washington, beyond Paradise Meadows, the stream joining Divers lake with Rossiter lake offers a near day-long Tenkara experience. This creek is substantially a long series of small, deep pools carved out by high water around some very big boulders; pockets perfect for picking. The best technique, upstream dry-fly. A black bodied Elk Hair Caddis tied with local Blacktail deer body hair on a size twelve or fourteen hook is sure to get their attention. One or two times over the pool and, if anyone is home, they will answer the call. If you are really stubborn



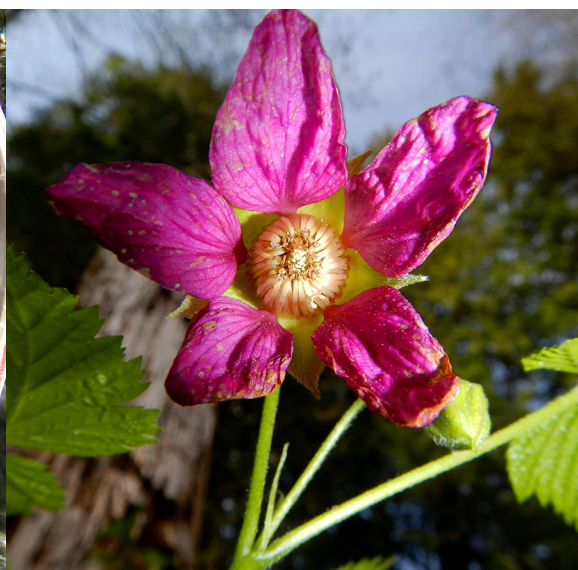
SIMPLICITY IN TENKARA STYLE FLY-FISHING FREES YOUR MIND TO CONCENTRATE ON BECOMING ONE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT.

and have missed a fish on the surface take, and said fish will not rise again, a small nymph may turn the trick.

Either starting at Divers outlet and fishing downstream to Rossiter or going the other way round, upstream, the choice is yours. Fishing downstream makes sense if you are trekking out to get back to the vehicle. Going upstream is a good way to access more remote waters and overnight camping spots.

As such, this area is a great place for day-trippers or overnights. Whether staying over or coming back for a future Tenkara trip, there are plenty of other streams and ponds in those mountains to search-out.

Summertime flows limit stream-trout to specific habitats; greenish hued pools where you cannot see the bottom. Undercut banks with overhanging bushes. A washed-out hole in the substrate near a partially





AN INTRODUCTION TO RORY E. GLENNIE

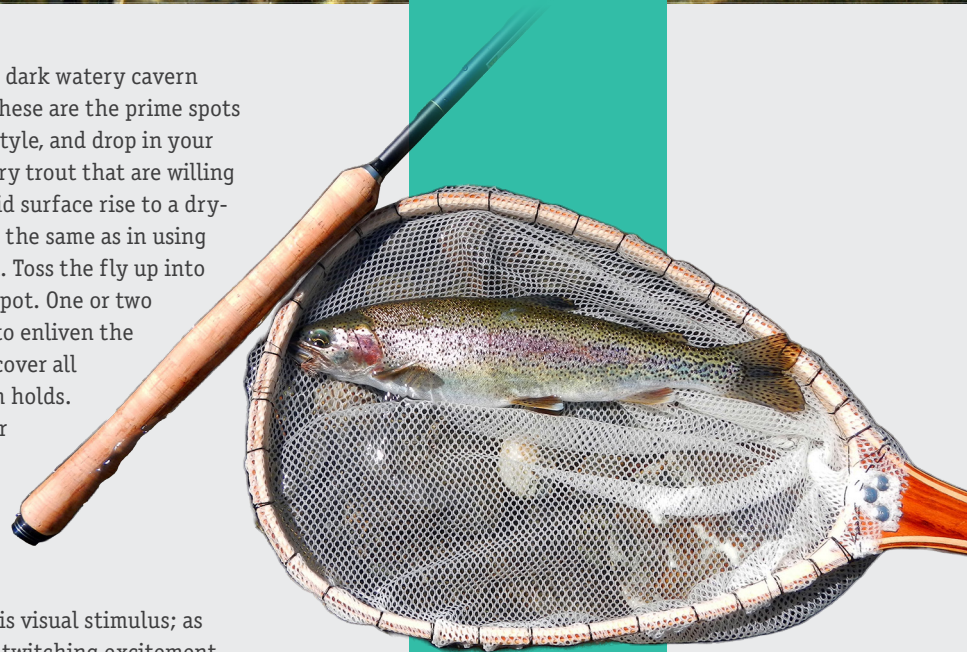
- Over fifty years of fly fishing experience on Vancouver Island
- Five years saltwater fish guiding and fly fishing program development in Tofino
- Licenced British Columbia Freshwater Angling Guide
- Member of "Fly Fishing Team Canada" at two World Fly Fishing Championships
- Developer of original fly tying recipes for lexicon of Canadian fly patterns
- Three time "1st." winner in monthly fly tying contests at "Fly Fishing the West" magazine
- Five years conducting a fisheries research project for UBC (Coho Interception Study)
- Three terms as Chairman of the Steelhead Society of BC, Comox Valley Chapter
- Executive Board member of SSBC for three years (Provincial parent body)
- Two terms as President of SSBC (Provincial parent body)
- Two years as Executive Board member for Haig-Brown Kingfisher Creek Society
- Eight terms as President of Haig-Brown Kingfisher Creek Society
- Founding Member of the Comox Valley Fly Fishers club
- Recipient of 1992 Fisheries and Oceans "National Recreational Fisheries Award"
- Recipient of Jack Hames "Award of Merit" from SSBC, Comox Valley Chapter
- Three time recipient "Member of the Year Award" from Comox Valley Fly Fishers
- Feature writer and West Coast Editor for The Canadian Fly Fisher magazine
- Feature writer, columnist and editorial staffer for The Island Fisherman Magazine
- Award winning non-fiction writer with The Outdoor Writers of Canada organization
- Book author and contributor to five published books and several magazines/newspapers
- Featured fly fishing guide for episodes on three different B.C. based TV shows
- Featured guest speaker for several Vancouver Island conservation/fishing clubs
- Fly fishing presenter at several trade shows in Canada and the U.S.



submerged log. The dark watery cavern next to a log jam. These are the prime spots to sneak up, Ninja style, and drop in your fly. These are hungry trout that are willing to oblige with a solid surface rise to a dry-fly. The principal is the same as in using a traditional Kebari. Toss the fly up into the perceived hot-spot. One or two quick twitch-hops to enliven the fly, then repeat to cover all the prospective fish holds.

Unfortunately for many Tenkara fishers, that often means experiencing a close-combat style reaction to this visual stimulus; as none of the muscle twitching excitement of a good fish rising up in a lazy S-bend to suck in the fly is missed. It takes a modicum of self-control to not yank the fly out of the fish's mouth... thankfully, with practice, that response can be learned.

As might be expected in the back-country jet-black ravens can be heard calling-out and spying on you from the tree tops. Bushy-tailed ground squirrels will be scouring the treed environs for ripe seed cones and succulent mushrooms to stash away for next winter, all the while brazenly scolding you for being in their territory. And, one will likely have a constant companion following you with a gregarious "whiskey jack" or two flitting about and quite willing to indulge themselves in a handful of your trail mix. With all this Nature being played out, one might well rename this place Tenkaradise.



**WITH ALL THIS NATURE
BEING PLAYED OUT, ONE
MIGHT WELL REName
THIS PLACE**

*Tenkara*radise

DESTINATION

Wasley Lake on the Douglas Ranch

by Vicki Green

WASLEY LAKE SITS HIGH ON THE INTERIOR PLATEAU ABOVE DOUGLAS LAKE RANCH AT AN ELEVATION OF 1272 METRES (4200 FEET)

Vicki Green Intro

by Brian Smith

Vicki Green is secretary of BCFFF and a long-time member of the Kalamalka Flyfishers in Vernon, BC. Vicki has made many contributions to the BCFFF during her stint as secretary, and I lovingly refer to her as the “conscience” of our organization. She is also an avid fly-fisher, travelling the summer months to their fishing home in the East Kootenays with her husband Richard, and both enjoying winter vacations in the world’s best fishing places: chasing bonefish on the flats at Christmas Island, and fly-casting for browns and rainbows in Chile, New Zealand and Argentina.



Vicki Green

The 10-kilometer (7-mile) double-rutted dirt trail to Wasley takes about ninety minutes to navigate by four-wheel-drive from home ranch to the lake. Along the track is a series of locked gates, barbed wire fence-gates, and cattle guards which ensures you drive slowly and take in the amazing vistas as you climb the valley floor to over 4200 feet. Wild flowers are blooming at this time: lupines, Indian paintbrush, wild roses, arnica, buttercups and geraniums, so each gate-stop is awash with the aroma of mixed flower scents while your eyes feast on vivid colours of red, pink, purple, pale yellow, butter cup yellow, and white. To ensure you pay close attention to the gate configurations, opening and closing each gate is not easy — each one requires your full attention to leave it as found.

It is difficult to adequately describe the drive to the lake, as it reminds me of driving into the Interior with my family when we were young. Not all roads were paved, often they were single-lane, and usually wound their way around large rocks, between huge trees and beside muddy sloughs. The path to Wasley Lake brings all of those joyful memories back to me.

During our drive in, sunlight occasionally poked



THE WATER EXPLODES, THE LINE
TIGHTENS, THE REEL SCREAMS, AND
A FISH JUMPS HIGH INTO THE AIR.

Fishing Heaven!



Credits ????

through the ceiling of dense fir and pine. The open forest was dotted with meadows; in one we spotted a ginger-coloured black bear; in others, deer and foxes. There were five horses that refused to move off the road as we approached them, so we decided to wait them out. The herd leader came over to completely block our way until the others had a good look at us and the truck; finally, we inched around them with our right wheels in the tall grass growing beside the road.

Our truck was in four-wheel-drive the entire trip as parts of the road held deep puddles left from hard torrential rain. I was delighted that we missed the rain with its accompanying lightning and thunder; lightning strikes and resultant fires are always a summer hazard in British Columbia.

We headed downhill toward Wasley and were welcomed by a flock of geese, which included their freshly hatched goslings, friends which were to share our yurt site for a few days. Overhead, sitting at the top of a pine tree, was a bald eagle keeping a watchful eye on the new visitors entering his domain. On the lake, waiting for us to help them fish, sat two loons. The air was filled with butterflies; yellow, black, multi-coloured and white. Frogs were filling the air with their racket — it has been too long since Richard and I have heard the sounds of frogs, which have all but disappeared from lower lakes that we frequent. They were a common sound in our childhoods.

The yurt is in a gentle setting with a white outhouse in the trees at the end of a well-beaten path. A shower with cold and hot running water is built beside the yurt, so anyone wanting to feel the refreshing water has to run outside to enter the shower, which is worth it, however, as the view of the lake is taken in while the water cascades over you.

We unpacked, got settled, and were ready to try our luck with the fish. It was hot — no fish were eating; bugs weren't coming up from the bottom of the lake. We tried every trick in our book: different kinds of chironomids, leeches, dry flies, classic flies. Nothing!

We decided to enjoy a chicken dinner on the barbecue, including salad and




blueberries, accompanied by Thornhaven wine. The cool breeze on the deck was favourable while we ate, and finished our dinner as the sun was dropping behind the trees. The lake in front of us was shaded, and suddenly began to come alive; fish were rising and sipping bugs from the surface, barely breaking it, but if you watched carefully, you could see the wakes of the trout appear just before they took the insect. We jumped into action and laced our dry lines through the guides, tying on old reliable Tom Thumbs. Fortunately, I had previously tied many sizes 12s and 14s with dark green underbodies. I chose the larger fly, and within two casts a feisty rainbow trout hit my fly, which ran line off my reel and jumped again and again, finally succumbed to my pressure and was brought close to the boat to be netted, unbuttoned, and released. Another cast,

**A FLOCK OF
GEESE, WHICH
INCLUDED
THEIR FRESHLY
HATCHED
GOSLINGS,
FRIENDS WHICH
WERE TO SHARE
OUR YURT SITE
FOR A FEW DAYS**

another fish. It continued over and over again. Fun is defined as catching rainbows on a dry fly. I watched the circles forming on the lake. As they formed, I cast in front or just behind the circles. Fish didn't hesitate grabbing the big Tom Thumb as I slowly stripped it across the water — cast, strip, strip and wham! The water explodes, the line tightens, the reel screams, and a fish jumps high into the air. Fishing heaven!

Suddenly the lake was quiet. Very quiet. It was dark and about ten-thirty at night. Clock-time is confusing when you concentrate intently for a long-time, having fun and not a worry in the world. Luckily, we had brought the flashlight, which enabled us to find our path up to the yurt after safely securing the boat. We laughed at the ease with which fish were caught, all between one-and-three pounds. We drank cups of hot tea while recounting the experience



YURT RATE: \$300/NIGHT
ELEVATION: 4200'
MAX OCCUPANCY: 6 GUESTS

INCLUSIONS/PLEASE NOTE
2 ROWBOATS INCLUDED
4X4 REQUIRED

REGULATIONS
NO GAS MOTORS PERMITTED
CATCH & RELEASE FLY-FISHERY ONLY

for hosting extremely large rainbow trout to the patient angler; average is 3-pounds but fish over 10-pounds have also been caught. Please be prepared for a 1.5 hour-drive from Home Ranch to reach the location of these yurts.

to secure it in our long-term memory banks. We snuggled under the quilts as the air was cooler than we expected. Imagine! We will have to do it again tomorrow...

Vicki Green belongs to Kalamalka Fly Fishers, and is secretary of the BCFFF. Vicki was born in Kamloops and started fishing around age five. She loves fly fishing rainbows, cutthroat and bull trout and can be found on area lakes around Vernon and Kamloops, also on the Elk and Kootenay Rivers near Fernie B. C.

For accommodations at Wasley, contact Douglas Lake Ranch.

Wasley Yurt #1 and Wasley Yurt #2 are spaced quite far from each other to ensure total relaxation and complete privacy. They are the only accommodations on this lake and our private dirt road (4x4 required) is the only drive-in access! Wasley Lake is infamous



Michael & Young "Spey Day" 2023

by Pete Caverhill

Covid said "goodbye" the M&Y "Spey Days" in 2020, 2021, and 2022! The year 2019 was the last of these events before Covid threw everyone for a three year loop!

These "Spey Days" had been going on for almost 10 years before Covid hit. M&Y, their staff and suppliers, have been incredibly generous, organizing these events over the years, with super on-the-water casting demos, access to superb fly gear to try and BBQs that have been as close to "Gourmet" as any beachside one could be! A raffle with incredible prizes (thanks to suppliers) was always there. Over the years "Spey Day" raffle sales have generated a very substantial return! This return has been split between SSBC and BCFFF, to be dedicated toward good deeds for the fish that we love and chase.

It's early Sunday morning and we are headed to Chilliwack and Cultus Lake. The temperature had dropped overnight and it had been snowing — what will Cultus be like? Well, Cultus was amazingly OK. There was no snow; it

was cool; the wind was friendly and the waters calm. The folks from M&Y, and their suppliers, were setting up for the BBQ and to display a variety of rods, reels, lines and host of other desirable paraphernalia. We could choose an outfit and try it out on the water. There were some rain squalls over the day but not to the degree that would have discouraged any of us.

BCFFF had a nice shelter set up as did Steelhead Society and we were staffed with volunteers, keen to convince attendees that world peace (and fisheries conservation) depended on their purchasing raffle tickets at \$10 a ticket (12 for \$100) — and they certainly did! Raffle prizes were impressive, ranging from the \$1600 Classic Build Burkheimer

spey rod, reels, waders, and on to a multitude of smaller items.

At the BCFFF tent we had 12 volunteers who shamelessly grabbed folks and convinced them to buy a ticket (or many). The SSBC did the same.

Spey casting gurus gave a number of presentations and many of us tripped to the lake edge to emulate their casting wisdom.

The M&Y BBQ, as always, was verging on gourmet! When the lunch gong rang the lineup was long. The M&Y "chefs" did a great job of slinging us the burgers and assorted condiments, coffee and sweets!

Raffle tickets were gathered in the afternoon and the drawing began for the multitude of prizes. Some won and some lost but all had a great day!

Those that could add, reconciled the cash return with several recounts. The day produced just shy of ten thousand dollars, split evenly between BCFFF and SSBC! Sensational!

SUNDAY APRIL 2/23 –
CULTUS LAKE (BC PARKS –
ENTRANCE BAY SITE)







AGM 2023 at Corbett Lake lodge

April 28–30 2023

Photos by Lois Smith and Peter Caverhill

AGM Report

by Brian Smith

We arrived on Thursday to find the lake half-frozen, but the ice quickly disappearing under the hot late April sunshine. Bright and early Friday morning Jim the lodge handyman was driving his boat through the melting ice patches near the dock to open water, making a grid of trails that BCFF lodge guests could get their boats through. By noon, most of the lake was ice-free, and everyone was busy getting their boats ready for an afternoon of trout fishing.

Breakfast was served at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday: bacon, sausages, hash browns and scrambled eggs the order of the day. The member count was twenty-six, our AGM began at 8:30 and lasted about an hour, the guys and gals eager to make their lunches and get out fishing. Catching was pretty good for most of the members, some into double-digits for the day's work on the water, olive and black chironomids sizes #16 the usual fare that fooled the fish.



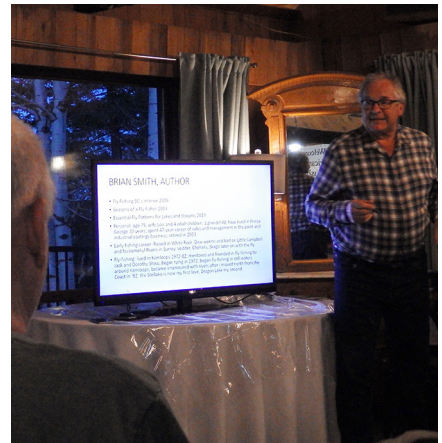


Thanks to our members and sponsors (all listed in this Flylines issue) our silent auction was a great success, raising \$1950 for the federation's coffers. Bidding was furious on some items, top spot going to Corbett Lake Lodge for their generous donation of a weekend stay in the "big" guest cabin. Art Lingren and Dan Holder made a special presentation to Anne Thompson of Corbett Lake Lodge of a well-fished Peter McVey hand-made bamboo rod donated by Totems member Steve Oei, which was presented in a gorgeous case designed and built by Todd Stockner of the Corbett

Lake Bamboo Rod Maker's group. It will hang in remembrance of Peter on the wall of Corbett Lake Lodge for many years to come.

Dinner was excellent, beef wellington medium to rare, and was followed by a few rounds of drinks and a power-point presentation on the Stellako River in Northern BC by Brian Smith.

The bonus of having an annual BCFFF event is reacquainting with old friends, putting names to faces, having a few laughs and ample snorts of scotch, and just being among like minds which enjoy our passion for the fish and fly-fishing.







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