

ISLAND WATERS FLY FISHERS



This issue is dedicated to Bill Brown WGFF and his gracious wife Lenie.

The Island Waters Fly Fishers
Box 323, Lantzville, BC
V0R 2H0

The Purpose of our club is as follows:

- To practice, further and promote the art of fly fishing
- To practice and promote fish conservation and enhancement
- To encourage fellowship and sportsmanship amongst anglers

President:	Dave Connolly	758-3192
Vice President :	Don Clarke	753-9638
Secretary:	Frank Perilli	390-4400
Treasurer:	Harold Tinling	758-8685
Past President :	Steve Wawrykow	754-3650
Gilly :	Steve Wawrykow	
Directors:	Brad Canaday	758-4688
	Bob Crampton	753-7879
	Doug Winters	758-7303
	Hale Yardley	753-2970

Newsletter and Webpage Steve Wawrykow

Meetings on 4th Tuesday of the Month at the Ukrainian Hall at 4017 Victoria Ave. off Norwell Dr. Visitors and Guests welcome. Phone 754-3650 for information. Please leave message.



The British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers (BCFFF) is a registered, non-profit society whose main objective is to promote the conservation of the fishing environment in British Columbia. By networking with similarly minded clubs, organizations, businesses and individuals, the BCFFF provides a voice that reflects its member's and the public's concern for the future of B.C.'s natural resources. Our organization believes that concern for the future of our province's environment is not just the exclusive domain of fly fishers or other recreation groups, but should be the concern of all citizens. Consequently, it is with this broader population in mind that we strive to protect and promote our natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations to respect and enjoy.

Visit the BCFFF on their webpage at <http://www.bcfff.bc.ca/>

Email us at iwff@shaw.ca

Visit at www.members.shaw.ca/iwff



Bruce Cumming and Don Clarke demonstrate the tying of Coho flies.

September Meeting

Thirty-four members and guests attended our September meeting. Some time was spent on recounting the summer's fishing and stories were abundant. It seemed most members had a good summer of fishing.

There was talk on fly tying. Sessions will be held again this year with most of them being held at the hall. This is pending approval by the membership and availability of the hall.

John O'Brien also is offering casting clinics. These will be at the Crow and Gate Pub Ground in Cedar on Sundays. Please phone John for details at Sealand Tackle. Their number is **754-1432**. These will be great opportunities to learn how to cast for beginners and to improve your casting for most of the rest of us. I look forward to them. Thanks John.

Handout sheets were handed out for Coho fishing expedition at Port Renfrew on October 4, 5, and 6th and Sturgeon fishing on the Frazer River.

Calendar of Events

Oct 22nd - Guest Speaker will be Claude Levesque of the North Island Recovery Centre. Come and have your name entered for the Gilly prize draw. You must be present to win.

Nov 26th - Annual General Meeting. Come and elect your executive for next year. Even better, become one of the executive or take on some position and make this club better than ever.

Nov 30th - Annual Banquet and Auction
See notice on last page

Jan 28th - Bill Luscombe

Feb 25th - John O'Brien. Tell John what you would like to learn from him.



Mary Jane & Ken McLaughlin, Pat & Dave Connolly with honored guests Bill & Lenie Brown



Bill and Lenie, Jim Kilburn, Ron Schiefke (Totems)



George Heide and Jim Stewart. Jim worked with Bill in Vancouver and talked about working and fishing with Bill Brown.



John O'Brien and Bill - Two founding members of the IWFF

From: Peter and Linda Caverhill

Those of us here that know Bill are happy to hear that the treatments are going well and the old bugger is still feisty and full of mischief. Apologies to Bill but I can't attend because I will be on my way to the Bulkley (a good enough reason I guess).

Many moons ago we Ospreys would run into Totems on the Sunshine Coast and hence we did fish with Bill and were astounded by his ability to call cutthroat within casting range off the beaches. He was also very adept at the "dance of the mayfly" except I can't exactly remember what this was. Maybe it took place in the local pub during exotic night? I have one of Bill's paintings on the wall in our entrance foyer. It came from a Totem's auction, and Bill had donated it to his old alma mater. I really enjoy what he has captured (a cutthroat soon to be released beside a Wheatly box full of cutthroat/coho patterns against a background of colourful beach stones).

All should know that Bill was one of the key conspirators in the "Great Osprey Bust" a sordid tale that was immortalized in the pages of the "Osprey News" and the "Totem Topics" a number of decades ago (1976) and that lives on in the Osprey 30th Anniversary Book ("Backcasts and Forecasts - History of the Osprey Flyfishers of BC- 1969-1999").

If you are going to roast Bill then a replay of some of this is worthwhile. Here's the account in the November 1976 "Osprey News" (written by me when I was editor) that started a series of jibs and jabs in both club papers ——

All's Fair

The intermittent red flashes annoyingly illuminated the semi-dark of the inside of Jim's van. An RCMP constable was treading his way purposefully to the driver's window, his right hand poised defensively over his right hip. A ripple of surprise spread over the six of us sprawled amongst the packsacks, waders and rod tubes. This day had begun like any ordinary trip to the Sechelt for cutthroat. We had met in the early morning gloom on the slick pavement at Park Royal. Most of us piled into the most convenient



conveyance there-Jim's red van. Hurriedly we sped off to make the Langdale ferry, our chatter focusing on the rough weather and happily on the success that the fellows had had last weekend at Sechelt.

Coffee and breakfast provided a pleasant surprise. A baker's half dozen Totem Fly Fishers were on board and also heading for the Sechelt beaches. The 55 minute trip was spent spreading lies, comparing notes and wondering out loud how we were all going to fit all the bodies at our usual and accustomed fishing beaches. When the PA announced our arrival, the rush for the lower deck was much more spirited than usual - a "Langdale start" as one of the boy racers muttered . As it turned out, we didn't get very far out of Langdale.

After checking Jim's certificates, the unsmiling and unexplaining constable demanded to look in the back. "Only a bunch of wet back fly fishermen in there!" Jim said defensively, as he cracked the back door. The constable still didn't smile. Expecting to be there awhile and anxious to hit the beach I asked cautiously if I could put on my long johns - out of view of the road, of course, so I wouldn't be cited for public obscenity. To our surprise and relief the constable said, with a slight flicker of a smile, "You boys can go now. We had an anonymous tip this morning that a red van, carrying a load of marijuana was coming to the peninsula. Yours was the only red van on board!"

As we rumbled down to Elphinstone, Granville reflected,

“Surely they wouldn’t do a dirty like that on us - just to get to the beaches first?”

”Well,” added Tom, “there is a phone on the ferry, and Bill Brown did take a long time in the can.”

Please pass this on to Bill along with our best wishes for a speedy recovery!!

pete caverhill

Thanks Pete



Bill Pollard of the Castaways and former members of the IWWF pays tribute to Bill. Thanks Bill for your participation and help.



Thanks also to Castaways Ian Beveridge and Siegfried Hansel for attending. We managed to get most of Paul Inscho in the picture as well. (We’ll promise to get all of you next time, Paul.)

Bill Brown...Roasted

It was a great evening, and I don’t think I’m out of line claiming that everyone there, Bill included, seemed to have the time of their lives. Speaker after speaker regaled us with improbable stories, all laid at the feet of our own Bill Brown.

Long time members of the IWWF will remember that this is not the first time Bill has been honored. Others have named him things before. (I won’t repeat them all,) but he has been awarded at least two honorary titles that I know of: Piscator Honoratus et Veridicus, (Latin for: Fisherman who is both Honorable and Truthful), and Piscator Emeritus (also Latin for: Old Fisherman who smells like it.)

But we were there because of another title: one that he seems to have awarded himself. “The World’s Greatest Fly Fisherman” Well, we asked, what exactly did this title mean? What was being the world’s greatest fly fisherman all about? Was it about catching the most fish? The biggest? The wariest? Maybe, but I’m not so sure. Maybe it’s about the love of bright waters, and the creatures that live in them. If it is, then maybe Bill qualifies. If it’s about the love of the art and science of the angle, then I’m sure Bill qualifies. If it’s about the myths, and yarns, and stories we tell, then Bill most definitely qualifies.

So it’s true, then, what he claims, and we add our own voices to his own modest admission. He truly is the World’s Greatest Fly Fisherman.

And as Bill reminded us that evening, we may well have started something. Next September 21, there will probably be Bill Brown evenings all over the province. I’m thinking we’d better book him early.

Regards,
Ken

The B.B. Fly

This fly is so deadly that if it is fished through a pool and nothing takes hold, the angler can move to the next pool with the full assurance that there are no fish in the first pool.

Bill



Bill and Lenie begin the banquet. Do you think Lenie was excited and thrilled?



Keith MacDonald with the rod he won at the raffle on Bill Brown Night. Frank Perilli and Linda Crampton won the door prizes. Frank was the lucky recipient of a set of boxed flies tied by Bill Brown.



Bill's friend and fishing partner, Jim Kilburn has his turn at the microphone.

I was at the hall when Bill and Lenie arrived. Shortly after I watched as they met old friends Ron Schiefke and Peter Stewart. On it went with Jim Kilburn, Bill Pollard, Ian Beveridge, Siegfried Hansel, George Heide and other former members of the IWFF, Totems and other clubs. I can't express what it felt like to see their faces as they met their friends. Dare I say there were a few tears along with hugs and warm handshakes. I am so glad for you, Bill and Lenie. Steve

ISLAND WATER FLY FISHERMEN HONOUR BILL BROWN

By Pat Connolly

It's rare to see a room full of notable fishermen – big names in fishing circles — fishermen who have founded clubs, furthered preservation of nature, changed laws, written books and articles, hosted panels and given radio presentations, and some who can quote Roderick Haig-Brown firsthand. But they were all there. There were Charter and current members of fly fishing clubs such as the Totems from the mainland and the Castways up Island. Bill was toasted, roasted and remembered by Bill Pollard, Tom Murray, Peter Caverhill, Ron Schiefke, Jim Kilburn and Jim Stewart. Speaking of Charter Members, Bill was a Charter Member of both the Totems and the Island Waters Fly Fishers here in Nanaimo.

Saturday evening, September 21st, fly fishers from all over the mainland and Vancouver Island congregated at the Lantzville Legion to roast Bill.

Besides being the World's Greatest Fly Fisherman, [sic] besides being 83 years old and besides being Nanaimo-born, Bill's reputation includes 120 foot casts into the wind – either hand, the Wonder Net, the Leaderless Fly, the underwater cast, the Hovercast, the double cast, fishouts attended by both Jack Daniels and Jim Beam and the inference that at one time he “caught and released” a whale!

Now and then a “legend” comes along; enter Bill Brown. It would be safe to say Bill numbers right up there with Roderick Haig-Brown.. Jokingly self-proclaimed the “World's Greatest Fly Fisherman”, Bill has earned the title or you might say the title has “stuck”. W.G.F.F. brings smiles to the faces of burly fly fishers and their feminine counterparts. One meeting with Bill Brown would set the eyes of the most cynical observer to dancing. It's a fact. It's called “reflection”.

If you've met Bill, then you've met the lovely Lenie, because they are inseparable. Lenie MODESTLY earned the reputation as the World's Greatest Hostess as she lured Bill's fish folk into her “net” and intimidated other fishwives (oops!) who were getting by hostessing meetings with potato chips and onion dip!

John O'Brien of Sealand Tackle is a man generous with his appreciation and his time. John summed up the sentiments of just about every person in the room. He described Bill as the kind of individual folks are always happy to see, a friend, that special kind of person who comes into our lives and stays in our hearts, a man who is the epitome of the word “sportsmanship”, and whose creativity lives on in every fly his admirers tie.

True devotion was further expressed by Ken McLaughlin, former President of Island Waters Fly Fishers of Nanaimo., teacher, friend and fisher-buddy, in part, as follows:

“We're here tonight because of the title Bill seems to have awarded himself, ‘The World's Greatest Fly Fisherman’. How do you qualify? Is it about catching the most fish? The biggest? The wariest? Maybe, but I'm not so sure. Maybe it's about the love of bright waters, and the creatures that live in them. If it is, then maybe Bill qualifies. If it's about the love of the art and science of the angle, then I'm sure Bill qualifies. If it's about the myths, and yarns, and stories we tell, then Bill most definitely qualifies.”

For those of us who are mere mortals, W. J. Browns are rare, for which the trout may be truly thankful.

Imagination? Myths? Lies? What does it matter. He's part of the heritage of every fly fisherman in the area who has the desire to know the lore and love of sportsmen like Bill. And the legend will endure from generation to generation.

Thanks, Pat. Well done!

Mr. President and Members:

Please accept this letter as a note of thanks for the banquet and honor bestowed upon us. I was quite moved to see so many friends, including some of the Totems, and to hear from the Ospreys. It is quite impossible to thank everyone personally, so this will hopefully do.

Bill and Lenie

HELP PLEASE

Our Annual General Meeting in November is soon to be upon us and although some of you might think this a little premature, I feel compelled to start the process now. Even though all executive positions will be open as of that date (Nov. 26), there are in particular a number of our dedicated directors contemplating retirement. They deserve a rest. Over the past few years in particular they have worked diligently to make this club a vibrant, successful organization that I believe has a lot to offer it's members. Some of the positions we need volunteers for are Gilley, Programs, Newsletter, Membership, Welcome Table, Videos, and Club Entertainment functions. Over the next few weeks someone will be contacting you. Please think about helping out. No one job is a lot of work and some can easily be shared by two or three members. In addition we have all had fun carrying out our responsibilities. I know we have a great deal of talent among our membership and I look forward to some of our newer members becoming involved. Dave

CHRISTMAS DINNER and AUCTION

LANTZVILLE LEGION (Upstairs Ballroom) November 30, 2002

Cocktails begin at 6 PM -- Dinner: 7:00PM -- Menu: Roast Beef

Cost: \$30.00 per couple

Please bring articles for the auction as this is our only fundraiser.

Bring items for the ladies to bid on. Auctioneer: Ian Forbes

Raffle will be on a destination for two to some exotic ? setting.

RSVP: Doug Winters 758-7303

NOTE: Our plate count must be accurate as that is the number we must pay for.