
A

History

of the

British Columbia

Federation of Fly Fishers



1971 - 2009

Arthur James Lingren

Revised and updated March 2010 by Ron Grantham



1 The Beginning

In 1971, **John Bokstrom**, of the Dogwood Fly Fishers in Maple Ridge, felt the need for an organization that would be a unified political voice for all fly fishers in British Columbia, parallel to the US-based FFF but completely autonomous, not simply a BC chapter of the FFF. He discussed his idea with fellow Dogwood Fly Fisher **Ken Ruddick**, a local log scaler who operated a fly tackle shop from his home in Stave Falls. Ruddick agreed with the idea so Bokstrom then contacted the other known fly fishing clubs in BC, and the first meeting of the fledgling organization, later to be known as the BCFFF, was arranged.



John Bokstrom



Ken Ruddick

The meeting was held in the kitchen of the home of **Bill Yonge** (Yonge was already known to Bokstrom because Yonge had previously been to a Dogwood Fly Fishers' meeting with fellow Totem Flyfisher Colin McPhail to put on a steelhead fly fishing seminar.) That initial meeting was attended by John Bokstrom and Ken Ruddick from the Dogwood Fly Fishers, Bill Yonge and **Rex Schofield** from the Totem Flyfishers, and **Blair Thomas** and **Granville Airton** from the Osprey Fly Fishers of BC.

At Schofield's recommendation Bokstrom was elected chair at the first meeting. At a later meeting Bill Yonge and Rex Schofield were assigned the task of creating a Constitution and By-laws.

During those formative years the Hatchmatchers Fly Fishers was organized and members **Larry Smithson** and **Val Bridarolli** joined the meetings. Bridarolli later arranged for the meetings to be held at the Royal Canadian Legion on East Hastings Street in Vancouver.

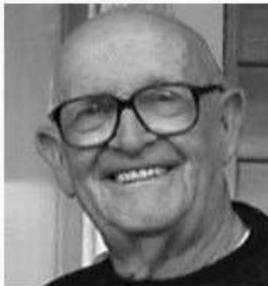
During the ensuing years other interested fly fishers attended the meetings, including **Doug Porter** and **Mike Pierce**, who were delegates from the Kamloops Fly Fishing Association, **Gil Sage** from the Osprey Flyfishers of BC, and **John Lynde** (author of *34 Ways to Cast a Fly*) of the West Kootenay Fly Fishers, and **Jim Anderson** from Kelowna.

Bokstrom, his original idea having come to fruition, stepped down as chairman in 1973 and Bill Yonge was elected to take the helm. Bokstrom stayed on for several more years as a director and as treasurer.

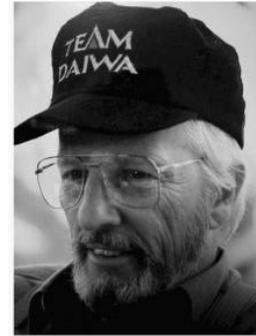
In 1978, Bokstrom was invited to join the Totem Fly Fishers, and **Ron Grantham** replaced him as the Dogwood Fly Fishers' BCFFF representative (in 1980 Grantham became a member of the Totem Flyfishers).

At the time, the provincial government would not allow names starting with "British Columbia" as in British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers. Ken Ruddick met with his local MLA, George Mussalem, and asked for his help. Mussalem talked with his peers in Victoria and the name was eventually approved.

The original by-laws were signed on January 20, 1979 by Bill Yonge, Vancouver; Gil Sage, Vancouver; Ken Ruddick, Stave Falls; Larry Smithson, Vancouver; James Anderson, Kelowna; witnessed by Ron Grantham, Burnaby. On February 12, 1979 the British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers (BCFFF) became official under the BC Society Act.



Rex Schofield



Bill Yonge

The BCFFF's charter member clubs were:

Dogwood Fly Fishers	Maple Ridge
Hatchmatchers Fly Fishers	Burnaby
Kamloops Fly Fishing Association	Kamloops
Osprey Fly Fishers of BC	Vancouver
Totem Flyfishers	Vancouver

The man with the ideas:

While working on the founding of the BCFFF, **John Bokstrom** was also working at his passion of making bamboo fly rods. In 1987, while attending the Totem Fly Fishers / BCFFF AGM at Corbett Lake Country Inn near Merritt, BC, he chanced to meet another bamboo rod maker, Don Andersen of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. The two of them spent the remainder of the weekend discussing bamboo rods, and it was there that Bokstrom suggested locating and getting together with other bamboo rod makers for a sharing of ideas. The location was to be the Corbett Lake Country Inn. Bokstrom went home and started writing letters and advertisements for fly fishing magazines and other journals, and the first gathering of bamboo rod makers was held in April, 1988.

That momentous meeting, the first of its kind anywhere, set the policy of complete and free interchange of knowledge and techniques in what was formerly a somewhat secretive craft. The result is finer bamboo rods being built now than ever before. It also showed the way for others and now there are similar meetings being held in many parts of Canada and the United States, and in Europe, Great Britain and Australia. The two-day Corbett Lake Bamboo Rod Makers' Gatherings continue to be held every two years and are considered to be the most informative and instructional.

Thanks to John Bokstrom for his quiet but innovative ideas.

2 The Clubs



Not all the clubs listed below are current members of the BCFFF. British Columbia has had a considerable number of fly-fishing clubs. Some member clubs are charter members of the BCFFF and some formed on their own or with help from the BCFFF. A few clubs were active in the BCFFF for awhile and for various reasons have not maintained the affiliation or they have disappeared from the scene entirely.

	<u>CITY</u>	<u>BCFFF</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Beanery Fly Fishers, UBC	Vancouver	No	Defunct
Campbell River Fly Fishers	Campbell River	Yes	Active
Cariboo-Chilcotin Fly Fishers	Williams Lake	Yes	Active
Comox Valley Fly Fishers	Courtenay	Yes	Active
Cowichan Fly Fishing Association	Duncan	Yes	Active
Cranbrook Fly Fishers	Cranbrook	No	Active
Dogwood Fly Fishers	Maple Ridge	Yes	Active
Grizzly Anglers	Clearwater	No	?
Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association	Victoria	Yes	Active
Harry Hawthorn Foundation	Vancouver	No	Active
Hatchmatchers Fly Fishers	Burnaby	No	Defunct
Highlanders Fly Fishing Club	Vancouver	No	Defunct
Island Waters Fly Fishers	Nanaimo	Yes	Active
Kalamalka Fly Fishers	Vernon	Yes	Active
Kamloops Fly Fishing Association	Kamloops	Yes	Active
Kamloops Women's Fly Fishing Club	Kamloops	No	Active
Lonely Loons Fly Fishing Society	Kelowna	Yes	Active
Loons Fly Fishing Club	Vancouver	Yes	Active
Mid Island Castaways	Qualicum/Parksville	Yes	Active
One Hundred (100) Mile Fly Fishers	100 Mile House	No	?
Osprey Flyfishers of BC	Vancouver	Yes	Active
Penticton Fly Fishers	Penticton	Yes	Active
Polar Coachman Fly Fishers Club	Prince George	No	Active
Revelstoke Fly Fishers	Revelstoke	No	Active
Salmon Arm Fly Fishers	Salmon Arm	No	Active
Skeena Fly Fishers	Terrace	No	Active
Streambourne Fly Fishers	Quesnel	No	?
Thompson River Fly Fishers	Kamloops	No	Defunct
Totem Flyfishers	Vancouver	Yes	Active
Westwater Fly Fishers	Abbotsford	No	Active
Westcoast Flyfishing Association	Sooke	Yes	Active

3 Communications



Like any newly-formed volunteer organization things progressed slowly in the first few years of the fledgling organization. In March 1978 the BCFFF published its first newsletter. Larry Smithson, from the Hatchmatchers Fly Fishers, was the newsletter's first editor. That newsletter highlights some of the topical fly-fishing-related issues of the day as well as activities of the BCFFF. That first two-page newsletter is reproduced below.

BCFFF Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 1 March 1978

Editor: L. E. (Larry) Smithson

EDITORIAL

The doubtful honor of newsletter editor for the British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers has fallen on yours truly, and I hope myself capable of keeping all members on the affiliate clubs informed as to the workings of your Federation. The Newsletter will be published following each regular meeting and we are looking forward to receiving input from the member clubs and their members.

One of the objectives of the B.C.F.F.F. is to co-ordinate the various activities of fly fishers in British Columbia toward the common end of promoting fly-fishing and preservation of fishing and the fishing environment. With this end in mind the B.C.F.F.F. with the assistance and co-operation of the Northwest Regional Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers are hosting the 1978 FLY FISHING CONCLAVE in Kamloops, B.C. Take note of the dates July 6, 7, & 8th and make every attempt to fit these dates into your agenda for this coming summer. The theme for this Conclave will be fishing the Kamloops area for its namesake, the mighty Kamloops Trout, and being there will put you right in the center of this fisherman's paradise at the peak of the fishing season Need I say more!

Some of the other objectives of the B.C.F.F.F. are to promote and assist in the formation of new fly fishing clubs and to assist member clubs in their aims and objectives. I believe the objective of providing a clearinghouse for information to clubs and individuals falls within the scope of this newsletter and with the assistance of you and our executive we will make it a success.

WELCOME

A new member club: the Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association

BCFFF Projects

Pondmills - Report from the Kamloops Fly Fishers sent to Chris Dodd, provincial F&W Branch. Oxygen levels in Tulip low but may take 5 years to correct. Frisken looks better, more wind. Frisken turned over last year and all fish died. Putting weir on John Frank creek between Hohn, Frank, and Roche. Fish out of Roche going into John Frank and getting winter kill. Electric compressors more effective than Pondmills but cost prohibitive and vandalism major problem.

Urban Fishing Areas - Pete Caverhill advises committee and chairman now set up to receive briefs on Deer lake and Oakalla grounds as they are turned over to Burnaby. From sent in requesting right of B.C.F.F.F. to send in brief.

B.C.F.F.F. Newsletter - To be issued following each quarterly meeting. To be sent to all clubs for distribution to their members.

Dean River Fishery - Brief sent to Narver re: protection of this fishery. Reply received. It was moved that a further letter be sent requesting information re: extent of logging, how close to river, when logging to start, impact on fishery, etc.

Fly Fishing Volume - Discussion re: ways and means to determine number of fly fishermen in province. Will try questionnaire to be handed out at selected fishing stores with fishing licenses. If results show promise will try for more definitive figures next year.

Schoen Lake Park - Was to have been called Haig-Brown Park until two days before proclaimed. Letter of protest to be sent to Hon. Sam Bawlf.

Conclave - The Conclave will be held in Kamloops at the Kamloops Exhibition Association grounds July 7th and 8th with registration July 6th. If you require accommodations, best book them early as this is their busy season.

This will be the first time such a conclave has been held in B.C. Some 35 clubs from B.C., Oregon and Washington will be invited as guests and participants. The Conclave will be directed towards fly fishing the Northwest with attention focusing on sea run cutthroat, fishing B.C.'s Interior lakes, summer-run steelhead, local entomology, etc. Fly plaques and table clinics on fly tying will also be featured. Feature speakers and panel discussions from local and regional experts on their respective subjects should also prove to very interesting.

For the juniors, fly casting and tying competitions with an appropriate prize structure and mother and culinary experts, a dietitian from the Federal Fisheries may be available to demonstrate various ways of cooking fish.

The photo nut is not forgotten [and] a photo contest with Fly Fishing the Pacific Northwest in the offing. Two categories: black and white and color. Mounted prints, max. size including mounting, 11 x 14. No professionals. Open to B.C.F.F.F. / F.F.F members, prizes for first second and third in each category.

The BCFFF has published a bulletin in one form or another since 1978 and that newsletter has had many editors.

Larry Smithson produced Issues Number 1 and 2. **Bill Yonge** took over as editor in 1980, after serving as BCFFF chair, and produced issues number 3 through 9 until his retirement in December 1982. Items of concern, that were highlighted in the newsletter during Yonge's editorship, included such things as Dean River logging, Thompson River pollution, Skagit River flooding by Seattle City Light, Kemano II completion and the proposed Hat Creek coal-burning, generating plant.

In January 1983, Osprey **Don McDermid** took over as editor and with him came the name *Fly Lines*. McDermid was responsible for issues numbers 10 through 18 over this two-year period. Important issues highlighted by McDermid included such things as Skagit River flooding, Stein River logging, Quinsam Coal acid-rain and mine problems. McDermid kept important issue in front of BCFFF clubs but he also started to transform the issue-based newsletter into one that provided articles about fly tying and fly fishing and he started to include graphics into the publication. However, McDermid, in issue number 12, expressed the problem that so many editors face. This is the difficulty in persuading members to contribute information for the newsletter. Don retired as editor with his May 1984 issue. Through the next two years, **Ken Harding-Rooney** (Totems), **Gil Sage** (Ospreys) and **Harry Friesen** (Highlanders) took turns until McDermid was coaxed out of retirement and continued the editorial duties from January 1986 through March 1989, producing issues 24 through 39.

Lloyd Sigurdson (Highlanders) took over the editor's task from McDermid and continued editing *Fly Lines* though issues 40 to 43. **Richard Mayer** (Loons), a skilled graphic designer and computer whiz, took charge of *Fly Lines*, completely changing its format and turning the publication into a professional, polished document. Mayer published issues number 44 through 56 and in those 12 issues BCFFF members were treated to a first-class publication. However, putting together a publication in such a professional format took its toll, especially on

volunteers. Richard stepped down as the active editor. He remained as managing editor, while **Ron Grantham** (Totems) produced issue 58 and **Gary McLaughlin** (Penticton) did issue 59. **Mike Edgell** (Haig-Browns) took over in 1995 and edited issues 59 through 61.

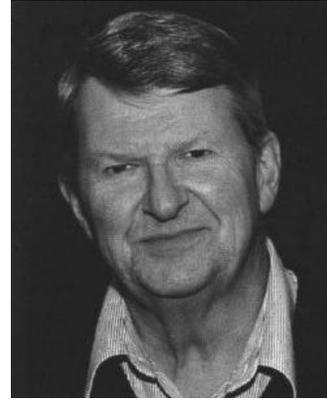
Organizations periodically go through development pains and the BCFFF suffered them in the late 1990s. *Fly Lines* became too costly to produce in the Richard Mayer format and the organization reverted back to a simpler version. It was during this period that *Fly Lines* lost its sequential numbering of issues, and, for a short while, its *Fly Lines* name. It was good old reliable Don McDermid who stepped to the plate and again became the *BCFFF Report* editor. After a few issues of *The Report*, *Fly Lines* was reborn. McDermid's last publication was the December 1998, Issue 2. **Bruce Turnbull**, of the Penticton Fly Fishers,



Richard Mayer

took over from McDermid and published the September 2000, May 2001, September 2001, December 2001 and March 2002 issues.

At the 2002 AGM, **Loucas Raptis** (supporting member and a member of the Haig-Browns) volunteered for *Fly Lines* duty and he has transformed it into a full-colour, 24-page, publication. Loucas has turned *Fly Lines* into much more than just a newsletter. It is a 24-page Internet Magazine about the BCFFF, its clubs, members with articles about fly tying, fly fishing and fly-fishing history. It has received critical acclaim not only from BCFFF members but also from a broad selection of readers.



Don McDermid



4 Chairmen and Presidents

Year	Chair, Co-Chair or President	Club
1971 - 1973	John Bokstrom	Dogwood Fly Fishers
1974 - 1979	Bill Yonge	Totem Flyfishers
1980 - 1981	Rex Schofield	Totem Flyfishers
1982 - 1983	Gil Sage	Osprey Fly Fishers of BC
1984 - 1985	Ken Hardinge-Rooney	Totem Flyfishers
1986 - 1987	Gil Sage	Osprey Fly Fishers of BC
1988	Gord Bacon	Osprey Fly Fishers of BC
1989 - 1990	Harry Friesen	Highlanders Fly Fishing Club
1991	Dave Kearney	Osprey Fly Fishers of BC
1992 - 1993	Albert Sawchuk	Loons Fly Fishing Club
1994 - 1995	Jim Tisdale & Shawne Dery	Lonely Loons Fly Fishers
1996 - 1997	Bob McNichols	Direct member
1998	Greg Gordon	Thompson River Fly Fishers
	Ian Beveridge	Mid-Island Castaway Fly Fishing Club
1999	Ian Beveridge	Mid-Island Castaway Fly Fishing Club
2000	John Warren	Loons Fly Fishing Club
2001 - 2003	Art Lingren	Totem Flyfishers
2004 - 2005	Pete Caverhill	Osprey Flyfishers of BC
2006	Gill Sage	Osprey Flyfishers of BC
2007	Pat Micek	Direct member
2008 - 2009	Dan Cahill	Totem Flyfishers / Osprey Fly Fishers



5 Annual General Meetings

For a number of years, between 1982 and 1992, the BCFFF held its Annual General Meetings at **Peter McVey's Corbett Lake Country Inn**. This is not a camping resort, but on Mother's Day weekend in May, McVey allowed BCFFF members to camp at the resort. The Kamloops Fly Fishers and Totem Fly Fishers hosted the two-day events. The business portion of the AGM was conducted in the morning and members fished in the afternoon. After the evening meal which was prepared by master chef McVey, members and guests bid against each other for objects of desire at the annual fund raising auction. Proceeds from this event funded BCFFF activities through the following year. In 1993 the AGM and fund raising auction began moving to different locations in either April or May. The Loons Fly Fishing Club (Vancouver) hosted the AGM in 1993 and 1994 in Vancouver. Kelowna was the venue in 1995 and 1996 hosted by the Lonely Loons Fly Fishers. In 1997 and 1998 the Westwater Fly Fishers hosted the fun and games in their town, Abbotsford. The year 2000 marked the beginning of "themed" AGMs. "Bill Nation" was the focus as the Kamloops Fly Fishers and Thompson River Fly Fishers hosted this event. Bill Nation operated out of Kamloops in the 1920s and 1930s and was a famous stillwater angling guide. To honour Nation, the BCFFF visited and placed a wreath on his grave.

In 2001 the Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association hosted the AGM in Victoria. It coincided with the opening of a special Haig-Brown tribute at the university. "Tommy Brayshaw" was the theme in 2002, Tommy was a noted angler, artist and conservationist in the three decades prior to 1960. This AGM was hosted by the Totem Fly Fishers in Vancouver. For 2003 the theme will be "Celebrating our Past" and, we will be back in Penticton. This will mark the 30th Anniversary of the BCFFF. The Penticton Fly Fishers will be our host.



6 Members' Meetings

Starting in the early 1980s, the BCFFF organized "member meetings" featuring guest speakers and fly tying demonstrations. For many years, these meetings were held at the Royal Canadian Legion, Hastings Street Branch. **Val Bridarolli**, of the Hatchmatchers, worked at the Legion and arranged for the BCFFF to hold its meeting there. Later these gatherings moved to the Eldorado hotel. In the late 1990s, these meetings were discontinued.



7 Awards

It was during **Albert Sawchuk's** term as chairman, beginning in 1993, that the executive decided to recognize outstanding achievement in British Columbia fly fishing and conservation by creating several awards. Since then, other awards have been added.

In 1993, the “Angul”, “Gilly”, and “Conservation” awards were introduced. In 2000, the Kamloops Women's Fly Fishing Club created the “Jack Shaw Fly Tying Award” and during the same year, Bill and Lori Jollymore donated the “Arthur William Nation Award”. At the Victoria AGM in 2001, Barry Stokes of the Haig -Brown Fly Fishing Association was the first fly tier to have his name engraved on the Jack Shaw Fly Tying award. Kevin Mayer of the Loons Fly Fishing Club was the first recipient of the Bill Nation Award.

The Angul Award

The word "Angle," as our fraternity of fly fishers have come to know it, is a verb, and when used in its most familiar form of activity, refers to attempting to get something by sly or artful means, i.e., fishing with hook and line.

The origins of the word itself are ancient. "Angel" and "Angul" are its earliest Old English forms, whose original derivation is from the Greek word, "Ankylos" meaning bent, and the Sanskrit word, "Ankusa" meaning hook.

The naming of this BCFFF award is a tribute to the ancestry of our fly fishing heritage and the excellence surrounding its development as both an Art & Science. (Excerpt from BCFFF award records)

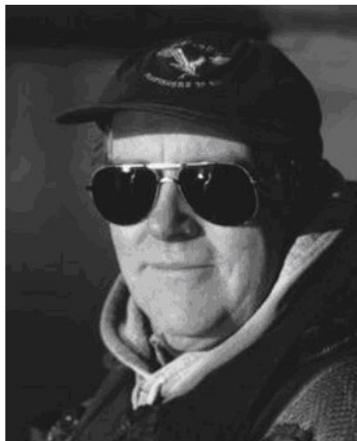
The **Angul Award** is given to that individual, who is not necessarily a BCFFF member, for their outstanding contribution to the heritage of the Arte & Science of Fly Fishing in British Columbia.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Club/Comments</u>
1993	Not awarded	
1994	Jack Shaw	Kamloops Fly Fishers and Loons Fly Fishing Club. Wooden plaque.
1995	Art Lingren	Totem Fly Fishers. Bronze miniature fisherman statue on hardwood pedestal.
1996	Haig-Brown Kingfisher Creek Society	Fisherman statue on hardwood pedestal.

1997	Earl Anderson	No club affiliation. Wooden plaque awarded posthumously
1998	Not awarded	
1999	John Keith-King	Granville Island Sport Fishing Museum. Framing of Harrison Yellow Belly and two Art Lingren cutthroat flies.
2000	Brian Chan	Kamloops Fly Fishers. Framing of Harrison Yellow Belly and two Art Lingren cutthroat flies.
2001	Charlie Stroulger	Cowichan Fly Fishers. Framing of Harrison Yellow Belly and two Art Lingren cutthroat flies.
2002	Van Egan	Haig-Brown Kingfisher Creek Society. Framing of Harrison Yellow Belly and two Art Lingren cutthroat flies.
2003	Jim Kilburn	Framing of Art Lingren Interior rainbow photpgraph and two Art Lingren-dressed flies.
2004	Barry Thornton	Framing of Art Lingren steelhead photograph with two Art Lingren dressed salmon flies.
2005	Steve Raymond	Framing of Art Lingren Interior rainbow photograph and two Art Lingren-dressed flies.
2006	Alf Davy	Framing of Art Lingren steelhead with AJL dressed flies.
2007	Ken Ruddick	Framing of Ruddick-dressed flies and a picture of Ken tying.
2008	Not awarded	
2009	Not awarded	



Van Egan



Gil Sage



Art Lingren

The Gilly Award

It is important in the evolution of every organization to acknowledge and recognize the contributions and achievements of its elder statesmen. Understanding where we are is often helped by knowing where we've been, what has occurred, and who was involved.

A look back to the people, places, and things of our past helps to give context and relevance to our organization and what we stand for. Our present achievements and future hopes are but an extension of the anglers and angles of the past.

(Excerpt from BCFFF award records)

The **Gilly 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.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Club/Award</u>
1993	Lee Straight	Totem Flyfishers. Wooden plaque
1994	Rex Schofield	Totem Flyfishers. Wooden plaque
1995	Peter Caverhill	Osprey Flyfishers. Wooden plaque
1996	Jim Fisher	Kalamalka Fly Fishers. Wooden plaque
1997	Joe Saysell	Associate Member. Wooden plaque
1998	Not awarded	
1999	Bob Hooton	Direct member. Art Lingren steelhead picture with mounted Art Lingren-dressed flies.
2000	Ray Smith	West Water Fly Fishers. Art Lingren steelhead picture with Art Lingren-dressed flies.
2001	Rob Way	Loons Fly Fishing Club Framed Art Lingren cutthroat photo with two Art Lingren-dressed cutthroat flies.
2002	Robert (Bob) Taylor	Totem Fly Fishers. Dust Jacket cover featuring Bob Taylor from Art Lingren's <i>Famous British Columbia Fly-Fishing Waters</i> book with two Art-Lingren dressed flies.
2003	Mike Maxwell	Loons Fly Fishing Club Framed Art Lingren steelhead photo with two Art Lingren-dressed steelhead flies.

2004	Don McDermid	Art Lingren Atlantic salmon fly photograph with two AJL-dressed salmon flies.
2005	Greg Gordon	Art Lingren steelhead picture with two Art Lingren-dressed flies.
2006	Albert Sawchuk	Art Lingren steelhead picture with two Art Lingren-dressed flies.
2007	Gil Sage	Islander fly reel
2008	Not awarded	
2009	Not Awarded	

The Conservation Award

Many fly fishers believe that giving back is part of our sport and by working on local streams and lakes to protect or reestablish fish habitat they are giving something back to the sport, which is dear to them. The Conservation Award is given to that BCFFF club in recognition for their contribution to the conservation and enhancement of BC's fishery for a specific conservation-related project.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Project</u>
1993	Kalamalka Flyfishers Society Kamloops Fly Fishers Association	Coldstream Creek Project Roche Lake Spawning Channel
1994	Grizzly Anglers Association The Loon Flyfishing Club	Sheridan Lake Spawning Channel Noons Creek Hatchery Project
1995	Penticton Flyfishers	Henderson Creek Diversion Project and Sawmill Lake Spawning Channel
1996	Cariboo-Chilcotin Flyfishers	Creek Restoration Project
1997	Bon Accord Creek Restoration Project Society Lonely Loons Flyfishing Club	Bon Accord Creek Restoration
1998	Not Awarded	
1999	The Mid-Island Castaway Fly Fishing Club	Nile Creek Incubation Facility, Craig Creek Hatchery and Big Qualicum Paraplegic Ramp
2000	Not Awarded	
2001	Not Awarded	
2002	Cowichan Fly Fishers	Shawnigan Creek Wild Coho Project
2003	Not Awarded	
2005	Not Awarded	
2006	Not Awarded	
2007	Not Awarded	
2008	Kalamalka Flyfishers Society	Outstanding community work
2009	Island Waters Fly Fishers	Outstanding community service

The Jack Shaw Fly Tying Award

Who was Jack Shaw? Next to Bill Nation, Jack Shaw stands tall as a master of the sport and no work about fly fishing the lakes around Kamloops would be complete without something about this legendary fly fisher. When Jack went fishing it seems that trout, realizing their fate and Shaw's skills as a fly fisher and fly dresser, lined up waiting their turn to be caught on Shaw-dressed fly patterns. The less-skilled fishers often chalk good catches by the more skilled to luck, however, consistent good catches don't just happen. Combining skill, knowledge, experience, and observation, with a little luck thrown in, are the tools of the great fly fisher.



Jack Shaw

Montreal-born Shaw moved to Burnaby at age nine in 1925 and, like most youngsters with a yen for the outdoors and fishing, started his angling career with bait and handline fishing Burnaby south-slope creeks and the sea around Burrard Inlet, False Creek, and English Bay. Those early day catches consisted of small 8-to-10-inch rainbow trout, bullheads, rock cod and flounders.

In 1940, Shaw moved to Kamloops and started his lake fishing career. In those early Kamloops years, he relied on his bait-fishing background and used gang troll and worm, but soon, he realized the errors of his ways and his fly-fishing career was born. Irritated by existing trout patterns with names that didn't identify what insect they represented, in the early 1950s, Shaw developed his own patterns and named them after the creatures they represented. Later, when he became allergic to dust from his bodyshop vocation, his love of fishing proved the provider when he took a fly-fishing representative and fly-tyer position in a local sporting-goods store. The store owner persuaded Jack to tie some of his flies and offer them for sale, but the Shaw-invented wingless patterns didn't sell. Being an observer of nature, Shaw, the innovative fly tier, developed patterns to represent the insects fish fed on. He raised the insects in an aquarium and from macro photographs dressed his imitations. However, they didn't look like the normal winged-fly patterns of the day, and fishermen are extremely conservative and not adept to change unless convinced otherwise. Jack was determined to persuade them otherwise.

Jack's concern about wingless-more-representative flies and the resolve to persuade fishermen to use his style of pattern has been well illustrated in previous writings. However, as fly-fishing/tying teacher, Shaw did convince many of them otherwise and, although some

of those winged standards are still popular, in all lake fisherman's fly inventory there are non-winged Shaw-type patterns.

In 1976, Jack Shaw's book, *Fly Fish the Trout Lakes*, came out and it detailed the equipment and techniques for fishing the Kamloops area. However, Shaw showed by careful trimming of hackle or wing how to convert many of the standard-of-the-day patterns into more life-like imitations of the insects that fish fed on. Reprinted many times and with thousands of copies in print, it has become a standard reference for anglers fishing the interior.

In Jack's second book, *Tying Flies For Trophy Trout*, published in 1992, he utilizes his vast reservoir of skill and knowledge obtained from nearly 70 years of fishing, 50 years of fly fishing, 40 years of fly tying, and many years as a fly-fishing/fly-tying teacher and sales representative to give present and future generations of anglers sound advice to catch those prized, trophy, Kamloops rainbow trout.

Jack passed away on February 2, 2000 but though his writing and his teaching he contributed greatly to the lore of Interior fly fishing. This award honour Shaw's memory.

The **Jack Shaw Fly Tying Award** is given in recognition to that BCFFF member who has excelled in the art and craft of fly tying.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Club</u>
2001	Barry Stokes	Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association (First recipient)
2002	Bob Giles	Cowichan Fly Fishers
2003	Hermann Fischer	Kamloops Fly Fishers
2004	Bill Jollymore	Direct Member
2005	Peter Hyghaebart	Island Waters
2006	Not Awarded	
2007	Matt King	Robinson Sporting Goods
2008	Brian Smith	Direct member
2009	Not Awarded	



Barry Stokes



Bob Giles

The Arthur William Nation Award

From sometime in the 1920s until his death in 1940, Bill Nation became the undisputed master of British Columbia's Interior trout fly fishing. Rod Haig-Brown relied on Nation for information about Interior fly-fishing for his classic, *The Western Angler*, published by The Derrydale Press in 1939.

In the later 1947 trade edition of *The Western Angler*, Haig-Brown paid tribute to Nation and says that:

He brought to Kamloops trout fishing the most original mind it has yet known. In a very real way he made the Kamloops trout his own special fish and his active mind seemed never to rest from thinking about them. . . . He was a really good fly fisherman himself and as fine a guide as man could want—excellent company on the water and tireless in searching for fish even on the worst days. . . .

Other men may solve more Kamloops trout problems than Bill did, make more ingenious imitations and develop more perfect ways of fishing them. But for me and for many another Bill will always be the true pioneer of the fishing, the man whose life was closer to those particular fish than any other man's has been or is likely to be. (pp. 114 – 117)

Arthur William Nation, a quiet, small, bespectacled man, was born in Bristol, England on June 29, 1881. He immigrated to Canada and ended up in British Columbia fishing the Kamloops area in the early 1920s. At first he guided around the Little River area, but in 1927 he moved his headquarters to Paul Lake and continued to operate out of Paul until his death in November 1940.

His unique letterhead states that he is an Anglers' Guide:

- “Specializing in fly fishing and in trout fishing tackle of the finest quality”
- Offering “Fishing, among others: Paul, Knouff, Le Jeune, Hyas, Long, Dee, Jewel, Pillar, Hi Hume, Big Bar, Canim, Mahood, Myrtle, and the two Beaver Lakes: The Thompson, Adams and Little Rivers, with a guarantee of at least 100 trout a week—Taupo and Rotorua districts in New Zealand.”
- And “Originator of the Nation's Special and Silver tip trout flies and the new series of nymphs of the dragon flies and sedges.”
- With “Special flies for large rainbow and steelhead trout, including six original patterns tied personally, \$2.00 a dozen.”
- Offering “Hardy and Allcock tackle.”
- With “Headquarters at Echo Lodge, Paul Lake, Kamloops BC.”



Arthur William Nation

Nation was a man of the times. A masterful fly fisher and guide who came when Interior waters yielded large fish and many of them. Even with railroad and primitive road access, getting to the Kamloops area lakes and streams was a chore and costly, so there were few fishers. In 1927 Nation headquartered at Echo Lodge. The lodge, built by J. Arthur Scott in 1922, offered Nation's well-to-do clients appropriate accommodation in the heart of Kamloops fly-fishing country. His clients could enjoy the sport Paul Lake offered, but he could also take guests on day or longer trips to other exceptional waters, many that he advertised on his letterhead.

The lake fishing drew many to the area, because in those waters, the trout grew large. By the time Nation moved his headquarters to Paul Lake, the fish were not as large as previously. Nonetheless, every season fly fishers consistently took trout in the 3-to 5-lb. range. Mature specimens were averaging 8 to 10 lb.

Nation developed a number of flies for rainbow trout with some being the first imitations of insects in those still waters he fished and some are the first ever imitations of certain species of insects.

On Nation's Black, British Columbia first chironomid imitation consisting of a few strands of deer hair and black floss, he took fish up to 8 lb. His Grey and Green Nymphs were the first ever attempt at imitating a dragonfly nymph. Bulky creations, difficult to cast, and made fun of by some fishermen, Nation says that "The Special and the grey and green dragon nymphs account for the bulk of the larger rainbows. The largest on fly in recent years weighed 17 lbs., and took a #4 grey nymph." Nation's Blue was an imitation of coupled damsel fly adults, Nation's Red was an imitation of coupled dragonflies, Nation Green Sedge and Nation's Silver Tipped-sedge were both imitations of the green sedge nymph, common to many Kamloops-area lakes. Nation's Fancy, Silver-tip and Special were more general wet fly patterns.

That he was an innovative fly designer, there is no dispute. However, today's fly fisherman would classify many of his patterns as fancy flies and not many have survived the passage of time. But it was Nation's skills as an observer of the natural world and as a fly fisherman, adopting and improvising techniques to still water fly fishing that made his flies effective fish catchers.

Many anglers developed a special attachment to Nation's Special. Bruce Hutchinson in *The Fraser* (1950) says:

His [Nation's] memorial is the Nation Special, the unique fly that he constructed out of his unequalled knowledge of insect life and the appetite of the Kamloops trout. No fisherman can afford to be without Bill's masterpiece (p. 325).

On examining Echo Lodge's Honour Book, Haig-Brown noticed that of the 119 large trout between 3 ½ to 7 ¾ lbs., a Nation's Special deceived 46. The Jock Scott, with nine fish, was the next closest.

Wilderness, solitude, large fish and plenty off them are some of the attractions that past and present-day fly fishers covet. It is true that Nation experienced all those things, but not all were serene days back in the 1920s and '30s. Canada did not have the Medicare system that each of us takes for granted today. Throat cancer robbed Nation of a long life. He claims the cancer was a result of inhaling contaminated air when using a spray gun to paint the rowboats, probably with lead-based paints. He died rich with fishing friends but poor in material goods and the owners of Echo Lodge had to sell his fishing equipment to pay for his

burial service. Located in the Kamloops Cemetery, his grave is marked with a memorial gravestone paid for by his fishing friends. It states:

*Erected in memory of Bill Nation of Paul Lake,
Kamloops, by his many fishermen friends and admirers.
Died Nov. 27, 1940.*

Named in honour of this master fly fisher, the **Arthur William Nation Award** is given in recognition to a young conservationist/fly fisher who has continuously given exceptional service to BC's Fishery and the Sport of Fly Fishing.

In 2001, the award was presented to **Kevin Mayer** of the Loons Fly Fishing Club, and in 2002 it was given to **Phil LeBlanc** of the Cowichan Fly Fishers.

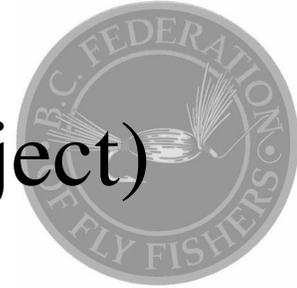


Kevin Mayer



Phil LeBlanc

8 The Gilly (Book Project)



In the early 1980s Alf Davy of the Lonely Loons Fly Fishing club believed that there was a book to be written on British Columbia fly fishing and he approached a number of skilled fly fishers in BCFFF clubs. Through considerable toil, and with financial assistance from the BCFFF, a book was published in 1985. Edited by Davy, it was aptly named the *The Gilly*. In his "Acknowledgement" Davy writes:

"Special thanks to the contributors of this publication. They are non -professional writers who have given of their time and experience to help others become better fly fishers. Their collective experience extends over 400 years.

Doug Porter

Jim Crawford

Denise Maxwell

Alf Davy

Tim Tullis

Brian Chan

Ralph Shaw

Ehor Boyanowsky

Mike Maxwell

Barry Thornton

Tom Murray

Peter Caverhill

"I am grateful to Jim Crawford without whose help this book would not have been as well done; to Steve Carter for his fine hand drawings and to Verneta Davy for all the help with rereads and rewrites."

This book is jointly funded by the British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers, the editor, Alfred G. Davy and some of the writers. Profits from the book will be used for the enhancement and conservation of fishing in British Columbia.

The Gilly, now in its 11th printing, is one of British Columbia's most successful fly-fishing books. Proceeds from the sale of the book over the years have generated a capital fund in excess of one hundred thousand dollars. Interest from The Gilly Fund has been used to support member clubs, fish-habitat and fish conservation related projects.

9 BCFFF's Purpose & Role



Since its inception, the main purpose of the BCFFF has been to promote fly fishing and the use of artificial flies, as a conservation tool, on lakes, rivers, and the ocean and to encourage and assist in the formation of new clubs in the British Columbia. However, over its 30-year existence, the BCFFF has brought many important conservation and quality angling issues to clubs and members and has acted as a spokesperson for these issues to government and others on many issues.

Since the very early days, the BCFFF has been outspoken on such issues as Dean River logging, Thompson River pollution, Skagit River flooding by Seattle City Light, Kemano II completion, Quinsam Coal mine, Stein River logging and the proposed Hat Creek coal burning generating plant. The BCFFF's opinion on fish habitat threatening issues, often in partnership with other conservation organizations, has helped abate environmental problems.

We have been an issue-oriented organization since inception, and as recently as 2002 we have taken action on such things as:

- Provincial government Forest Recreational Site closures.(we strongly objected)
- the proposed Fly-Fishing-only extension on the Cowichan River.(we supported)
- the proposed user fees on some outdoor activities and increased user fees for anglers proposed by Minister Murray of Water, Air & Land Protection (WALP). (we supported provided the monies go into effective management)
- a Stewardship Panel's review for future provincial funding of parks, angling and wildlife programs.(we submitted an extensive brief and attended a number of workshop sessions)
- a Coquihalla River fishery opening for fly-fishing only in 2002.(we pushed for this)
- the potential non -support by the provincial government for the world renowned small lakes' hatchery program with its importance to fly fishing and the economic well-being of the BC sport fishing industry (we have expressed strong concern that the present system not be abandoned).
- the current provincial government Angling Guide Management and Classified Waters Review.(we attended meetings and made written submissions to express our concerns and opinions)
- the provincial government's Recreation Panel's draft report.(we reviewed and provided comments)
- a proposed wild steelhead sport fishery kill on the Skeena River system.(we opposed)
- chum salmon gill net openings on the Fraser and outside waters through which endangered Thompson River steelhead runs migrate.(we opposed)

Fly Fishers must be organized and be ready to voice their opinion on many issues in any given year. The BCFFF has been that voice for 30 years. Despite ups and downs, there has always been a core of individuals who are passionate about this sport and who are willing to sacrifice family and fishing time to work for the future of what we love. In volunteer organizations it is difficult to always maintain the continuous level of intensity and commitment, necessary to operate in a world where the conservation issues are increasingly complex and time consuming. BCFFF is no different.

It is therefore extremely important that we attract the passionate few who are willing to devote their time for the cause!

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