

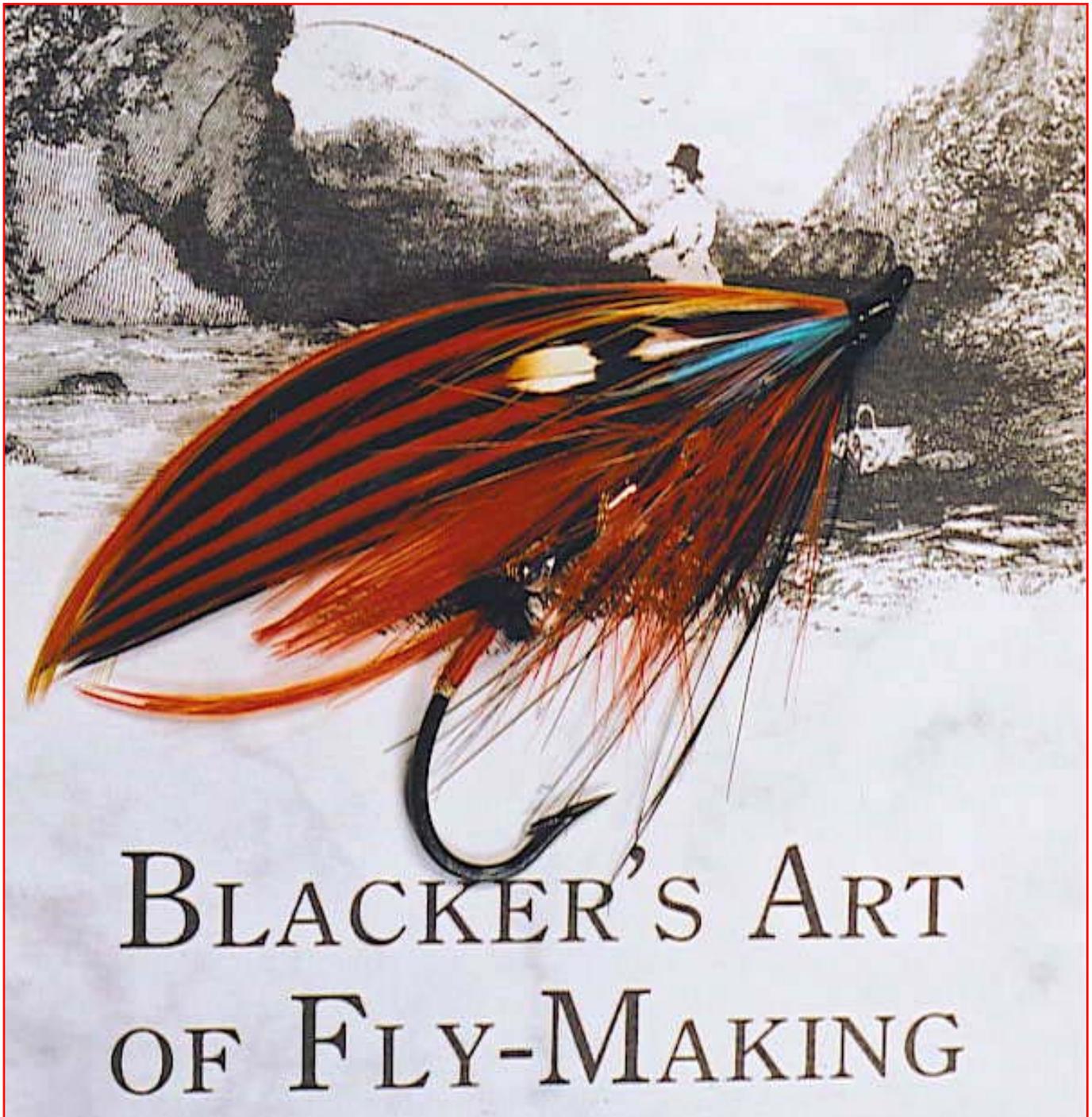


Fly Lines

The official publication of the British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers

Summer 2005

Volume 6, Number Two



BLACKER'S ART
OF FLY-MAKING

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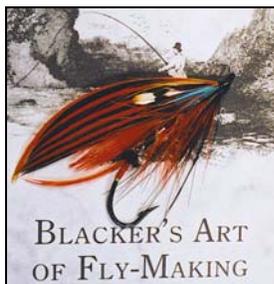
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Chair – Art Lingren

Members – Peter Caverhill, Rob Way

On Our cover . . .



A fly from Winter Fly Tying—Fun With Feathers on Blacker's 1855 book.

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By Rob Brown

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By Bob Giles

President's Message



It's time to go fishing! So, I don't want you (or I) to spend a lot of time fussing with this report. The sedges are scampering and the mayflies are dancing. There is no better time to be on the water!

I'd like to thank all of our executive, and other members, who put in a lot of effort on a variety of tasks over this past year! And, the folks at the Kalamalka Fly Fishers in Vernon did a bang-up job with the Dinner/Auction (May 14/05) and the next day's fishout/lunch at Doreen Lake. Great work, and we didn't get too lost navigating to the lake in time for lunch.

Activities over the year— we have had a pretty busy year. 2004 was our largest year ever for \$\$ support to club and other worthwhile projects. We have continued to attend a lot of meetings and workshops – all in aid of conservation, quality angling waters and improving things for the future. And – we continue to work on a variety of internal challenges in order to make BCFFF more stable and sustainable.

BCFFF Insurance - As you know, liability insurance has become impossibly expensive these past few years for BCFFF clubs. I'm pleased to report that, starting May 5, this has changed with a new insurer. An explanatory sheet on BCFFF Insurance provides much more detail (sent to club contacts and available on our website). All current BCFFF clubs and members will be covered for general liability and directors and officers insurance and it won't cost you a cent for 2005/06. BCFFF will be footing the bill for this first year.

Communications - BCFFF maintains both internal and external communications. Internal communications are primarily between the parent body and the member clubs and direct members. External communications are between BCFFF and the rest of the outside world. Communicating is a critical part of what we do and it is also extremely challenging! E-mail – like it or not – is the most reasonable and efficient way to do this.

Over this past year we have tried to improve how we communicate. Internally we rely on our Club Contacts in each member club and or Direct Membership director to be the relay between BCFFF and the direct Members. Over this past year we have tried very hard to keep on top of the ever changing contact directory and we have added additional names to the Club Contact list (usually the member club president, vice president or secretary) to better ensure that information going from the BCFFF parent to the clubs is received. Sometimes we need to get information from the member clubs and response to e-mail requests is still far from perfect. The parent BCFFF needs to know what the member clubs are doing. In April we sent out a request for this info and 4 clubs responded (out of 14). Suggestions for how we can improve on this would be most welcome.

Future - For communicating with the outside world, we have the BCFFF website which we are trying to use more effectively for this purpose. We also interact regularly with other fisheries/angling groups on issues of mutual concern through copies of correspondence, direct e-mails and telephone conversations. In addition, we have recently completed a BCFFF Power Point show that is designed to tell folks about BCFFF, what we stand for and what we do. This is still in the "draft" state and we plan to fine-tune it over the next while. It can be made available anyone who wants to show it (ie a BCFFF director who may be visiting a prospective member club) by providing it on a compact disc or as a traditional 35mm slide show.

In looking to the near future, we feel that, somehow/somewhere on the internet discussion boards, there may a place for BCFFF to interact with a much wider group of BC anglers. This would allow us to determine how our organization can do a more effective job of representing the interests of BC fly anglers.

In finishing, I just want to emphasize that the issues we will face with respect to angling, which is such an important part of our lives, aren't going to diminish (just the contrary). Therefore, to continue to be

effective as an organization we need a continuing supply of fresh new faces that are willing to work on behalf of BCFFF by attending advisory/consultation meetings, going to workshops and interacting with government on a persuasive, lobbying manner. If we can't do this we will not be the conservation organization that we think we are.

Enough! Get out there and row that damn boat!

AGM Saturday, May 13, 2005



Hosted by the Kalamalka Fly Fishers at the Prestige Inn

Art Lingren Photo

Finances

Ken Burgess

Treasurer Ken Burgess reports that our accounts are in healthy condition, thanks to all those who support the organization.

Membership

Garth Fowler

Currently there are 14 clubs active in the B.C.F.F.F. with a total membership of 649. There are 49 direct members of the BCFFF and 14 Life members. Besides these groups we have a number of supporting members who donated items to our May fundraiser. The BCFFF expresses a special thanks to all those who donated to the fundraiser, please support those who support us.

Frank Amato Publications
Totem Flyfishers
Sea-Run Fly and Tackle
Angler's West Fly & Tackle

Fitzwright (Bare)
Weigh West Marine Resort
Berry's Bait and Tackle
Westcoast Fly Fishers

Peter Caverhill
Peter Chatt
Kelly Davison
Penticton Fly Fishers

Hub Sports
 Riverside Fly & Tackle
 Van Egan
 Kamloops Fly Fishers
 Colin Funk
 Pat George
 Dr. John Volpe
 Gil's Fishing Tackle
 Ron Grantham
 Steve Hanson
 Peter Huyghebaert
 Bill & Lori Jollymore
 Joe Kambeitz
 Mustang Survival
 Harry Lemire
 Redl Sports
 Art Lingren
 Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Ass.
 Island Waters Fly Fishers
 Peter Morrison

Stillwater Sports
 Michael and Young Fly Shop
 Chris Purcell
 Ruddick's Fly Shop
 Highwater Tackle
 Barry Stokes
 Struble Manufacturing Ltd.
 Bob Taylor
 King Pacific Lodge
 Tilley Endurables
 Kalamalka Flyfishers
 Teddy's Tackle
 Loon's Fly Fishing Club
 Three Vets
 Fred Watts
 Aaron Goodis
 Gary Slang
 Andre Steven
 Dana Sturm
 Gary Cutler

Hermann Fischer
 Steve Raymond
 Craig Black Flies
 Island Outfitters
 Robinson's Outdoor Store
 Islander Reels
 Joe Gatien
 Vernon's Outdoor Store
 Bolean Lake Lodge
 Fred's Custom Tackle
 Tulli Performance Fly and
 Salmon Gear
 Mid Island Castaways
 Ocean Side Outfitters
 Gone Fishin' (Nanaimo)
 Surplus Herbie's (Vernon)
 Nicklen Lake Lodge
 Kencraft Sales Ltd.



Brian Jantz from WALP spoke about Region 8's Fisheries

Art Lingren Photo

Education

Danie Erasmus

The BCFFF was involved in two main activities in 2004:

1. Two workshops organised by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of British Columbia (FFSBC)
2. BCFFF booth at the Western Canadian Fly Fishing Exposition, February 18th to 20th at Cloverdale Rodeo grounds

FFSBC workshops on angler participation.

Recreational angling license sales have been in decline in British Columbia since the mid 1990's. This is part of a general trend of fewer recreational anglers throughout North America. Decreasing angler numbers, and the related decrease in recreational licenses, is of special importance to the FFSBC given the funding it receives from angling license revenue.

Two workshops were organised on November 18th, 2004 and January 26th 2005. I attended the first workshop and Art Lingren attended the second as representatives of the BCFFF. A number of organizations, industry, individuals and representatives from government agencies involved in recreational fishing were present. The main objective of these workshops was to establish contact among BC's recreational fishing organizations with the hope of developing strategies on how to increase the number of recreational anglers.

At the first workshop the discussion on promoting angling among youth, urban anglers and under-represented anglers, such as women, and various ethnic groups in the Lower Mainland. After an introductory talk on each topic by Brian Chan, the workshop attendees dispersed into discussion groups to brainstorm. From these discussion groups the main issues were identified as the need for an inventory on current angler education initiatives for BC youth; provide access to fishing gear and fishing opportunities for youth; develop additional youth programs to promote fishing; and promote fishing and fishing opportunities in urban areas, especially to various ethnic groups. It was determined that some of the promotion should be expanded to events and locations that are not necessarily related to fishing. Ultimately though, there was a general consensus among workshop attendees that the targeting of youth could best result in long-term increases in angler numbers.

Western Canadian Fly Fishing Exposition

The second Western Canadian Fly Fishing Exposition was held this year at the Cloverdale Rodeo grounds, February 18th to 20th, 2005. The BCFFF was again invited to have a booth at the event, one of the most attended, fly fishing-only shows in Canada. The objectives for the BCFFF booth were to introduce children to fly tying and inform the public about the issues we get involved with.

The success of the booth was very much dependent on the participation of BCFFF members volunteering to act as fly tying instructors for the weekend. Approximately 70 children and 30 adults were introduced to tying very flashy woolly buggers.



Fly fishers exploring and talking to trade show participants

Art Lingren Photo

Gilly Fund

Gil Sage

Historically the BCFFF Gilly Fund has received very few applications for project funding. The past year has been an exception with three applications and two groups have indicated their intention to apply for project funding.

Funding was approved for the following projects:

1. Penticton Creek

Funding request made by Penticton Fly Fishers for restoration work on portion of creek. Funding in the amount of \$10,000 was approved in 2003 but it was conditional on the club obtaining funding from Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF). The HCTF did approve funding for the project so our contribution was sent to the Penticton club in June 2004.

2. Spring Lake Aeration Project

Lonely Loon Fly Fishers requested 50% funding for project to place a windmill aerator on Spring Lake. Total project cost \$9000, which included \$2000 in road improvements. The Gilly committee decision was that road improvement would not qualify therefore the committee recommendation to the board was that funding be approved for \$3,500, which the board approved. The club has advised me that the installation of the aerator will be delayed until next year, as the equipment will not arrive in time for this season.

3. Jingle Pot Marsh Viewing Platform

Island Waters Fly Fishers requested \$1000 funding contribution for construction of viewing platform. Funding was approved.



Terry Bragg looking over the fly fishing fly stamp products on sale at Canada Post's booth

Art Lingren Photo

Funding Requests

In early September the Committee received a request from the Mid Island Castaways for \$8000 to cover the project cost overrun incurred by the Fanny Bay Salmonid Society (FBSS) on three projects undertaken on Wilfred Creek. The Castaways are affiliated with the FBSS.

While the work undertaken by the FBSS was outstanding the executive on my recommendation had to refuse this application as application Gilly funds has to be made prior to the start of a project and not after project completion. It was my contention that funding project cost over-runs would set a precedent, which were outside the funds guidelines. The BCFFF did provide a grant of \$4000 out of its operating budget, which is separate from the Gilly Fund.

As previously mentioned historically the Gilly Fund has received few requests for funding so there has been a tendency to lock up money in term GICs. This year due to the larger cash outflow the fund did not have sufficient money available without cashing in a number of term GICs which would result in the loss of interest. I would recommend that monies available for project dispersal not be locked in term deposits. In order to make up the short fall the board approved the transfer of money from the BCFFF account to be returned when the GIC matures.



*Canada Post's Bob Taylor
presenting a set of framed fly
fishing stamps to BCFFF
president Peter Caverhill
Art Lingren Photo*

The Future

We all know that interest rates are and have been low over the last number of years, which means that the Gilly Fund does not generate much money over a one-year period. When John Warren was Gilly Fund Chairman he suggested that the Federation investigate transferring the Gilly Fund to a foundation such as the Vancouver Foundation as the latter having charitable tax status could issue tax receipts to individuals or corporations donating to the fund. The Vancouver Foundation having professional money managers would generate a greater return on the Gilly Fund principal than we could achieve ourselves.

As Don McDermid had some contact with a member of the Vancouver Foundation he agreed to undertake some exploratory work. We appreciate Don's work on this and his report is attached as an appendix to mine.

Certainly there are a number of advantages to setting up the Gilly Fund with the Vancouver Foundation and some of these advantages are:

1. It may resolve the potential tax problems that could arise as the Federations assets grow.
2. The Foundation would be capable of obtaining a greater return on our funds.
3. It would allow individuals and corporation to obtain tax receipts for donations.

While the BCFFF would still retain full control in project approval there would be some obstacles to overcome regarding eligibility of applicants as the Vancouver Foundation can only transfer funds to organizations that have charitable tax status. Again some preliminary investigation has been done to resolve this issue. A possible way could be to have projects run through a charitable status group such as the

Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC). When a funding request was approved by the BCFFF the project could be taken over by the ORC. They would request funding from the Gilly Fund within the Vancouver Foundation. The ORC could then employ the original applicant to carry out the work and the original applicant would then invoice the ORC. Typically the ORC has a standard charge of 15% on the project cost as their management fee.

The Administration of the Gilly's Funds by The Vancouver Foundation

Don McDermid

Background

Several members of the BCFFF have suggested that we should look into having the Gilly funds administered by the Vancouver Foundation. This report will summarize discussions held with John Blackmer, LLB, MBA who is the external investment services manager for the Foundation.

The Vancouver Foundation is a registered charity and therefore can give charitable tax receipts to all who wish to donate to the Gilly Fund. They manage more than 800 separate endowment funds worth more than \$500 million.

Our fund could be named anything we want so that we could maintain our name of the Gilly Fund.

The Foundation has advisory committees covering each of ten fields of interest including one for the environment. They have what are called Donor Advised Funds which would allow us to recommend grants to specific charitable organizations which we would like to support. The key here is that all funds must be allocated to "a federally registered charity." Most of our clubs applying for funding would not qualify under this requirement.

The Foundation charges an annual administration fee of 0.33% of the market value of the fund. In addition to this administration fee, each fund shares in a proportionate cost of the money management expenses: the cost of managing the investments is approximately 0.42%. Total costs, therefore, for a basic fund are 0.75%.

The goal of the Foundation's investment policy is to optimize total returns and maximize distributions, while ensuring the protection of capital. The total return on investments for 2003 was 9.1%. The Foundation invests its funds in the following allocation; 40% bonds and 60% equities.

There are a few reasons why the Gilly Fund should consider having an outside foundation such as the Vancouver Foundation administer its funds.

- Through the Foundation's administering of our funds we could increase our rate of return from about 2% to about 7-9% per year.
- Individuals would be able to donate funds to the Gilly Fund and receive a tax receipt.
- There is a suggestion that there may be some problems for the BCFFF in that the Gilly Fund has never been disclosed in our financial statements submitted to the provincial government as required by the Societies Act. By continuing to administer the funds ourselves we may end up having to pay either taxes, fines or both. If we quickly transfer these funds to another organization to administer we may not invite official inquiries.

The disadvantage to using the Vancouver Foundation is that we would have to find a registered charitable organization to funnel these grants through. Perhaps ORC would qualify for this.

In answer to a couple questions that Peter asked regarding the Vancouver Foundation (VF) I again spoke with John Blackmer of the Foundation.

1. The VF would send us an annual report giving their balance of the fund, total of monies received to the fund during the year, the amount available for grants, and the amount of monies granted.

We would not have to file any financial statements or reports to either Victoria or Ottawa. The Foundation does that as technically the money belongs to them; although it really doesn't. I asked what would happen to the monies if the BCFFF folded and John said that in the original agreement that we would sign (if we decided to go this route) would specify where we want the monies directed to. We could specify anyone such as ORC, the FFF or whoever.

2. We would have total say in who received grant money providing we can channel it through a registered charitable organization such as ORC or Castaway Fly Fishers.

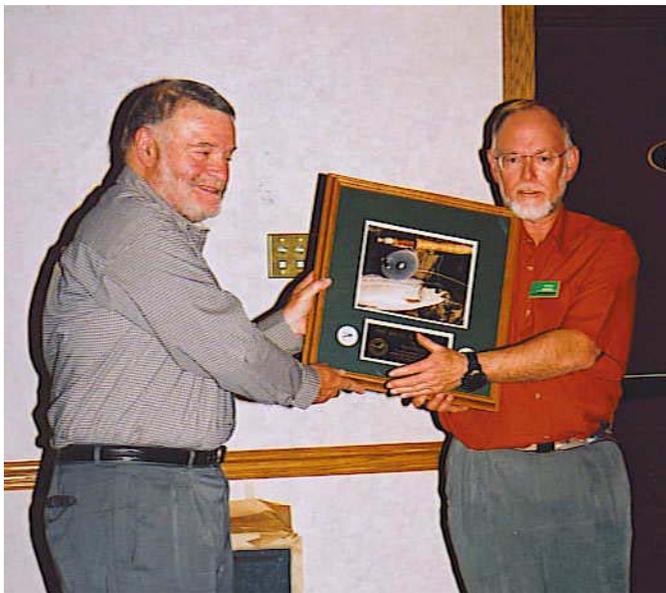
Note: **The Gilly** – 2005 marks the end of the run for this remarkable book! Eleven printings have been made over the 20 years since the book's inception in 1985. It has been a Canadian "Best Seller" for non-fiction many times over. Alf Davy sold the very last of the books to a wholesaler before Christmas 2004. What you see out there on the shelves will be the last. Thanks to all who participated in this project!

Awards

Art Lingren

The Angul Award

This award is: *Given to that individual, who is not necessarily a BCFFF member, for their outstanding contribution to the heritage of the Arte & Science of fly fishing in British Columbia.*



Steve Raymond was this year's recipient. Steve is an American who has contributed greatly as a conservationist and author to the great B.C. sport fishery. He started fishing B.C. lakes with his Father in 1945/46. Steve became enamored with the country and its fish, the Kamloops Rainbow Trout.

Peter Caverhill presenting Steve with the Gilly Award

Art Lingren Photo

As the former outdoor editor of the Seattle Times he wrote extensively about the great quality of the fish and fishing in B.C. He also praised the fishery in many magazine articles. Steve's most widely known work is his book *Kamloops*, a

comprehensive study of the Kamloops Trout and his quest for fishing the same. A great work, first published in 1971 and now in its third printing as of 1994.

Another book, *Rivers of the Heart*, gives a complete chapter on the life and times of Bill Nation, originator of the earliest of Kamloops Trout flies and a guide in the Kamloops area. Steve has truly kept this colorful history before the world in his writings'. BC has played an important role in Steve's fly fishing life and his last book *Blue Upright: The Flies of a Lifetime* (2004) attests to that importance with considerable text devoted to BC experiences and BC flies.

Steve truly and infinitely loves and respects the waters, fish and environment of British Columbia.

(Note: Steve Raymond information provided by Bill Jollymore.)

The Gilly Award

This award is: *Given in recognition to that BCFFF member who has continuously given exceptional service to BC's Fishery, the Sport of Fly Fishing, and the BC Federation of Fly Fishers.*

This year's recipient of the Gilly Award – Greg Gordon – has been around the BCFFF, filling a number of roles, for many years. Awhile back, when the organization wasn't faring too well, Greg stepped forward as a co-chair to help run and rebuild the organisation. He was editor of Fly Lines, BCFFF webmaster and he still made time to work on Thompson River steelhead issues, which were his passion.

The Jack Shaw Fly Tying Award

This award is: *Given in recognition to that BCFFF master fly tyer who has excelled in the art and craft of fly tying.*



The Jack Shaw Award winner for 2005 is Peter Huyghebaert. Peter started fly-fishing in 1966. From Brook trout in Algonquin Park he went on to fish the East extensively during his Air Force career: from New York's Ausable and Salmon; New Brunswick's Miramichi, Cains, Nashwaak, Renous, Dungarvon and St. John; Newfoundland's Salmonier, Indian River, Little Salmonier and Renewes; Quebec's Matane, Puyjalong, Romaine, Godbout and George (Ungava Bay) to rivers on Baffin Island and in Scotland.

*Master fly tyer Peter Huyghebaert receives the Jack Shaw Fly Tying Award
Art Lingren Photo*

During that "Eastern" time he mastered the art of fly tying with guidance from superb New Brunswick tiers such as Frank Wilson and Wally Doak. He instructed basics to Classics level fly-tying courses while earning his BSc in biology (fish) from UNB. He is a re-founding member (1983) (along with Dr. Eden Bromfield and Paul Marriner), as well as Past President and Life-Member, of the Ottawa Fly-Fishers.

Since his retirement to Nanaimo in 1994 he fishes the Kamloops and Chilcotin areas for trout in the spring and fall and fills his summers with salt water fly-fishing on the Island. He joined the Island Waters FF in 2001 and was elected Vice President of the Club in 2003.

The Appreciation Award



Kalamalka Fly Fishers

Al Desimone
 Ken Burgess
 Brian Agopsowicz
 Bill Carr
 Ruben Brietkreutz
 Earle Hoffman
 Conway Clark
 Glen Ferguson

Retiring Board

Brian Saunders

Other

Bob Taylor, Gary Cutler, Harry Lemire,
 Fred Watts, Dan Cahill, Alex Carr, Terry
 Robinson,
 Gil Sage, Steve Hanson, Art Lingren,
 Doug Wright, Will Wright, Don Grimway,
 Steve Paterson, Ken Baker

Some of the crew from the Kalamalka Fly Fishers who organized the Vernon event get appreciation awards for their work

Art Lingren Photo

Fisheries Issues Report:

Dean River Advisory Group Meeting, Williams Lake, December 7, 2004 Recollections of the Meeting by Art Lingren

I attended on behalf of the BCFFF this one-day advisory meeting. In order to get there it required flying to Williams Lake the day before and staying in the Fraser Inn, where the meeting took place on the Tuesday. December is not the best of time for meetings on fisheries issues but this river attracts anglers who are passionate about their sport and nearly 40 people braved winter travel to attend the meeting coming from as far away as Vancouver Island, the Lower mainland, Kamloops, Quesnel, Anaheim Lake, Bella Coola and perhaps other places not mentioned by participants. The meeting was chaired by Maurice Lirette, Region 5 Fisheries Section Head with Jack Leggett, former Fisheries Section Head now retired, co-chair.

The 2004 Season: The Dean River had one its worst years this past summer. The run of steelhead was below the 10 year mean and estimated to be about 2700 down from the mean estimate of about 3200. However, the poor season was due more to the atypical weather conditions in the valley. Rob Stewart mentioned that in Bella Coola for the first seven months of the year he had about 4 inches of rain. Normal rainfall for Bella Coola is about 60 inches a year. Assuming the dry weather was typical for the area and the Dean valley had similar rainfall, when the rains did come in August they fell on dry, hard, impervious ground and the runoff took considerable suspended material with it. As well, as the ground became wetter there were slippages causing considerable material to fall into the river. The suspended material in the runoff and the landslides caused the river to flow very dirty for most of the prime weeks in August into early September. The poor water and the smaller run had a severe effect on angler catch and for the season only 1477 were landed while in 2003 anglers landed 3776. Catch per angler effort was down from 0.95 in 2003 to 0.52 in 2004. Note, the CPUE at 0.52 for 2003 is on the high side. Many anglers spent their entire trip watching the dirty water flow by and I know of two groups of four who for seven days of being on the Dean angled little. One group hooked one steelhead, the other zero. If you don't fish you don't get recorded and the many fishless days where anglers sat on the bank watching dirty water flow by is not part of the CPUE.

The best guess at this time is that the weather events causing the dirty water was an anomaly, the slides have washed through the system and it is hoped that the river will be back to normal in 2005.

The Lower Dean River Angling Use Plan: A considerable part of the morning was spent on a review of the angling management plan for the Lower Dean below the canyon, a stretch of river of about 3.5 km. This part of the Dean is was made Class I river as of October 1, 2004, following up on the as it was proposed last year at this meeting. However, as part of the process and to be in line with what was coming from the Angling Guide Management and Classified Waters Review, an angling management plan was required as part of that process. It was hoped that the Class I classification would:

1. Restrict commercial guiding activity
2. Affirm priority rights to BC residents
3. Reduce crowding

The Chinook salmon run in mid-June through July followed by the steelhead run are the target fish with many anglers coming just for the Chinook fishery and it does get very crowded. However, as Jack Leggett pointed out that the upgrading to Class I because there was no limit on the per day use the reclassification would do little to alleviate crowding but it did provide additional guiding activity. The angling management plan based angler numbers on an average number of anglers per day and without a cap per day the average per day doesn't mean much. For example in June there are about 540 angler days and if you average it over the 30 days that works out to 18 anglers per day. But most of that effort takes place during the last part of that month and for simplicity let's say the last 10 days of June. So the real per day use is 540 divided by 10 days which works out to 54 anglers per day. The only tool in the angling use plan that may have an effect and crowding is the increase by \$20 to \$40 a day fee for non-resident anglers. The government is hoping that that larger fee would deter out-of-province anglers thus reducing crowding. The general opinion was that that would have little effect. There were two points that were made quite strongly and they are:

1. The rules governing the Class I water below the canyon should be the same at those that govern angler activity above the canyon
2. That the reclassification of the water below the canyon has no detrimental effects on the Class I water above the canyon.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FOC)—Dean River Salmon Stock Status: The Dean is one of FOC's mid-coast Chinook salmon indicator streams. Although this years run was a little below the 10 year average of around 3500 the decrease was not that significant and the run remains in good shape. They was some concern that with the return of the gillnet fleet after coho in the approach inlets to the Dean that incidental steelhead interceptions are becoming a problem. Billy Blewett, manager of Lower Dean River Lodge, mentioned the number of net marked steelhead taken this season.

Resident-Only Area five-mile to canyon: There was a brief discussion on this proposal put forward by Bob Taylor. In the revised Quality Waters Strategy document in the tool box is the provision to have resident-only areas on quality waters. However, Fisheries Branch in this region is reluctant to implement something new without legislation to back up the change.

Update of Quality Waters Strategy: Bob Williams a manager from the Fish & Wildlife Recreation and Allocation Branch in Victoria who is charged with this review spoke about the process. For the past two years Bob Taylor and Rob Stewart have been involved in this review of guiding and classified waters. Although Bob and Rob feel it was worth while, it has been a lengthy and at times a very trying process starting back in 1999. The strategy documents the process that new classified waters or changes to existing waters need to go through to get approval. The staff in Region 5 have tried to follow the guiding principles outlined in the draft document in their Angling Management Plan for the Lower Dean. The review is complete and it is now up to our political masters in Victoria to bless it to get it into law.

Other items discussed included:

1. Some guide issues by John Blackwell of Moose Lake Lodge
2. Dean River draw procedures

3. Angler transportation to Lower Dean above and below the canyon. Slides have blocked the road and the person with the truck who transported for a fee is not going to do it. A new group Dean River Anglers has purchased the truck and it may be rented by others to get to and from the airstrip.
4. Provincial steelhead status—the runs in general are down and the Dean is down as well.

Note: the following report prepared by Dave Narver for the recent BCWF convention, provides a good summary of this Quality Waters Strategy from the perspective of the BCWF Inland Fisheries Committee.



Peter Caverhill chats with Kalamalka Fly Fishers president Brian Agopsowicz while others look over the auction items
Art Lingren Photo

Quality Waters Strategy – Good News for Resident Anglers

Part of the Annual Report of the Inland Fisheries Committee

B.C. Wildlife Federation Convention
May 6, 2005, Nanaimo, B.C.

David W. Narver

Introduction

Hello all. It is my sincere pleasure to be back at a BCWF Convention after several years absence. I am here to report on the status of the Quality Water Strategy – *this is good news for resident anglers*. (Copies of my remarks are available from Chris Bos.)

As a member of the Inland Fisheries committee I have represented the Federation in developing the Quality Waters Strategy for most of the past four years. We have come to the point of Ministerial sign-off and implementation. As you will probably know, this has been a partnership initiative spearheaded by a steering committee comprised of four resident anglers representing NGOs, three angling guide representatives, and several senior staff from the provincial Fisheries Program. I have served as the point man for the resident angler sector. Doug Peck represents the Kootenay Wildlife Association. In addition

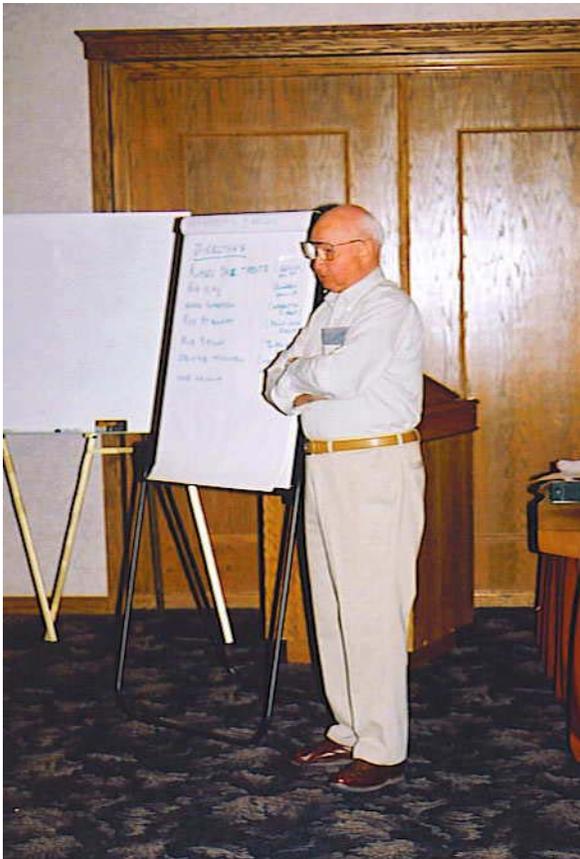
we have Tom Protheroe, an independent angler from Terrace and Rob Stewart, life member of BCWF, representing BCFFF. We have had occasional participation by representatives of the Steelhead Society and the Federation of Drift Fishers. The angling guide sector is lead by Dick McMaster, GOABC.

Nothing I say today should come as any great surprise – at least not to those of you who have been paying attention. For the last several years there have been written and oral updates in the Inland Fisheries Committee annual reports to the Convention. In addition there have been occasional progress reports to the IFC members and to the Board of Directors. In February a draft of the Quality Waters Strategy *Resource Document* was given to the Fisheries Committee and to the Board for comments.

I want to particularly acknowledge the current Fish and Wildlife Director, Al Martin, for taking hold of this initiative and working hard with the angling guide and the resident angler sectors to bring us to closure. Al's knowledge of our fisheries, particularly in the East Kootenays, and his strong determination and decisiveness has served us very well.

Objective

Our mandate was to develop and implement a strategy to maintain the high quality of the province's premier waters through the management of angler use – both guided and non-guided. The main focus or endpoint of the Strategy is development, as requirement is identified, of angler Use Plans for specific waters. From the BCWF perspective it has been our critical objective to ensure the best possible angling expectation and opportunity for the resident angler.



Just one of the fisheries issues discussed at the AGM: Bill Jollymore speaks about Land & Water BC's sell off of lake shore crown land
Art Lingren Photo

History

At this point a bit of history is necessary. This policy was originally developed in 1989 and implemented on many quality waters in the early 1990's with major input and support from the BCWF (John Carter, past President and Chair of the Inland Fisheries Committee). The original purpose was to control the crowding and "gold rush" of commercialism on many of our blue ribbon steelhead streams and to ensure quality

angling opportunity for resident anglers. It was originally named the “Angling Guide and Classified Waters Policy”.

While initially well received by guides and anglers, the policy fell on hard times as a result of waning government support for implementation and public consultation as well as shortcomings in the original policy. In the mid 1990s several province-wide, public reviews identified that the Policy was in need of significant revision. It appeared that overcrowding was still an increasing problem on many rivers and that uncontrolled non-guided, non-resident growth and illegal guiding were the main causes.

The revision initiative was started in 2000 with great fanfare, but a provincial election, government reorganization, and three changes in Fisheries Directors caused major delays. However, significant progress has been made in the last 15 months, and the proposed Strategy is now ready for implementation.

Principles

This initiative towards a new Quality Waters Strategy for British Columbia is based on a number of principles among which are:

1. A full partnership exists between the Ministry and the two fishing sectors – guides and resident anglers.
2. The fundamental principle of resident anglers being “last on the water” is ingrained in the Strategy. The actual language is, “Where angling opportunities become oversubscribed, decisions regarding angling opportunities will reflect the priority and interests of B.C. resident anglers”. (This principle had previously been enshrined in the “Freshwater Recreational Fisheries Strategy” developed by a similar steering committee structure and released by the Minister in 2002.)
3. All committees and working groups will have at least 51% participation by resident angler interests compared with commercial interests. (This principle is demonstrated in the Steering Committee structure as well as the regional and provincial management committees that we are proposing for the Quality Water Strategy. All of these committees contain one more member from the resident anglers sector than from the angling guide sector.)
4. The Strategy is a “living document” as it is implemented by the management committees (see later) and fine-tuning can be expected over time.
5. The Quality Waters Strategy is a detailed process based on an annual cycle. This cycle is linked to the timing requirements of HCTF for its funding program (see later).
6. An enforceable management system is developed that ensures regulatory compliance and promotes ethical behaviour.

QWS Licence Types and Fees

I want to comment on licence fees and the management of revenue for Quality Waters. I have already mentioned that the single strongest element driving overcrowding on most waters appears to be demand by non-resident anglers. The intention is to control this demand by market price. Currently, non-residents pay \$20 *per day* on Class II waters and \$40 *per day* for Class I waters over and above licence and species surcharge fees. This daily fee for non-residents may be expected to grow in future years if rod days continue to exceed estimated capacity on specific waters. Other measures under consideration to control crowding by non-residents include limiting further the number of day licences that can be purchased by an individual and requiring the services of a guide. Resident anglers will continue to be required an *annual* licence for Quality Waters on top of fishing licences – this is currently \$15.

Funding QWS HCTF

The funding vehicle will be a dedicated revenue source of fees from Quality Water angling licences from resident and non-resident anglers and angling guides as well as annual rod days collected from angling guides and resident. These fees will be directed to a dedicated account in the HCTF. The consultation and review structure we have developed in the QWS is consistent with the process currently being utilized for the administration of other dedicated funds under HCTF.

Process

The number of classifications proposed for Quality Waters will be four: wilderness (and semi-wilderness) waters with wild anadromous fish and wilderness (and semi-wilderness) waters with wild non-anadromous fish.

The Strategy addresses two major and nagging concerns regarding increasing use of our “blue ribbon” rivers: managing angler use and managing angler guides.

The Strategy can now be applied to any water in the Province, but the expectation is that the number of classified waters will remain relatively few and be implemented only on those truly outstanding wilderness or semi-wilderness waters. Note that in the previous policy the “blue ribbon” streams of the east Kootenays were not included, but they are now part of the strategy.

A three level management process is proposed to implement the Strategy. Terms of reference, format, responsibilities, and participation for all three committees have been developed in the proposed Quality Water Strategy.

1. The Provincial Quality Waters Management Committee will be the final authority and comprised of four resident anglers, three guides and three senior Ministry staff. (Note that the existing QWS Steering Committee will initially assume this responsibility to insure a smooth transition from the planning to the implementation stage and until the Minister is prepared to make the necessary appointments.)
2. Three Regional Quality Waters Management Committees will be each comprised of four resident anglers, three guides and a senior Ministry person.
3. Angling Management Plan Working Groups will be established as necessary to develop AMPs for specific, local waters. The primary objective of an AMP is to establish a water-specific regulatory regime utilizing the least restrictive measures possible to control angler use at levels which maintain the desired quality of angling experience. An AMP Working Group is formed and the development process is implemented for a specific water of concern, when funding is approved by the Regional and Provincial management committees. It is highly recommended that this process be facilitated and documented by a contracted third party.

A “soap box” process has been established for each of the three committees to allow members of the public to make presentations with the expectation that presenters will be given full attention and a reasonable and timely response.

A “tool box” has been developed to provide the AMP Working Groups with a full range of tools with which to address and manage the specific issues with respect to angler use. The underlying principle in choosing a tool from the tool box is to select the least intrusive tool that is able to meet the objectives assigned to a specific angler use issue. Tools *do not include the “tackle box”*.

Loose Ends

A number of elements vital to long-term implementation of the Strategy remain to be finalized. These include data collection, enforcement and compliance, and electronic licensing. Another element to be finalized is “Class B” licenses for commercial backcountry users whose prime purpose is not angling (hiking, hunting, river rafting, wildlife viewing, etc) but with clients who might do some casual angling. Additionally there are a number of specific guide issues that are not finalized.

Conclusion

High points for the Federation members coming from the Quality Waters Strategy are:

- resident anglers are last on the water when fishing opportunities are limited,
- there is a majority of resident anglers on all committees and working groups,
- there are no “tackle box” regulations,
- there is “soap box” opportunity for public to speak at committee meetings,
- the management of revenue controlled through a special fund in HCTF
- resident anglers need to help ensure that the control of non-resident angler numbers does not fade with local government opposition,

-- the Strategy is supported by key MLAs as well as the Premier's Office



Fly fishers at the trade show

Art Lingren Photo

South Coast Steelhead Coalition

Gil Sage

The vision set forth for the South Coast Steelhead Coalition (SCSC) is to work towards sustainable south coast steelhead stocks and steelhead angling opportunity. The goals of the organization are, in part, to:- provide input to the government on steelhead management issues and angling opportunity; identify funding sources and develop project proposals for steelhead recovery; develop and implement strategies to raise the awareness of the value of and conservation status of steelhead; develop and maintain open and transparent communication between the SCSC and steelhead angling constituents. Certainly these are lofty goals, but just how can they be accomplished?

The SCSC consists of the main committee or board consisting of representatives (two from each group) of various non government organizations (NGO) , independent anglers, tackle and guiding industry and SCSC area sub committees which are envisioned as the working committees and are open to all who are willing to actively participate. Ideally the board's responsibility is one of lobbying and interfacing with the government, identifying funding sources and supporting the activities of the various sub committees.

The board has not been very active over the past year. Personally, my activities have been limited to attending a public meeting held in Whistler to discuss steelhead recovery and a WALP meeting, held in the Lower Mainland, to discuss the proposed Steelhead Stream Classification. The problem, as I see it, is that there are only a limited number of individuals that are willing to work on fisheries issues and these people have been at it for many many years. They are simply getting burned out focusing their attention on very specific issues rather than attempting to deal with the large picture. Recently the board held two meetings, one in late March another in late April with a third scheduled for early June. The objective of these meetings has been to revitalize the board.

While members of the board have been focusing on other issues the sub- committees have been as active in their areas as their volunteer resources have permitted.

Thompson River Steelhead *Gil Sage*

We only too aware that the Thompson River Steelhead (TRS) stocks are in serious decline. The 2003 season was to be closed to angling for conservation reasons before it started. It only opened at the last minute. Due to low return estimates the river was closed for the 2004 season and then opened later when Albion test fishery data indicated that there were sufficient late return fish to open. The uncertainty surrounding the TRS stocks is of concern to all and this lead to the BCWF hosting a Thompson River Steelhead Forum entitled "The Path to Recovery" in Spences Bridge on September 18, 2004.

There were 84 registered guests at the forum, representing a broad spectrum of stakeholders from provincial and federal fisheries, First Nations, Spences Bridge residents and numerous non-government organizations such as the BCFFF, BC FDF, Kingfishers Rod and Gun and many others. The attendees heard from numerous speakers outlining the cultural importance of steelhead, data on the historic and current stock status, the broad aspects that must be considered in a recovery process. One exercise in the forum was to identify all the stakeholder groups that should be involved in the process as well as the perceived threats to the stocks. Both lists were extensive.

While it seems obvious that fish need water to survive, fish do not have a recognized right to water, so it is critical that advocacy groups such as the BCFFF step forward and represent fish in water use planning. While water usage in the Nicola Valley has been an on going issue for over twenty years, it is only recently that steps have been initiated to develop a water use plan. The Nicola Watershed Community Roundtable organized a two day work shop in Merritt on October 14 & 15 2004 with the objective of establishing a water use planning process with the eventual production of a water use plan. This meeting was attended by president Peter Caverhill and direct member Bill Starr. The planning process is complex and will require an extensive number of meetings and as such it is impossible for the BCFFF to have representatives attend all and thus have contacted other organizations to share in attending.

Recently the provincial government has committed \$25,000 a year for two years to fund the Thompson Steelhead recovery process and the process will be lead by the BCWF and the Pacific Salmon Foundation.



Kamloops Museum

Gary Cutler

For those of you who have not visited our fair city, the Kamloops Museum is a three story building located at Seymour Street and 2nd Avenue in the downtown area.

Gary Cutler of the Kamloops Fly Fishers updates the attendees on the fly fishing display at the Kamloops Museum

Art Lingren Photo

The building, which previously housed the Art Gallery as well, is owned by the city. The museum is largely funded by taxpayers dollars. Although they host a number of traveling displays, I believe the majority of the artifacts have been received by way of donation.

The city recently installed an elevator to facilitate handicapped visitation and a sprinkler system, which is one of the reasons for the delay in setting up the fly fishing display.

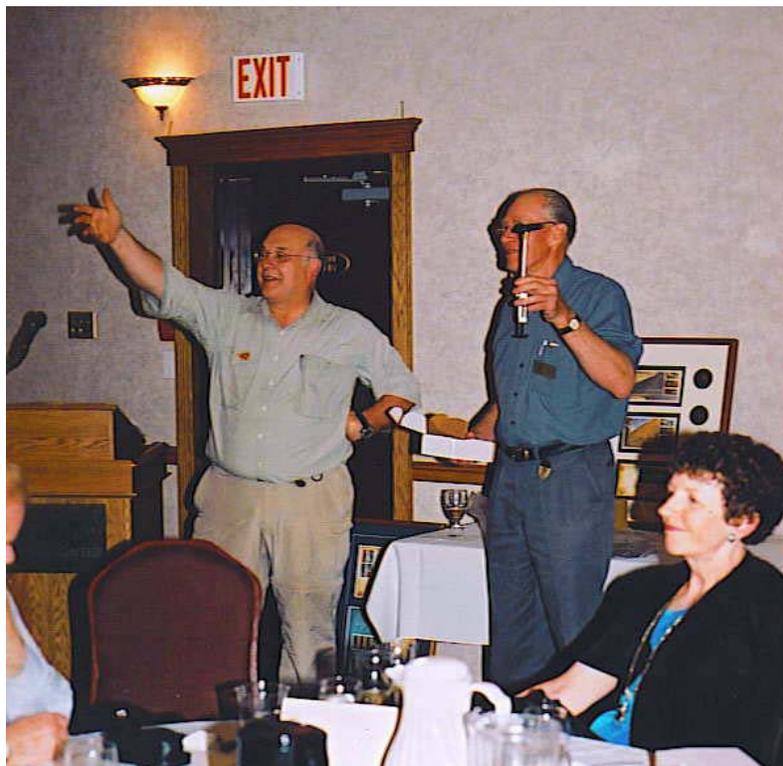
Elizabeth Duckworth, the manager, and Cuyler Page, the curator, have been most helpful in allowing us access during the construction period. Moe Bradley and I have visited several times and we were pleased with the progress.

The exhibit is located on the 3rd floor. This floor is designed with a rotunda or meeting area in the center surrounded by displays, mostly related to the outdoors. The fishing display is approximately 18 or 19 feet by 54. One end will be a model of a typical fishing shack complete with period furniture and with a video playing. Along the outside wall will be a static display with Jack Shaw's fishing punt, courtesy of Ralph Shaw I believe, and a scenic backdrop painted by a local artist. At the present time, the major display, other than items donated by the BCFFF, is from Alf Davy's collection. About 6 or 7 glass display cabinets form a dividing wall from other exhibits.

Having personally seen other fishing museums such as John Keith-Kings' on Granville Island and the Margaree in Cape Breton, I am duly impressed with the quality of the Kamloops museum's work and I believe that the finished display will be a credit to our fly fishing history. Cuyler Page, the curator, is hoping to have the exhibit finished sometime this year.

Although many of you are anxiously waiting to donate valuable antique fishing tackle, probably Payne, Garrison or Leonard cane rods, Hardy and Bogdan fly reels, I would suggest that you hold off until the display is finished.

Moe Bradley and I will continue to monitor their progress and report to the BCFFF executive.



Auctioneer Ron Schiefke working the bidders

Art Lingren Photo

ORC *Rob Way*

ORC AGM

The ORC annual general meeting was held on May 27th. Tim Sheldon, ADM with Ministry of Forests, attended the meeting to inform members about the Ministry's new budget allocations for the recreation program and its plans for spending for this year, as well as the longer term plans.

BC Trails Day

ORC hosted 13C Trails Day on June 5th this year to raise the level of awareness and stewardship of trails. This year also marked the second BC Trail Tally, conducted at several locations in the Lower Mainland. Similar to the Christmas Bird Count, this trail tally will be conducted every year at this time, and will result in an invaluable data-set that tracks trail use over time.

BC Rivers Day

This year marked the 25th anniversary celebration of BC Rivers Day, held on September 26, and was again extremely successful. It was the subject of a Believe BC media campaign again this year.

Lillooet LRMP

The conservation/recreation/tourism/community coalition worked together to create and publish a park map for the South Chilcotin Mountains Park. The BCFS map is no longer available and BC Parks is not taking an active management role for the area. ORC felt that it was important to have a trail map for the area. The government has released its own draft plan for the area, but has not changed the order-in-council, so the park boundaries have not yet changed. The map shows the OIC boundaries.

Central Coast LRMP - Economic Value of Outdoor Recreation

With funding from Western Economic Diversification Canada, and BCFFF, Sea Kayak Association of BC and the Council of BC Yacht Clubs, ORC conducted an economic study to determine the value of outdoor recreation to the province based on the resources of the LRMP areas. The report was released in May of 2004, and is on ORC's web site at www.orcbc.ca. All funders have been given a printed copy of the report.

Power Projects

ORC has been concerned about the proliferation of IPPs, especially in the heavily used Sea to Sky corridor. ORC wrote letters to the Squamish council and the Squamish Lillooet Regional District, opposing development on the Ashlu and advocating a corridor-wide assessment of the recreational value of rivers and streams before any further IPPs are approved. As a direct result, a moratorium has been placed on the Ashlu proposal.

Revising Wildlife Guidelines for Commercial Tourist Recreation

Commercial tourism operators, in conjunction with Land and Water BC and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, have been revising the Wildlife Management Guidelines, moving away from the 'too prescriptive' to the 'results-based' model. They are keen to have the guidelines apply to public recreation as well. ORC has attended several workshops in the past few months, including aerial activities in winter, motorized activities (ATV, 'sno-cat', and snowmobile), and non-motorized summer activities. It is still of great concern that government's capacity to monitor compliance with the guidelines is severely decreased for the commercial recreation sector and is extremely limited, even more so for public compliance. ORC continues to follow these developments, and hopes to see the Ministry of Forests involved in the discussions soon.

Marine Trail Initiative

The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management has recently sought ORC's advice on the feasibility of reviving the Marine Trail concept for the coast of BC. ORC believes that this would be an important initiative with strong benefits for recreation, and is therefore supportive.

Endangered Rivers List 2005

Nominations were collected until March 11, followed by a press release on April 4th, for this year's Most Endangered Rivers List, headed by the Fraser River, Taku, Georgia Basin Steelhead Streams, Nicola and Coldwater rivers, Chilliwack/Vedder, Coquitlam, Okanagan, Kettle, Salmon (in Langley), Goat and Iskut rivers. For detailed information on specific rivers and their threats, see the backgrounder posted on ORC's website at www.orcbc.ca.

Treaty Negotiations and Recreation Access

Several ORC members have expressed concerns about specific treaty processes and continued recreational access to recreational opportunities within treaty areas. With the demise of the Treaty Negotiation Advisory Committees, there is no longer a forum for discussing these sorts of issues. ORC has therefore written to the provincial and federal negotiators bringing the issue to their attention, and asking for assurance that recreational access will be maintained to the largest extent possible. In a positive follow-up, the Resource Management Committee, along with several other ORC members, met on Feb. 8 with Paul Kuster (Sea to Sky Issues coordinator, MOF) and Diane Reed (Acting District Manager, MOF) to explore several topics of concern to recreation. Among them were access management, LRMP status and implementation, treaty negotiations and recreation representation, and commercial recreation tenures. ORC will be following up with Kuster, offering to assist in a consulting role on certain projects.

Recreation Features Handbook

The Ministry of Forests has engaged a consultant to update its Recreation Features Handbook. The Council has been asked to serve on the review committee for the document.

Grizzly Bear Liaison Committee

ORC has appointed a representative to the Grizzly Bear Liaison Committee and will continue to be involved in the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery effort.

Vedder/Chilliwack River

ORC has been concerned about the removal of a large parcel of agricultural land along the Vedder River for development, and will be pursuing a process review due to lack of public notice about the removal.

Election 2005

ORC will contact candidates in key ridings to solicit their interest and commitment to outdoor recreation.



All kinds of fly fishing items were available at the trade show

Art Lingren Photo

BCFFF Activities Though the Year

This summary attempts to capture the meeting-related, and other activities, that BCFFF Board and Committee members are involved with over the year. The purpose for doing this is to remind ourselves and others about some of the things that we do as an organization. We will try to do this for the Annual Report every year.

2004

May

- Attended GBSRP Steelhead Workshop in Whistler
- Attended Island Chapter South Coast Steelhead Coalition meeting in Duncan
- Attended preliminary meeting on Thompson Steelhead Forum planned for Spence Bridge
- Attended Kingfisher Rod & Reel Club annual Thompson River fundraiser in Surrey.

June

-nil

July

- nil

August

- Prepared a position paper on the government's on Steelhead Stream Classification draft

September

- Attended the Thompson River Meeting held in Spences Bridge
- Joined Spences Bridge Steelhead Advocate Association
- Prepared BCFFF position paper on Angling Closures on Wild Steelhead Streams

October

- Attended WALP meeting in Lower Mainland on proposed Steelhead Stream Classification
- Attended WALP meeting in Nanaimo on proposed Steelhead Stream Classification
- Participated in the 2 day Nicola Coldwater Use Planning Meeting held in Merritt
- Attended meeting in Victoria with the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC (FFSBC) board of directors
- Letter to Federal Fisheries Minister opposing the late chum opening on the Fraser re its impact on Thompson Steelhead

November

- Attended WALP meeting in Terrace on proposed Steelhead Stream Classification
- BCFFF board meeting
- Participated in the FFSBC workshop on increasing angler participation in fishing.

December

- Participated in the Dean River Advisory meeting held in Williams Lake

2005

January

- nil

February

- Participated in the Fly Fishing Exposition held in Cloverdale (3 days- BCFFF booth/Kid's fly tying)
- Participated in the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission meeting, held in Yarrow, on Skagit Valley Recreational Needs Assessment
- Attended Steelhead Society of BC AGM in Langley.

March

- BCFFF board meeting
- Attended South Coast Steelhead Coalition meeting (Lower Mainland) held in North Vancouver
- Participated in conference call meeting with the Board of the Family Fishing Society (BCFFF has place on Board if we wish)
- Met with insurance company (Vancouver) to discuss liability insurance plan for BCFFF

April

- 3 conference call meetings with the Board of the Family Fishing Society of BC
- Met with Dogwood Fly Fishers, at their April meeting, to discuss BCFFF.
- Attended Provincial Quality Waters Working Group meeting (April 18) (there have been several other QWWG meetings over the course of the year that BCFFF attended as well)

May

- Attended BCWF Convention (Fisheries Session) on Friday May 6/05 in Nanaimo and gave presentation on BCFFF.

BCFFF Liability Insurance 2005--2006

Pete Caverhill

Who is covered?

All current BCFFF Club Members and Direct Members as of May 5, 2005

Type of Coverage and Amount?

1) Commercial General Liability Insurance - \$2 million. As part of this policy there is Directors and Officers liability insurance to \$1million.

2) Accident Insurance – covers members for a variety of different accidents and for a variety of \$\$ amounts for various losses, while doing the normal things that anglers and fly fishing club members do.

“Special Events” insurance is available from the Insurance broker. Clubs requiring this will need to contact the insurance broker to describe the special event and to determine required coverage and cost of coverage.

Note: At the Sports Can Insurance website there is a printable “Special Events” application form.

Website www.sports-can.ca

This document is a brief, incomplete description of our insurance. The specific details of coverage are provided in the detailed **DECLARATIONS** pages and actual **POLICY**. Our insurance coverage is based on the material that we had previously submitted to the insurer describing our organization (including our member clubs). The information was gathered on the forms that member clubs completed since last fall.

To obtain a hard copy of the complete BCFFF policy contact BCFFF.

Cost of Insurance

The cost is approximately \$5/member. For 2005/06, all current BCFFF member clubs will pay zero. New BCFFF member clubs will pay the \$5/member insurance cost plus BCFFF membership dues (Club-\$15 plus \$5/member). New Direct Members will be accommodated under the 05/06 policy.

Questions?

Questions about the general policy can be directed to BCFFF or to the insurance broker (attention Conrad Speirs or Sylvia Stein).

Insurer

Lloyd's

Insurance Broker

Sports-Can Insurance Consultants, Suite 730, 800 West Pender St, Vancouver BC V6C 2V6 (phone # 604- 685-0050; Fax 604-669-1007; toll free 800- 993-6388)
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Upcoming Events, Notices and Items of Interest

Alexandra Morton Receives Totem Fly Fishers' Prestigious Roderick Haig-Brown Award



This message from Craig Orr to his fellow club members:

I finally caught up with Alex Morton last week in Sointula and presented her our Haig-Brown Award. I enclose a photo of a happy Alex, and will bring others to a future meeting. She reiterated how pleased she was to receive this honor, and said that the timing couldn't have been better. She had been under attack by salmon farm supporters, and word of the Haig-Brown Award—carried in at least two newspapers and two radio interviews—really bolstered her spirits.

She had neighbors congratulating her, and people in Port McNeill walking up and shaking her hand.

Alex also mentioned she had two more scientific papers on sea lice and salmon accepted in major journals in the past week. No Canadian government research from the Broughtons has yet been published, but the denial is still flowing freely.

Craig Orr

2000 Gilly Award Recipient—Ray Smith--Passes On

From President Peter Caverhill to Mrs. Smith:

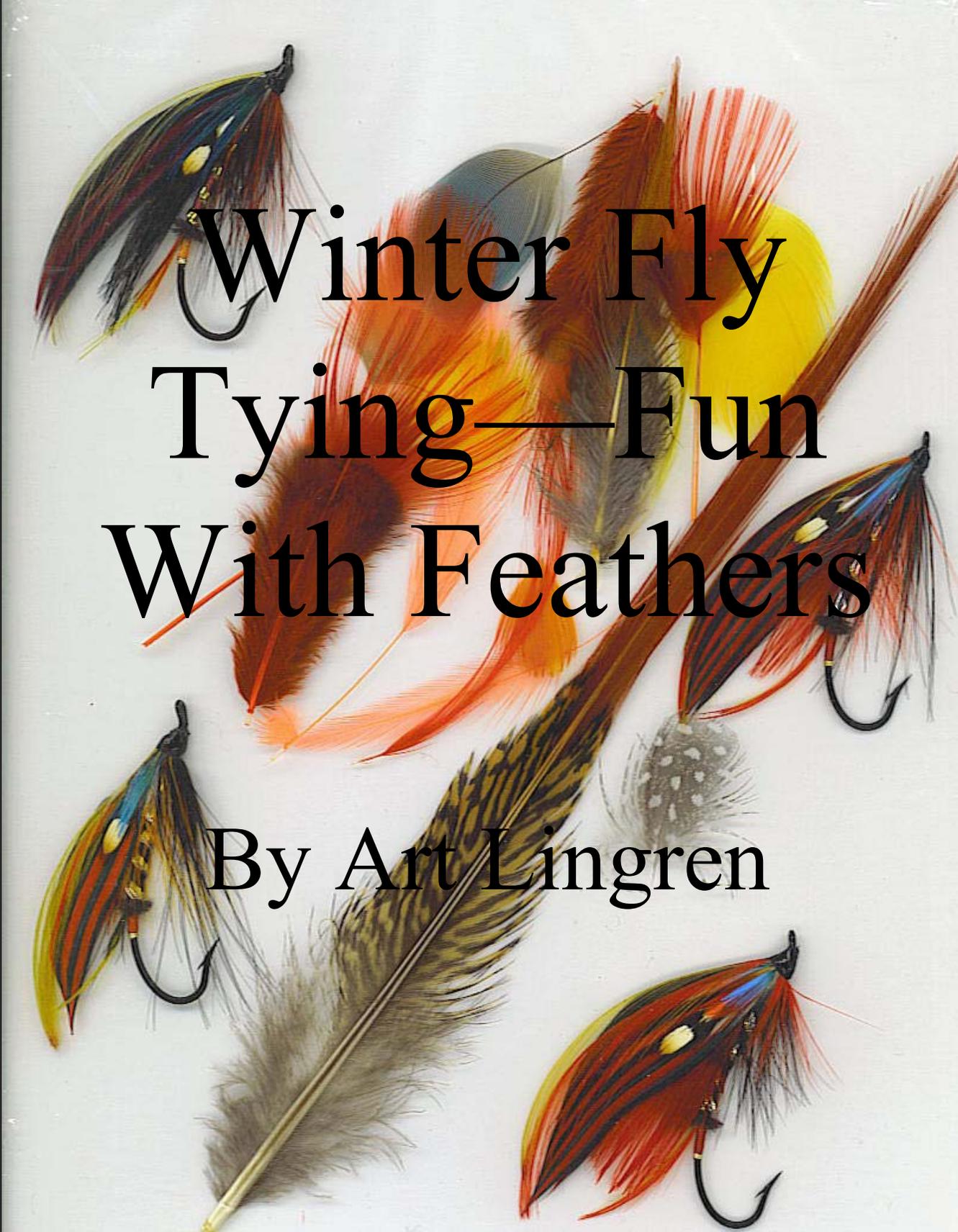
We were saddened to hear that Ray had passed away recently. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to you and the rest of your family at this time of painful remembering!

Ray was a strong supporter of this Federation and in 2000, at our Annual General Meeting/Dinner & Auction, Ray was presented with our **Gilly Award**. This is given for exceptional service toward BC's fisheries on behalf of all the anglers in the province. With Ray gone, we have lost a soldier in the fight to preserve, and improve, BC's quality fisheries.

Thank you for having folks remember Ray by donating to BCFFF. We have received a number of donations in his name.

Charlie Stroulger 2001 Angul Award Recipient Dies

On June 3rd, 89 year old Charlie Stroulger passed away in Duncan. Charlie, a life long promoter of fly fishing and member of the Cowichan Fly Fishers took up fly tying when he was a young man., He became one of Vancouver Island's premier bucktail fly dressers. Stroulger-dressed bucktails were a must if you wanted to increase your chances of success on the Cowichan Bay. He will be sorely missed by his family and club members.



Winter Fly Tying—Fun With Feathers

By Art Lingren

I like to tie flies and have been dressing Atlantic salmon flies for about 20 years. However, I don't dress many flies in that classic style—just too many things to do, especially if I have a book that I am working on.

Nonetheless every couple or years or so I do get the urge to put on a hook some of those beautiful feathers I have collected over the years. I don't follow any set pattern, as I just like to see what combinations of colours and feathers I come up with in the classic style. Sometimes the feathers on my ties don't do what I want but I do have fun with feathers. Here is this winter's efforts.

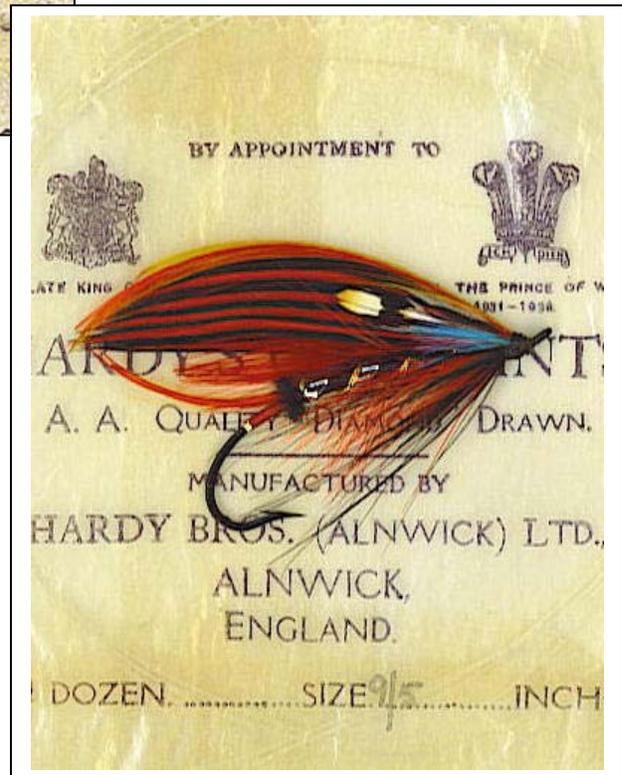


**8/0 Peargus
(Peacock & Argus)**

Dressing a fly on an 8/0 low-water Atlantic salmon hook does have its challenges. Two of the biggest difficulties are getting feathers with fibres that are long enough to span from the hook eye to just beyond the bend in proportions that are pleasing to the eye. The smaller “As Specified” steelhead fly is dressed on a #6 hook to provide a sense of scale.



#2 Blue Boy



#2 The Devil

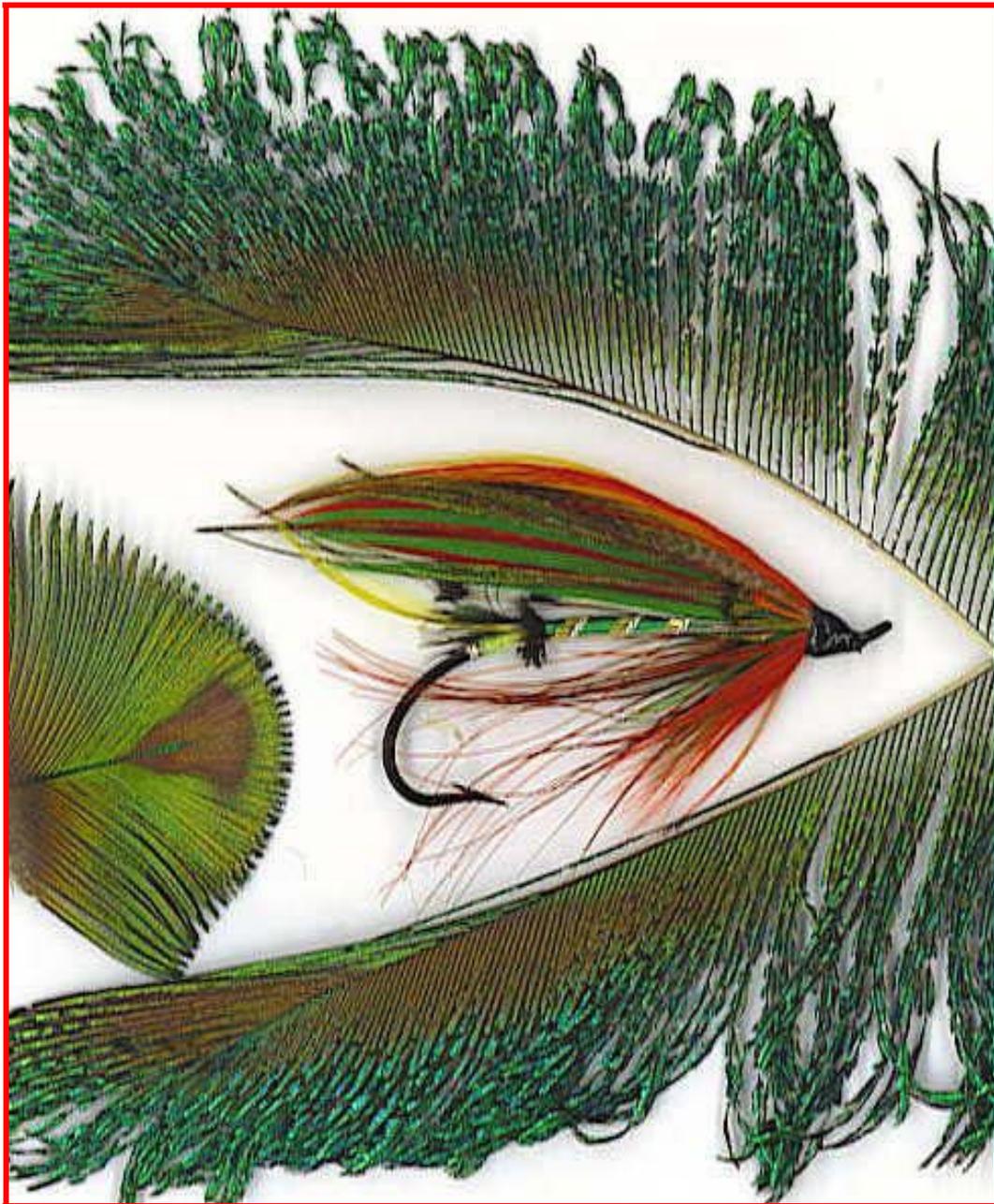


#2 C & B Special



#2 Purple & Yellow

#2 Orange & Black



Part of displaying flies is finding a setting which accompanies the fly. Peacock sword envelope the front, top and bottom with a peacock body feather in the rear.

(Editor's note: For this picture and those in the Winter Fly Tying piece I used my scanner which does not have the best of resolution. The more you enlarge the picture the poorer the resolution.)

Of Lice and Men

By Rob Brown (This piece first appeared in Rob's The Skeena Angler column in The Terrace Standard newspaper.)

There have been numerous articles in the Vancouver dailies on the fish farming controversy. Most of them discuss the latest developments alongside a graphic showing how many millions of bucks fish farming generates in BC every year. The figures for these graphics are generated with the kind of short term accounting that fails to take in the immediate costs to other industries and enormous long-term costs to the environment. The same papers wouldn't think of running a feature on, say, the illicit drug trade next to a table showing the billions of dollars and thousands of jobs that industry generates in our fair province each year.

The most recent articles to appear in *The Vancouver Sun* and its ugly step sister, *The Vancouver Province*, have been about the ongoing argument between the hacks and apologists for the fish farming industry and independent fisheries scientist and friends of wild fish over the effect of sea lice on our wild salmon.

The debate heated up considerably with the recent publication in the UK of a report in *The Journal of the Royal Society* that has clearly linked the transmission of lethal sea lice from farmed to wild salmon.

The report, conclusive and unambiguous according to one of the participating scientists, Dr. John Volpe, shows how one salmon farm on the B.C. coast caused an explosion of sea lice that spread to juvenile salmon migrating past it. The lice then multiplied on the wild fish, leading to a secondary outbreak that spread to other salmon up to 30 kilometres from the farm.

The researchers' methodology was simple: they followed salmon smolts from the time they left their natal streams, measuring the number of lice on them along the way. As the wee salmon passed a salmon farm, the scientists discovered that the rate of infestation climbed dramatically. The farm, incidentally, was operating well within provincial guidelines.

Before they encountered the salmon farm, somewhere between 4 to 25% of the juvenile salmon had sea lice, and most of those had picked up only one lousy louse. After passing the farm, *all* of the wild salmon were infected and the number of lice per fish had jumped to a lethal 10 to 25 per fish. This is not good thing. A pink salmon smolt is fragile thing about the size of a baby's baby finger. Three lice will suck the life out of the little fish.

A few days later Fed Fish, who have been evasive and ambiguous to the point of irresponsibility on the fish farming issue, acknowledged that the findings of the report were compelling and, in the words of Dr. Brian Riddell, the well-respected scientist recently appointed to the position of Division Head for DFO's Salmon and Fresh Water Branch, looking at salmon farms as the source of stock collapse, "would make common sense."

Bingo! Common sense. It's this simple: sea lice are a parasite. Parasites look for hosts. When a fish farm locks up its exotic salmon it creates a huge biomass – a veritable host of hosts. To nobody's surprise the lice climb on board the carcasses of the factory fish and multiply like mad. You can keep most of the salmon fenced in but the lice are another thing. If your kid has ever come home from school with head lice, you will know that it takes some pretty strong medicine to eradicate them. The fish farmers use equally deadly pesticides in a vain attempt to keep lice numbers down. It doesn't work, as proven by DFO fieldwork that confirms the lice numbers in the Broughton Archipelago grew "substantially in 2004 relative to 2003."

As if the source of lice wasn't obvious enough, the same DFO fieldworkers discovered that the predominant species of louse sticking to Broughton salmon in 2003 was *Caligus Clemensi*. This didn't alarm anyone since *C. Clemensi* is the kind of louse associated with wild Pacific salmon. In 2004, the year of the louse, the species of louse killing salmon smolts was *Lepeophtheirus salmonis*, the louse most commonly associated with Atlantic salmon.

This bit of information comes from an internal briefing memo that was used to brief Fisheries Minister, Geoff Regan. That's right. Armed with this information, the report mentioned above, the findings of Norwegian scientists who can't believe we're debating whether lice hurt wild salmon because they've know it for decades, Regan and his underlings waffle and say it's too early to draw conclusions.

This leads me to the inescapable common sense conclusion that Minister Regan is a lousy minister who's either incompetent or conflicted, or both. When the sponsorship scandal is behind him, PM Paul Martin should sack his fisheries minister then call David Anderson up from the minors, apologize to him, give him the portfolio and watch him do the right thing.

Fly Tying

Marabou Spratley By Bob Giles



Hook: Size 6 to 12, Mustad 9672
Thread: Danville, burgundy 6/0
Tail: Grizzly hackle fibres
Body: Maroon and black mohair
Rib: Medium oval gold or silver tinsel
Hackle: Grizzly throat
Wing: Burgundy or wine marabou



Step 1: Put a Mustad 9672 hook #10 to 6 in the vice. Wrap #6/0 black or maroon tying thread the length of the hook shank. Tie in a piece of 0.025 lead wire in mid-shank and wrap about 12 to 15 turns—more if a faster sink rate is desired. Build the thread up at both ends of the lead wraps with a number of crisscrosses to secure the lead. Wind thread to hook bend and tie in a tail of webby hen grizzly fibres.



Step 2: Tie in a piece of black and maroon mohair and a piece of medium oval gold or silver tinsel on opposite sides at the hook bend.



Step 3: Wrap the mohair to about 1/8 "from hook eye and tie off. Counter wrap the tinsel in five evenly spaced turns and tie off of about 1/8" from hook eye.



Step 4: Just below where the tinsel and mohair are tied off tie in a clump of webby grizzly hen hackle almost reaching the hook point.



Step 5: Tie in a clump of wine or burgundy marabou extending just past the tail on the top of the hook making sure it doesn't roll onto the sides.



Step 6: For the head tie in two strands of peacock and wrap tying thread and peacock herl together taking four or five turns. Tie off thread and apply three or more coats of head cement.

Don't forget to pinch the bar and then you have the finish fly.

Comments: This variation of the Doc Spratley has produced well as a trolled or hand-retrieved fly in Interior and Vancouver Island lakes and came about because I wanted a buggy looking pattern with more movement in the fly when fished hand retrieved and on the pause when the fly drops through the water column. The marabou and webby hackle in the tail and throat help achieve that end.

Note: The master fly tyer Bob Giles is a member of the Cowichan Fly Fishers and the 2002 recipient of the Jack Shaw Fly Tying Award.