



# Fly Lines

*The official publication of the British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers*  
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## *Fly Lines*

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Members as well as guest writers are invited to submit articles, photographs and artwork related to the pursuit of fly fishing. Send unsolicited material, with a self addressed stamped envelope for return to:

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*A Copper River steelhead*  
Art Lingren photo

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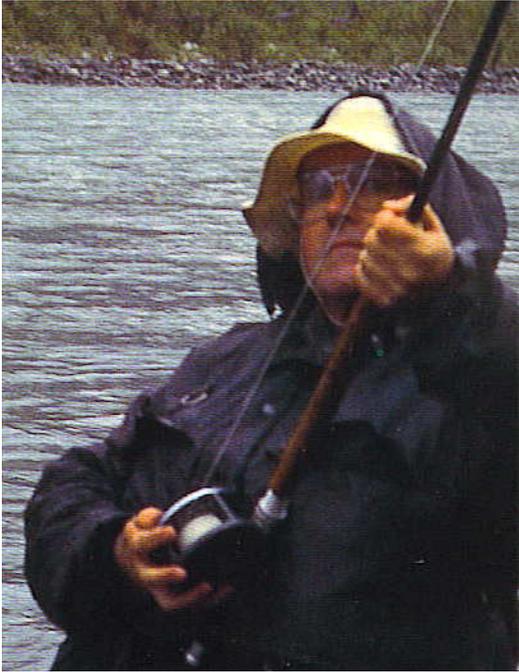
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## President's Message



At times I can be one of the world's top procrastinators! A lot depends on the task to be confronted:-clean out the carport, cut the grass or write the Presidents Report. I admit that writing a short report should be a simple task yet it is one I avoid like the plague. Perhaps if I had paid closer attention during English classes in high school the challenge to write this report would not be as great.

Over the years the BCFFF has been most fortunate in having individuals willing to step forward and act as the Fly Lines editor. Art Lingren took over as editor of Fly Lines in the fall 2003 and retired with this summer's issue. Once again I would like to thank Art for his three years of service as our newsletter editor. This issue is the debut of our new editor, Terry Robinson. Terry is a member of the Osprey

Fly Fishers. Like all the editors that have preceded him Terry will, I am sure, bring his own distinctive style to the job. Welcome aboard Terry!

In July the executive held an all day meeting in Nanaimo. Attending was the president, two vice presidents, treasurer, secretary past president and the chair of the Senior Advisory Committee. The purpose of this meeting was, in part, to bring the new executive up to speed on the Federation's activities. It also provided the opportunity for the executive to review BCFFF's mission- what are we doing right what are we doing wrong and how can we be a more effective.

One of the big questions addressed at this July meeting was how do we sell membership in our organization and what does the Federation offer its members? The usual answer is that we have a terrific newsletter, third party liability insurance, and we are advocates on the issues that impact our sport. While this is all true, the order of predominance is wrong as our primary mission is to be lobbyists on issues that impact on our fisheries be that river, lake or saltwater. The conclusion reached by the executive was that, while we were effective in presenting our views on issues deemed to be important to our members. However, we were not being successful in letting the membership know what actual activities we were undertaking to back up our views. Certainly we send out information via e-mail to our direct members and club contacts but we have been lax in ensuring that we update our membership regarding our activities on a regular basis.

Over the years the BCFFF, primarily through the Gilly Fund but also from general revenue, has financially supported numerous projects aimed at improving fish habitat or fish stocks. However we have been quite lax in publicizing these contributions and in fact are struggling to locate information on the projects funded in the earlier years of the Gilly Fund. Certainly the computer has simplified tracking of information, but in the early days of hand written letters notes and faxes much of our early history is difficult to uncover.

It is the board's intention to more fully utilize our website so that our membership is aware of our lobby and funding activities.

What have we been up to?

1. On the Cheakamus steelhead hatchery controversy the Federation wrote to the Environment Minister urging him to implement a limited hatchery program. It was our position that the time-frame for steelhead stocks to recover without hatchery augmentation from the disaster of the sodium hydroxide spill would be excessive.
2. The Federation supported the Ministry of Environment's (MOE) recommendation that the closed section on the Cheakamus be reopened in August of this year.
3. On the Seymour River the MOE recommend that catch and release regulations be implemented for all trout (hatchery or wild) and char in all areas of the river open to fishing. The existing regulation did allow for retention of hatchery trout and hatchery steelhead below Spur 4 Bridge (char must be released). The federation supported this proposal and recommended that artificial lure regulations be implemented in all areas subject to catch and release regulations. While catch and release regulations were implemented an artificial lure only regulation was not because this would have impacted angling for coho salmon.
4. MOE requested stakeholder input on the proposal for an opening on the Coquihalla River. MOE was proposing a fairly extensive season (mid July to end of April) and change from fly-fishing only too artificial fly only. In our response, we stated that a change to artificial fly would result in excessive pressure on what would be a sensitive fishery and the length of the opening was excessive. Our recommendation was that the fly only recommendation remains in place and that the season end in early fall. This was adopted by MOE.
5. In the spring MOE proposed an extensive number of regulation changes for 11 streams on Vancouver Island (Region 1) and for some streams there were multiple changes proposed. Prior to our May AGM the Federation circulated information to our members requesting their input. At the AGM an extensive amount of time was devoted to discuss the regulation changes in an attempt to reach consensus. As expected the focus was on the Cowichan River and , in particular, on a proposal for an angling closure (December 1 to April 15) covering the section from the Lake Cowichan weir downstream to 70.2 km. We could not reach any consensus on this one particular proposal and in fact it dominated the entire discussion. After the AGM the Federation once again solicited input from its membership. Based on the input we received from clubs and individuals we prepared a response to the Ministry's regulation package. I would like to thank

both Peter Caverhill and Pat Micek for their work on this issue! It was an extremely complex package of regulation changes (especially for the Cowichan) that posed a very emotional issue for our members. Details on the BCFFF's response are presented in this newsletter so please read on.

Please remember that communication requires everyone's cooperation and support. We rely on the club contacts to distribute the information they receive to their members and to provide feedback to BCFFF from their respective clubs. If our members have concerns regarding the operation of the Federation or on issues that they feel we should be addressing then please contact us either through [info@bcfff.bc.ca](mailto:info@bcfff.bc.ca) or directly with me a [gsage@telus.net](mailto:gsage@telus.net)

## Robert Henry Taylor

By Art Lingren

Bob Taylor passed away unexpectedly on July 5, 2006 in his 81<sup>st</sup> year. A few Totems and friends gather for lunch on Thursdays and Bob was at the June 29<sup>th</sup> lunch. He looked



good and he wished me well on my trip east. On Saturday July 8, I was enjoying a cup of after breakfast coffee with fellow Totems, Charlie Brumwell, Vince Sweeney, Evan Joubert, Bob Backus and Gil Sage when the Newfoundland salmon fishing lodge owner told me there was a phone call for me. It was 7:30 am in Newfoundland and 3 am on the west coast of Canada. I wondered who would be calling me. It was our last day fishing at the lodge and we were moving up to spend four days on the Humber River on Sunday so I thought it must be Bill Bryden our guide host on the Humber. I was surprised to hear a familiar voice from the west coast on the line. Ron Schiefke broke the news to me that Bob had passed away in his sleep on July 5. It took a while for me to compose myself and return to the table so I could pass on the bad news to Bob's other fishing friends. That evening we toasted Bob at dinner.

*Bob admiring a River steelhead*

*Lee Straight Photo*

I met Bob Taylor, the consummate steelhead fly fisher, in 1983 when I joined the Totem Flyfishers. Because we shared a common passion—chasing the big sea-going rainbows—we started fishing together soon after. Over the ensuing years I spent many days fishing with Bob on streams in the Lower Mainland, on Vancouver Island, Queen Charlotte Islands, on the Skeena system, as well as the Thompson, Bella Coola and the Dean rivers. We enjoyed each others company and had a number of common interests besides chasing the big sea-going rainbows with a fly. We enjoyed tying flies, fly fishing books, the fine tools of the craft and listening to classical music while having a glass of wine with dinner in the camper. In the last few years Bob didn't fish as often but I have pleasant memories of the more recent trips to the Dean, Bella Coola, and Skeena system rivers. Other trips with Bob I will remember because they were with Steve Hanson, Gil Sage, Charlie Brumwell, Chris Purcell, Ron Schiefke and Van Egan, all good friends, and great angling companions and fly fishers.

Of all the rivers Bob fished over many decades, the Dean River was closest to his heart. He loved the Dean's wilderness setting and the fresh-from-the-ocean summer-run steelhead. He made his first trip to the Dean in the very early 1970s with Lee Straight and it was Bob who thought the he and Lee needed to share this river with the Totems. The Totems Dean River trips started in 1974 and Bob went every year. I was to go with Bob this year and when we planned it back in the early part of the year we wanted it to be special trip with Van Egan and Ron Schiefke joining us. Van had to cancel due to his vertigo

problems  
and of  
course Bob  
wasn't to be  
there. My  
good friends  
Charlie  
Brumwell  
and Kami  
Kamizawa  
filled in but  
we missed  
Bob and I  
thought of  
him often  
during this  
Dean River  
trip.

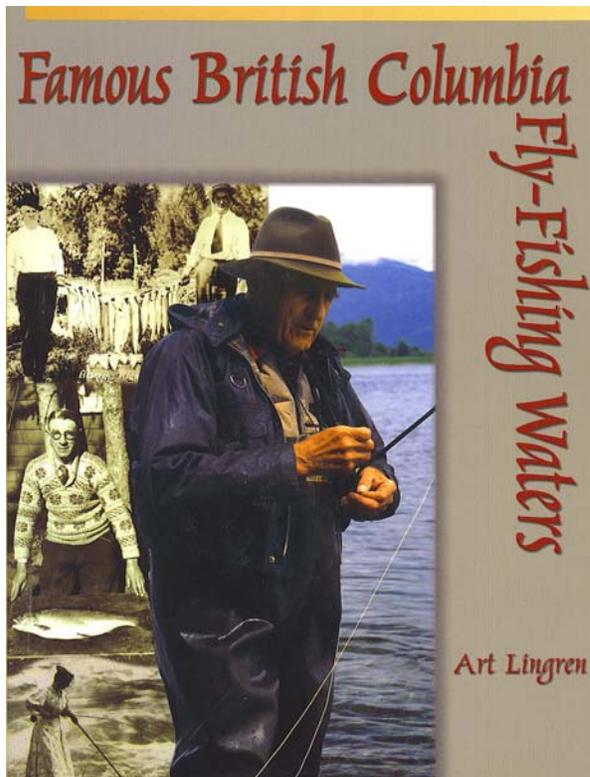


*Art Lingren, Bob Taylor and Van Egan taking a break on one of our Dean River trips  
Harold Baker photo*

Fish politics was another of Bob Taylor's passions and he spent a good part of his spare time on fish-related conservation issues. Bob was very concerned about preserving fishing opportunities for the working stiffs. And he was persistent, never letting an issue die if he thought he was right. Often, if he felt government was not being forthright he would do a Freedom of Information request. When he received the piles of information he would go through them in detail extracting those bits and pieces of information to support his view. Bob served as president of the Totem Fly Fishers in 1987, has been actively involved in club activities over the past many years as a director. He served as director of the Steelhead Society of BC back in the 1980s and early 1990s and as a director of the BC Federation of Fly Fishers in the early 2000s and was currently a member of their fisheries committee.

Bob also had a deep appreciation for fly-fishing literature. He didn't have a large fly-fishing library but he chose well. He had a great appreciation for the sport's history and realized that the continuity between generations was maintained through the written word. I know Bob will be pleased that future generations of fly fishers will know the name Bob Taylor. Over the past dozen years I have had eight books published. I knew that he was in four of my books and the day before Bob's memorial service I dug them out to refresh what I had written. After reviewing the references to Bob in *Fly Patterns of British Columbia*, *Dean River Journal*, *Famous British Columbia Fly Fishing Waters* and *Contemporary Fly Patterns of British Columbia*, I thought I should check the other four. Here I found that I had mentioned Bob in *Fly Patterns of Roderick Haig-Brown*, *Thompson River Journal* and *Irresistible Waters*. So in seven out of eight books there are

over forty pages with the name Bob Taylor on them not including pictures of him. His picture is on the dust jacket of *Famous British Columbia Fly-Fishing Waters*. These many references to Bob in my writings, attest to our friendship, that I valued his knowledge and that he had a significant influence on me.



*His picture is on the dust jacket of Famous British Columbia Fly-Fishing Waters.*

It is at times such as these, when a good friend passes, that pragmatically I would like to think that there is something after death. If there is some truth here, then Bob will be in his glory. He will be sharing water with some of BC's great steelhead fly fishers of the past such as General Noel Money, Roderick Haig-Brown and Tommy Brayshaw. He will be reunited with his good friend Lee

Straight. And knowing Bob, if he isn't casting a line on the water with those guys he will standing on the riverbank or sitting in camp sharing a glass of Scotch whiskey while talking to the General about military things and steelhead fly fishing, to Haig-Brown about fish politics and books, and to Brayshaw about painting, fly tying and bamboo rod building.



Some Totems meet every Thursday for lunch and the club members gather for dinner meetings 10 months out of the year. Our Thursday lunches and Totems meetings will not be the same without Bob. I will miss his companionship on future fishing trips. When I visit those streams, especially those that we spent quite some time together on, Bob will be on my mind. I will release a steelhead for him.

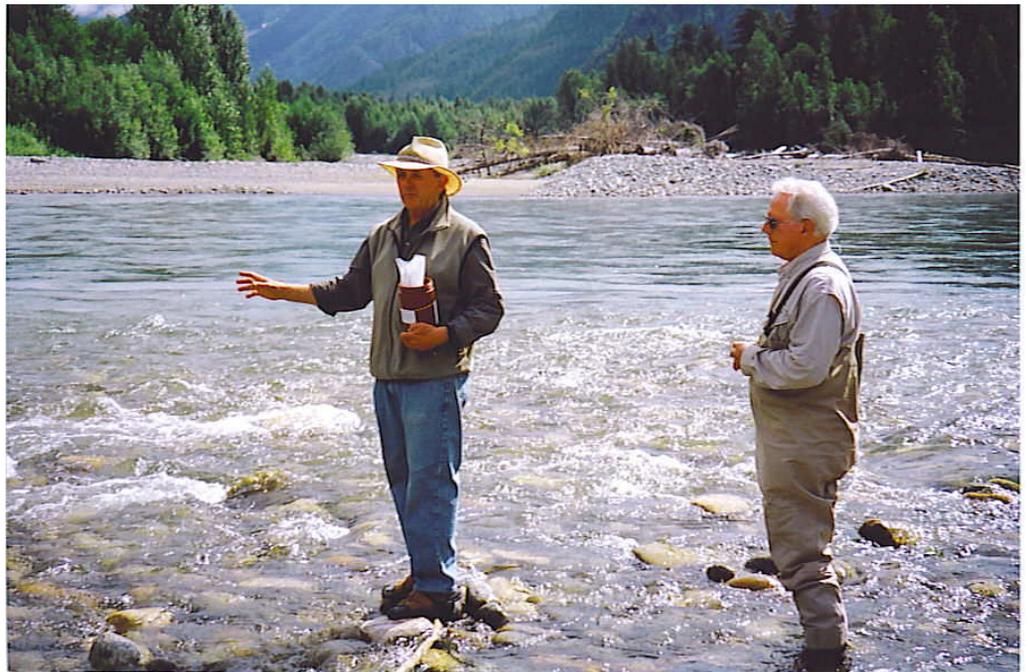
*One for Bob--A Dean River steelhead taken on this year's trip*

*Art Lingren photo*

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 on the banks of the Dean River pool where the Totem Fly Fishers have had a camp since the early 1980s a number of Totems, some of Bob's fly fishing acquaintances said a final farewell to Bob. During the ceremony we named the riffle flowing out of the Salmon Rock Pool into the Totems' Camp Run, Taylor's Riffle.

**Art Lingren and Ron Grantham at the ceremony where Lingren said a few words about Bob Taylor and named Bob's favorite piece of Dean River water Taylor's Riffle.**

*Charlie Brumwell Photo*



## Report on Jack Shaw Diaries Project to BCFFF – by Ralph Shaw

To members of BCFFF:-

I received from Dorothy Shaw (Jack Shaw's widow) the complete Dairies of Jack Shaw covering the period 1975 to 1993. At the time I thought it would be a fairly simple task to write a book based on material from the dairies, thereby sharing much of the work he did in his pioneering fly-fishing techniques. It was then that I learned about the problems of transcription and the magnitude of the task I had planned. Subsequently I decided to raise funds for the cost of transcription.

Prior to any fund raising I received from Doug Robertson a cheque for \$100.00 to get things going. Doug Robertson was a life long friend of Jack.

I initially applied to the BCFFF for funds from the Gilly Fund for the project, but did not meet the qualifications of the fund. The executive of the BCFFF generously sent me a cheque for \$2400.00 to get the project underway. Shortly after, the Mid Island Fly Fishers generously sent a cheque for \$300.00. Due to uncertain health and a concern to see the project through, Doug Robertson who is 92 sent a cheque for \$ 5000.00. My wife Elaine Shaw has deposited all funds for a total of \$7800.00 in a special Bank Account.

Prior to the initial funds from BCFFF, I approached Vera Jones to do the transcription of the Dairies to a disk so we can proceed with the book. To date all dairies from 1975 to 1989 have been transcribed. My wife Elaine and I paid \$273.00 for the transcription of the 1975-76 dairies and this sum does not show as a deposit in the account. Subsequently Elaine has written cheques for the amount of \$3610.04 to Vera Jones on the account. The balance as of this writing on September 2, 2006 is \$4189.96. The balance of the transcriptions will soon be complete as there is limited material in the remaining dairies.

Following the completion of the transcription I will be working with Bob Jones and Larry Stefanyk who are donating their time in the editing and layout of the book.

I am donating all of my time on this project and would like to see the funds that may come from sales to be disbursed in the following way:

McQueen Lake Environmental Center in Kamloops ----- 75%  
Fisheries programs for Children-----25%

Depending on how we proceed with the layout of the book there may be a need for further funds because we have illustrations and thousands of Jack's photos to draw material from.

If any clubs would like to get involved financially I would respectfully suggest you send any donations to the BCFFF earmarked for the Jack Shaw Diary Project.

As a matter of interest, the dairies make wonderful reading in their own right and studying them has increased my own success on the water. He left a great legacy!



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The British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Angling Regulation Proposal 2007 Vancouver Island Region. Our response is listed below within a spreadsheet. BCFFF is in agreement with the majority of the proposed regulation changes, with the exception of the proposed closure on the Cowichan, the proposed closure on the Gold, and the removal of the bait ban on the Stamp. The most contentious issue in the package of proposed changes is the closure on the Cowichan from Dec. 1 to Apr. 15. Our membership was extremely divided over this issue. During the discussion period many clubs and individuals focused exclusively on the Cowichan closure. Regarding the proposed closure on the Gold, we feel that angling methods designed to reduce catch efficiency should be considered as a conservation tool before considering a fishery closure. We will comment on the process and our experience in making our decisions.

For the past 4 months, we have held countless discussions regarding the Angling Regulation Proposal 2007 Vancouver Island Region. The BCFFF has sought the opinion of the membership regarding each proposal and received input from over 100 individuals. In fact, 1 hour of our AGM was spent discussing the proposals. Formulating a response was made difficult due to the lack of an adequate scientific rationale to support each of the proposals and to the contradictory information from the Ministry on the status of some of the stocks (Cowichan).

Our organization has a number of competent individuals who understand information related to fishery issues. They are capable of drawing conclusions from reasoning and/or

scientific information. From our perspective, the information that accompanied the proposals did not help in developing an understanding of them. Our membership was generally frustrated by the information rather than helped

In the future it would be helpful for proposals to be accompanied by information (or provided a source for information) that would enhance our understanding. In addition, it would be helpful to have material that showed the pros and cons, as appropriate, for each proposal. If the reasoning for a proposal is made on a best assumption; we need to know that as well. We recognize that it isn't always possible to do the science needed, but the well being of a fishery may be at stake, so it is better to err on the side of action than inaction.

We take commenting on proposals very seriously, since proposals can have a far reaching and dramatic effect on fisheries. We welcome the opportunity to participate in the decision making process, particularly when we have the appropriate information.

### Response to Proposals

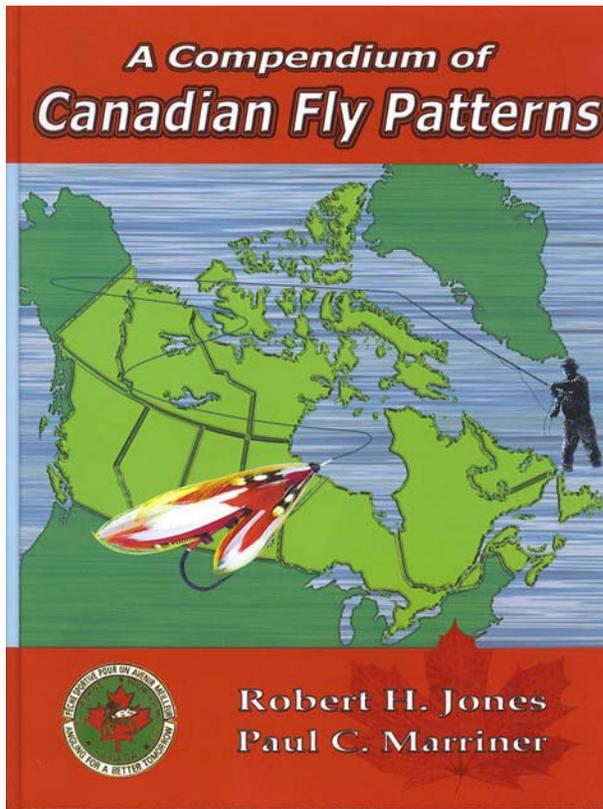
*Note: "N" = BCFFF does not support the proposal; "Y" = BCFFF does support the proposal*

<b>Proposals</b>	<b>Upper Cow. R. angling closure</b> (weir to 70.2) Dec 1 to April 15	<b>Cow. Fly Fishing Only</b> from Greendale trestle near Lk. Cowichan down to 70.2 (April 16 to Nov 30 inclusive).	<b>Cow. Fly Fishing Only</b> (70.2 to Skutz falls)	<b>Cow. Bait ban</b> – whole river; all year	<b>Cow. Catch &amp; release</b> for all wild trout/char for all reaches of the river that are open to angling )	<b>Gold R. Angling closure</b> upstream from Heber R. confluence (Dec 1 to May 31 )	<b>Stamp R. No angling from boats</b> (Stamp Falls Park downstream to "Girl Guide Falls" – all year)	<b>Stamp R. Remove bait ban</b> (Stamp Falls Park downstream to "Girl Guide Falls" – all year)	<b>Haslam Creek (closure)</b>	<b>9 Rivers</b> (open lower)
<b>BCFFF Position on each proposal.</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Y</b>

## ***A Compendium of Canadian Fly Patterns***

**By Robert H. Jones & Paul C. Marriner**

Gale's End Press, RR #1, Mahone Bay, N.S. B0J 2E0,  
240 pages, Spiral bound hardcover \$44.95



Canada is a huge country where fly fishers enjoy casting their fly tying creations to a wide variety of fish species. This book with its collection of 1600 flies from across the country attests to the diverse fly-fishing opportunities.

Each fly is shown in full color, followed by a listing of the fly's components. The color photographs of the flies are shown on different background colors that compliment the fly. As with any project taking a number of years, the photography does vary nonetheless. All pictures are sharp and illustrate the fly well. However, some of the photographs are startlingly good. To illustrate the preceding comments, the reader should check page 60. Here the fly called CK is not as well illuminated as the Coquihalla Orange although the details are sharp in both flies. Some

colors are not true and in particular yellow often appears as chartreuse in the color pictures. For example, the hackle on Dick's Fly on page 61 and General Money No. 2 on page 64 and the underwing on the Pearl Mickey on page 82 is yellow but appears as chartreuse.

I have written a considerable amount about British Columbia historic flies and I have read most of the fly-fishing related literature written about BC flies and fishing since BC's became a British colony in 1858. So, the following comments are specific to some of the flies for British Columbia that are mentioned in this book:

Colonel Carey was the originator of the Carey Special fly. Steve Raymond, in his 1971 edition of *Kamloops*, attributed that fly's development to Dr. Lloyd Day and Colonel Carey based on the information given for that fly in the original 1965 edition of *Flies of the Northwest* by the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club in Washington. That information in *Flies of the Northwest* was incorrect and Raymond has on page 139 in the 1980 edition of

*Kamloops* revised his earlier work and attributed that fly's development to Colonel Carey only. Too, Raymond said in the 1980 edition of *Kamloops* that Colonel Carey's first name **may** have been Tom but I tried in the 1990s, when I was working on *Fly Patterns of British Columbia*, to get more specific information on Colonel Carey. However, none was available. Max Warner, one of this book's fly tyers, has perpetuated Raymond's original error attributing the Carey Special to Day and Carey and given Carey the first name of Thomas. Now we have in print, a name that Raymond said **may** be Carey's first name and we have eliminated the title "Colonel". For nearly ¾ of a century Carey was referred to as Colonel and anyone who knows a little for B.C. fly tying history knows who he is by that title and that he originated the Carey Special. As well, the recipe for the original Carey Special is not correct as is the style in which Warner has dressed the sample.

The Gomphus fly (there are three recipes provided) are purported in this book to be an imitation of a dragonfly nymph in the Gomphidae family. It is quite rare to find that nymph in B.C. waters. The so-called "Gomphus fly" is in fact an imitation of the Red-Shouldered Dragonfly Nymph, which is a member of the genus *Sympetrum*. See p. 34 in *Fly Patterns of British Columbia* or p. 60 of *Contemporary Fly Patterns of British Columbia* for more details on this misnaming.

Many fly tiers contributed flies for this book. Unfortunately, it is quite noticeable with many of the historic British Columbia patterns that the so-called "modern" style of tying doesn't represent the originators' style. Proportions are out of whack, and some of the materials are not correct. And so it is with some of the fly patterns presented in this book.

There are some basic rules for dressing a wet fly. One is that you start the fly, if there is a tip or tag, directly over the barb or a little forward of that point then rib the fly with five turns of tinsel of appropriate size that matches the hook size. In most cases, the wet fly wing lies close to the body and extends to the end of the tail. Fly tiers who had limited schooling or experience tying flies, often get their proportions wrong and start the fly well down the hook bend, make their tails too long and or too bulky. Bodies are lumpy, tinsel is wound unevenly with too many turns and the hackle is often too long and either too sparse or bulky. Wings are too long with too much or too little material and or the set is not right. For example, General Money dressed his flies with a very low-lying wing, which appears as if it clung to the fly's body. In this book, Ricketson's dressing for the Rainbow shows a wing that flails off at nearly 45 degrees. This is a classic example of tier who has not learned the techniques of setting mallard wings properly. Here, the wing is set too high and the amount of bronze mallard winging material is too little. Some of Ricketson's other Money patterns have a wing set somewhat lower and closer to how the General dressed his flies.

I have in my files, the late 1930's correspondence between Rod Haig-Brown and Bill Nation in which Nation provided Haig-Brown with dressings for his flies. These appeared in *The Western Angler* (1939). Nation died in 1940, so his list of flies was fairly current when he gave the information to Haig-Brown. The Nation flies in this book, for

the most part, are poorly dressed and many don't look anything like the patterns of Bill Nation. For example, the dressing Nation lists for Nation's Silvertip has a tail of six strands of tippet, rear ¼ of the body of flat silver tinsel and last ¾ of black floss, rib of oval silver tinsel, throat of speckled guinea fowl. The wing is very lightly mottled turkey enclosing a few strands of tippet. Warner's dressing has an overabundant amount of tippet in the tail (looks like a full feather of tippet that extends way beyond where it should), too much tinsel in the body (silver rope is used instead of oval tinsel), a hackle dressed as a collar rather than a beard, too large a wing of mottled turkey and red goose or duck instead of the correct tippet.. Warner dressed many flies for this book and I believe the book would be better if only those flies in which he has mastered the tying techniques were included. Now it is quantity over quality.

There are 22 flies dressed by me in this book. One of mine, the Coquihalla Red, has been attributed to someone else.

Most fishing is local for different parts of Canada and indexing the flies by province, in addition to the general listing on flies in alphabetical order may have helped people looking for flies in the province where they live. The authors have done a commendable job putting together the collection of flies for this book and it is good sampling of Canadian flies and tiers. Profits from the sale of *A Compendium* will help support Fly Fishing Canada Youth Program. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of a signed limited edition contact Bob Jones in Courtenay, British Columbia at [bobjones@island.net](mailto:bobjones@island.net) and for a regular trade edition send cheque or money order for \$44.95 + \$10 s&h + \$3.30 GST for Canadian delivery, United States addresses: \$54.95 US cheque only to Gale's End Press, RR #1, Mahone Bay, NS, B0J 2E0, Canada

**Reviewed by  
Art Lingren**

### **A Brown Trout Tale – Fly Fishing in the Alberta Rockies**

By Harold Tingling

In 1977 I met Gayle Stitt when I worked for Williams Machinery in Calgary selling skidders, cranes and other construction equipment. Gayle was a seasoned oil and gas executive but he was also a “gentlemen rancher.” He was looking for a used skidder to remove some lodge pole pine he wanted to use in a post making operation on his ranch on Fallen Timber Creek, north of Calgary and west of Cremona. The ranch was close to the Rockies. We fixed him up and during our conversations he told me about his ranch and as a fly fisher I naturally had to ask what was in the creek and if I could fish on his land. He told me there were brookies and browns in the creek and he extended an invitation to come fish any time.

I went up there, fished that creek and had a great time. After fishing, I stopped at the shop to thank him for his letting me fish his creek. He was trying to fix a set of electric brakes on a hay trailer and was having little progress. As I was an old brakeman, I

told him I could look at them and see what was what. I repaired the wiring and that started a great long-lasting relationship. Over the years, I was up at the ranch many times to do a little work and go fishing or hunting. We still communicate even though we are far apart.

One Saturday night in July many years ago, Gayle suggested we go up to Storm Creek and fish the beaver dams that were part of the creek. Gayle, along with his 13-year-old son Jim, George Beecher, the ranch foreman and I took off in the pick up truck to Storm Creek. Now, these guys were unwashed worm fishers, so they had Jim dig them up a can of bait. I got a bit of static being the only fly fisher. In my own mind I knew I was up the fishing hierarchy ladder a bit over bait fishers. It wasn't long before I had the first of about fifteen fish that took my flies. This devastated the worm fishers as their catch was next to nothing. We went home and I took the usual good-natured bantering common among friends on how I was just lucky.

Little did I know how that evening changed young Jim dramatically. The following Monday, he went to the sport shop and bought a fly rod and all the goodies that go with it. He was waiting for me when I arrived the next weekend. "When are we going fishing?", were the first words out of his mouth. He was just a bouncing and I had to chuckle at his enthusiasm. Jim and I went to the creek for some casting lessons. He turned out to be a natural and in no time at all he was casting thirty to forty feet, more than enough to fish the creek.

I had a green Humpy on my line and I gave Jim a couple of yellow ones to try. It took about three casts and Jim had his first fish on a fly. He played it well and netted a nice thirteen-inch brookie. That fish was not going back in the creek but was going to end up on his plate.

It was great watching Jim casting his fly in the riffles and getting hits and we both caught a few more fish that evening. All stream fly fishers remember the excitement and adventure when we started stream fishing and ,for Jim and I darkness came far too soon, ending a most perfect evening.

There is always some thing to be repaired around a working ranch but in no time the morning had passed. Jim inquired if we would be going fishing that afternoon or would we have to wait till the evening. After a short discussion we decided that the fishing would be better later in the evening. I could sense a little disappointment in his voice as he agreed to the plan but he got over it and we went back to work.

The afternoon sped by and, after a delightful dinner, I had hardly finished my coffee when Jim came into the dining room with his waders on and his fly rod in his hand. I suited up and away we went.

We decided we would go up stream, this time to water that hadn't been fished for a while. We got to the bridge that crossed the creek and before I could say otherwise, Jim said, "I'll cross over and fish the other side." Damn, I thought, he beat me to it. I wanted

to fish that side of the creek. There was a big brown trout holed up under a cut bank where the creek took a sharp turn. I had seen him numerous times and had a few rises from him. You couldn't get a cast at him from the near side on account of brush along the bank. With Jim wanting to fish that side of the creek I was loosing my chance at my brown trout. It went through my mind that I should say I wanted to fish that side of the creek. However, I decided I had better not, as that would be childish. I really thought though that, because I had found the fish, it was rightfully mine.

Maybe I was getting worked up about nothing. Maybe that fish had moved? Maybe Jim would not get his line out that far? Lots of maybes ran through my mind. And, of course, he might get a rise or maybe a strike but being new to casting a fly I wondered if he would be quick enough to set the hook? No, not enough experience I thought.

We were getting close to the pool and the cut bank and I had to move away from the bank to get past the tag alders and willows that protected the bank. I was just about clear of the brush when I heard the loud war whoop. I couldn't believe it, Jim had my fish on! I got in the clear where I could see what was going on and saw that his rod had a good bend and that fish was taking line like it was heading for Banff.

Jim kept up the hooting and hollering while he played the fish, just like a kid would do. He got the fish in and held him up for me to see. The fish, about 14 inches long, was a beauty for this small creek. How's that he called out as he held it up for all to see. All I could muster was an empty sounding " nice fish." I wished that I had caught that trout.

I lost some desire to fish real hard but we fished for another hour and I caught a few more small fish and let them go. We started back home, Jim with my fish hanging on a stick. Hell I could just hear him telling me how that fish took his fly, how the fish ran with it and how he played the fish and landed it. He probably thinks he is a pro now.

We got to the bridge and I waited for him to cross over. As he approached me he was all smiles. Here it comes I thought. The first words out of his mouth were, "Thanks Harold for teaching me to fly fish and thanks for the yellow Humpy." I did the only thing I could do and gave him a hug and told him he deserved that fish.

Jim's dad, Gayle told me later that I ruined that boy. I asked, "How did I do that?" His response was, "we can't get him to dig worms anymore."

## ***Island Fly Fisherman***

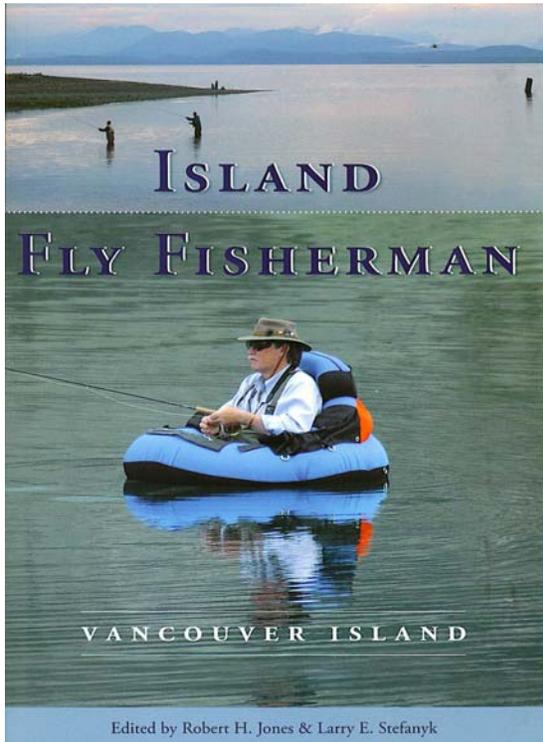
Edited by Robert H. Jones and Larry E. Stefanyk

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Bob Jones and Larry Stefanyk have produced a gem! The editors selected a group of Vancouver Island fly fishermen who have broad expertise from which to write sections of this book. The book covers everything from types of watercraft (called platforms in the book), and includes sections on fly fishing for stillwater trout by Ralph Shaw, leeches by Bob Jones, beach fishing for cutthroat trout by Kevin Reid, Island steelhead by Rorrie Glennie, fishing the northern flats (beach fishing for salmon) by Frank Dalziel, South Island small mouth bass by Bill Luscombe, brown trout on Vancouver Island by Ian Forbes, open-ocean fly fishing for Coho by Tim Tullis and dredging for bottom fish by Bob Jones.

The book is laced with color pictures. Most of the sections have included suggestions for flies complete with their dressings and a color sample of each. There are also suggestions for rods, reels and lines and other basic fly fishing equipment.

If you are a beginning fly fisher on Vancouver Island and want to know more about how to get started, the book provides a wealth of information. If you happen to be an experienced Vancouver Island fly fisher who specializes in a certain type of fly-fishing and you want to broaden your pursuits to other fish, this book also provides you with a wealth of information. And if you happen to be a fly fisher living elsewhere and you are thinking of holidaying on Vancouver Island, then this book provides solid information to help plan the trip.

**Reviewed by Art Lingren**