

The following is a compilation of fly fishing education for youth that has taken place in B.C. through affiliated clubs and individual members of the **British Columbia Fly Fishing Federation**. Materials and information are available to any interested clubs through the BCFFF and affiliated club web sites.

**The Haig Brown Fly Fishing Assoc.** of Victoria, under the guidance of Mike Hay has set up Lake Ida Ann in Langford as a family lake in a public park. It is a small lake with natural cutthroat and this year was stocked with 250 rainbow trout by Fisheries B.C. The club has been involved in taking weeds from the lake to give easier access for children to fish it. There will be signs posted and an organized fish out geared towards family and kids. The club also hosts annual fish outs at local lakes where families are encouraged to attend and the youth who attend are mentored in the areas of fly casting, entomology and fly fishing.

**The Lonely Loon Fly Fishers** of Kelowna have held an annual "Kid's Fishing Day" at Bear Lake in conjunction with B.C. Family Fishing Weekend since 2001. They have given away about 500 rod combos, and introduced fishing to over 500 youngsters. They have assisted Central Okanagan Regional District with the opening days of the Hall Road pond in Kelowna for the last 2 years and will continue to do so in the future. They have assisted the Peachland Sportsmen's Assn. in the opening of the Kid's section of Shannon lake by having the net built for them.

**The Comox Valley Fly Fishers** have a strong youth program with tying education, casting instruction (annually), fish outs, and one dollar memberships.

**The Loons Fly Fishers** offer junior memberships for non-adults. They continue to accrue money for our post secondary bursary fund. It will be offered to an eligible individual who is registered in an accredited post-secondary fishery/biology program.

**The Penticton Fly Fishers** have assisted the local Boys and Girls club with an outing where equipment is distributed and the youth are introduced to fly fishing.

**The Totem Fly Fishers** have several members who served as mentors for young and upcoming fly fishers.

Leo Syne, Bernie Heinrichs, Ron Moll, of **Island Waters Fly Fishers** of Nanaimo have developed an extensive fly tying course for students and youth groups. The course plans include detailed lessons, fly tying descriptions and materials needed. The course has been taught at Dover Bay high school and also used with the local Boy Scouts groups.

**Danie Erasmus**, PhD, a BCFFF education committee member, has a power point presentation that is converted to a pdf file. This is the basis for a fly fishing course (geared towards beginners) that he teaches every year. He can be reached at <http://www.princegeorgeflyfisher.com> He recommends the book "Which Fly Do I USE?" by Darren Banasch published by Frank Amato as an excellent reference for kids. This book keeps it to the basics and sells for less than \$10. **Erich Franz**, a fellow club member and BCFFF direct member is an elementary school teacher in PG. He has developed the following website [www.kidfish.bc.ca](http://www.kidfish.bc.ca)

**Mike Gass** is the Information and Education Coordinator for **Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC**. He can be reached at: [www.gofishbc.com](http://www.gofishbc.com) Ph: 604 504 4716 Fax: 604 504 4718

The FFSBC have created a 16 page Learn to Fish (L2F) guide for children and novice anglers. The L2F program has been a huge hit over the past 3 years, with nearly 30,000 participants to date. They would like to expand this to include a Learn to Fly Fish program for graduates of our L2F program as well as for anyone else interested in learning about fly fishing. There would also be potential here to develop a Learn to Fly Fish handout as a supplement to our L2F guide. They have already delivered a number of 'pilot' Learn to Fly fish (L2FF) programs as a number of the local high schools now have Fly fishing clubs that come to our hatchery for education as well as a chance to fly fish at our ponds. They also have a stream running through our property which is a perfect tool for invertebrate collection and to introduce invertebrate identification as part of a fly fishing course. However, the curriculum for our Learn to Fly Fish program is still being developed (hopefully to be completed before next spring), therefore unfortunately no material has been printed as of yet.

Over the past 3 years they have delivered our Learn to Fish program to over 28,000 participants around the province. They have also trained various partners who have adopted the program and delivered additional programs themselves. They have created Learn to Fish ponds at 3 of our hatchery locations (Abbotsford, Summerland, and Kootenays). They also cover programs in the Greater Vancouver, Kamloops, Okanagan, and Vancouver Island regions. The 4 hour program is tied into the BC school curriculum, and delivered in a fun, dynamic, hands on, and age specific manner to help facilitate learning. In terms of fly fishing, we occasionally host 3 high school fly fishing clubs including Westview, Garibaldi, and Mission Secondary Schools.

**The B.C. Fly Fishing Federation** hosts "Tie a Fly, Catch a Kid" fly tying sessions at the annual March Tradex sports show.

Submitted by: Sam Sapruff, chairperson of the BCFFF education and member of the HBFFA.