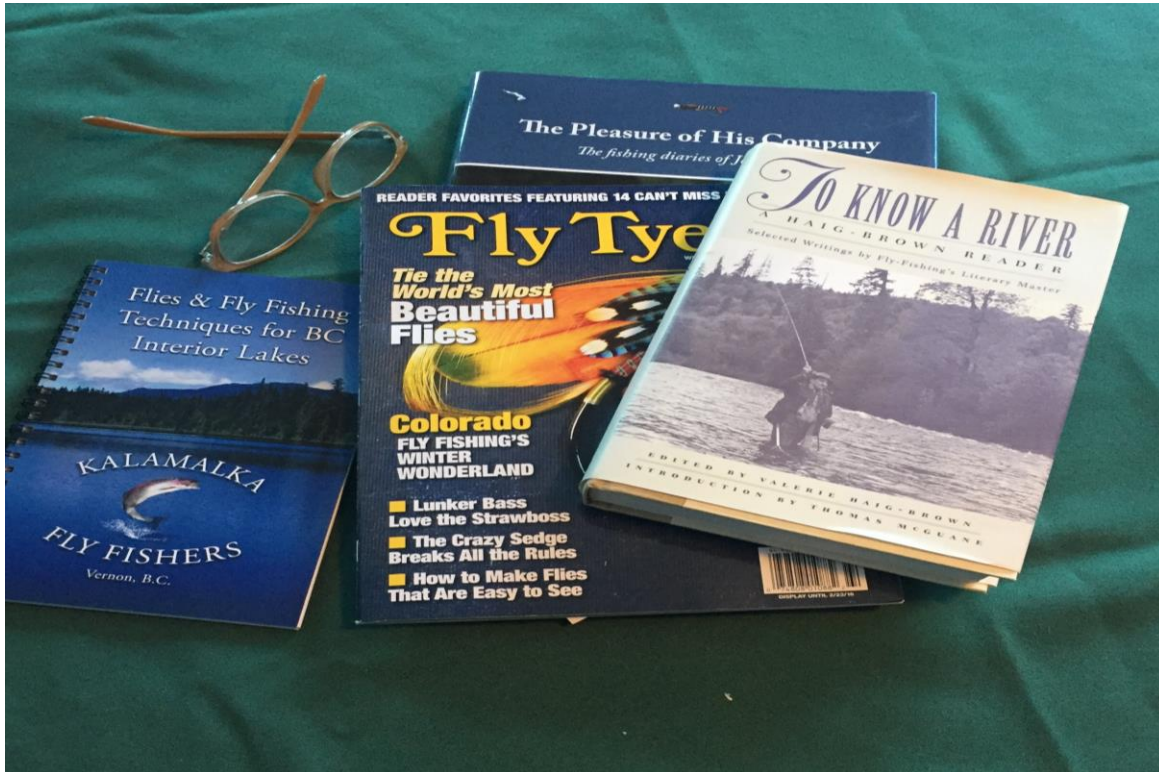




# Flylines

WINTER 2016-2017      January 2017



I suppose Interior Anglers, with lakes and rivers frozen shore to shore, are envious of us Coastal Anglers, with steelhead surging up the rivers and cutthroats rising in the estuaries. Well this year, there's not many of us getting out. With night time temperatures getting down to minus 5 C all one would catch would be cold waders! So we are doing what Interior folks do at this time of year, tying flies, preparing gear, and reading fishing related books.

It just happens that I have a few good books open on my desk. One is "*The Pleasure of His Company*", the fishing diaries of Ralph Shaw. It has been said, with probable understatement, that Ralph has changed the face of fly fishing in the lakes of British Columbia. Another is "*Flies & Fly Fishing Techniques for BC Interior Lakes*" produced by the Kalamalka Fly Fishers. This is a must read book, with lots of patterns and fishing tips. The third book is "*To Know a River: A Haig-Brown Reader*" which contains selections from Haig-Brown's finest books. The Introduction, is written by Thomas McGuane. Valerie Haig-Brown, editor, says

"To Know a River... is the conclusion of the best known of my father's books, *A River Never Sleeps*, first published in 1946, but it is as much a place to begin as it is to end. The final paragraph is the most quoted of all the thousands in the twenty-four books he published in his lifetime." Here it is:

"I still don't know why I fish or why other men fish, except that we like it and it makes us think and feel. But I do know that if it were not for the strong, quick life of rivers, for their sparkle in the sunshine, for the cold grayness of them under rain and the feel of them about my legs as I set my feet hard down on rocks or sand or gravel, I should fish less often. A river is never quite silent; it can never, of its very nature, be quite still; it is never quite the same from one day to the next. It has its own life and its own beauty, and the creatures it nourishes are alive, and beautiful also. Perhaps fishing is, for me, only an excuse to be near rivers. If so, I'm glad I thought of it."

### **Most fun you can have next to fishing...**

-is surfing the Web for fishing-related topics. The first site you might try is [www.bcfff.bc.ca](http://www.bcfff.bc.ca). Our website was recently updated and is full of information. It includes a gallery of past issues of *Flylines*....

-next, I suggest you checkout the websites of member clubs. Its so easy: in your favourite Browser just type in the name of the club you are interested in. You will be impressed how professional most of these pages are and how informative they are. They are often the best source for fly patterns for their local area.

next, I suggest you take a look at the web sites of your favourite fly fishing shops. You might find some good bargains. Check their links for more information such as fishing reports, or even links to other interesting websites.

alternatively, have a look at sites of retailers that advertise in fishing magazines. As well as highlighting their own products they often have amazing links to all kinds of information pertaining to fishing. One site I go to often is the Norvise site. Go to [Norvise.com](http://Norvise.com).

Check out [www.watershed-watch.org](http://www.watershed-watch.org) (salmon news) for information on salmon conservation on our coast. You might want to subscribe to get email from this one (its free).

## CONTACTS

### Board of Directors

Rich Ronyecz	President
Phil Rogers	Vice-president
Jesse Blake	VP/Webmaster
Peter Caverhill	Past Secretary/director
Brandon Charlesworth	Treasurer
Ken Burgess	Membership/Gilly Fund
Kyle Sawayama	Past president
Lloyd Erickson	Newsletter
Dean Houston	Director
Len Piggin	Director
Trystan Willmott	Director
Don Grimway	Family Fishing Weekend
Art Lingren	BCFFF Historian

### Affiliated Clubs

Cariboo Chilcotin Flyfishers  
Comox Valley Fly Fishers  
Cowichan Fly Fishers  
Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Assn  
Island Waters Fly Fishers  
Kalamalka Fly Fishers  
Kamloops Fly Fishers  
Long Beach Flyfishers  
Loons Flyfishing Club  
Mid Island Castaways  
Osprey Fly Fishers  
Penticton Fly Fishers  
Totem Fly Fishers  
West Coast Fly Fishers  
  
Cranbrook Flyfishers

**Mail:** PO Box 41023, RPO Woodgrove, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M7

**Email:** [general@bcfff.bc.ca](mailto:general@bcfff.bc.ca)

**Newsletter editor email:** [acre5age@gmail.com](mailto:acre5age@gmail.com)

**Website:** [bcfff.bc.ca](http://bcfff.bc.ca) or [Facebook.com/BCFFF](https://Facebook.com/BCFFF)

**Membership:** Open to all persons, and members of associated clubs. Direct memberships are \$20 payable to the Membership director.

## **PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**

### **BCFFF UPDATE January 2017**

bcfff.bc.ca

Promoting Quality Angling Opportunities and Conservation

Happy New Years wishes to all of you , and I hope you find yourself some great fishing this winter... Or at least videos or a tropical fishing trip.

One of the best things about the BCFFF is meeting so many great people that care about the environment, fishing in general, and enjoying life.

We have been busy in the background, however our new year's resolution is still better communication. We need to find the time to better relay our information to members. Are there any socialites out there that want to help with our communications?

#### **Recent Reports/Activity**

**Dec2. Thompson River Steelhead meeting** in Kamloops. BCFFF reps were snowed out, but indirectly Len Piggan and accomplices representing the Kamloops Fly Fishers attended. There is a need for all user groups to work together to save these fish. The greatest need is to clear a path to their spawning grounds (allow them to return without interception). A few people involved seem stuck in a dreamy hatchery solution to save the wild TRS (see our attached amazing educational position paper on the failure of Hatchery Steelhead). The BCFFF board advisors , and biologists feel any CFC (hatchery) solution will likely speed up the demise of wild steelhead as the evidence to date shows. This will also be posted on our website and facebook soon. Also read this related article on No Hatchery Steelhead solution.

<http://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/commentary-try-something-different-than-hatcheries-to-save-fish/>

**Dec 14 Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC**(gofishbc.com) meeting. Rich and Pat attended. The FFSBC will be great to work with. They run the trout stocking programs in BC . They receive 100% of freshwater angling license revenue in BC. They are also interested in supporting development of Urban Fishing Ponds (let us know if you have one in mind) , gathering scientific data , and of particular interest is the establishment of Outdoor (fishing) education courses in grade 11 and 12. Putting the courses into the curriculum with credits is easier than trying to do it outside school hours .

#### **Dec 15 FLNRO(Provincial Angling Advisory) PAAT meeting.**

Kyle and Pat Misek attended.

Summary... FLNRO is not seriously taking input from meetings. Nothing changes, the politicians underfund and override and prevent the capable FLNRO biologists from doing what is best for the fish.

**December Dean River meeting.** Williams Lake.

Totems Craig and Clark attended and pitched our concerns on 3 topics.

1. Keep them wet.
2. Limit the number of steelhead you catch personally (when have you landed enough fish in a day?).
3. Limit your effectiveness (Reward yourself with the unforgettable memory of a steelhead rising to your skated fly).

Our **Best wishes** and a speedy recovery to the talented , affable **Aaron Goodis** .

We are always busy with emails on the Thompson River , along with many other time consuming conservation topics, monthly BCFFF board conference calls, so we can always use more enthusiastic help. There is no minimum time commitment, we are just happy to take what we can get from our great volunteers. What better way is there to meet like-minded fly fishing outdoor enthusiasts ?

**Upcoming dates 2017**

Early 2017. BCFFF on tour to the member flyclubs. Contact us or we will contact you.

**April 29,30** Corbett Lake annual fishout/social. Limited accommodation and fishing. Details to follow shortly.

**April 8** 2017 Saturday. Michael and Young annual Spey Day.

**May 14** BCFFF AGM Parksville/Qualicum.. hosted by mid island Castaways.

**July 16-20** World Recreational Fishing Conference (see below)

**August 13** ,Sunday Pinkfest Haig-Brown House fishing and social. We have booked on a Sunday this year and later, so more pinks will be available.

To receive monthly news updates from BCFFF , click on the following link

<http://www.bcfff.bc.ca/index.php/list>

cheers Rich Ronyecz,

vipcare@hotmail.com

BCFFF pres

Promoting Quality Angling Opportunities and Conservation.

PS. A new club has joined. Welcome Cranbrook Flyfishers

## **WRFC8 World Recreational Fishing Conference July 16-20, 2017**

### **Third Call for Abstracts**

The 8th World Recreational Fishing Conference (WRFC8) is returning to Canada for 2017, to Victoria. The conference unites the global recreational fishing community - providing an essential forum to discuss current research. Held every three years, this is the only international conference focused solely on recreational fisheries.

The International Scientific Committee has issued a third call for abstract submissions, under the theme "balancing values - the future of recreational fishing around the world" [Submit your abstract](#) for consideration in the WRFC8 program by **February 15, 2017**, as this is a conference you don't want to miss!

[Register now](#) for an early bird discount and [reserve your accommodation](#) soon, as **Victoria** is a very popular tourist destination. For more information on the conference, including travel help, visit [wrfc8.com](http://wrfc8.com).

### **Help Spread the Word**

Tell your colleagues and friends, print and post the [WRFC8 poster](#) at your workplace or institution, and [like](#) and [follow](#) @wrfc8.

If you've been forwarded this email by a friend and would like to subscribe to the mailing list, [please click here](#).

We also invite you to partner with us and help [sponsor this event](#).

Hosted by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC in partnership with the Sport Fishing Institute of BC, **WRFC8 is being held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada from July 16 - 20, 2017**. Industry experts will present their recent findings on management strategies, monitoring and assessment, social and economic studies, and conservation tools. Learn from and connect with 300 or more recreational fisheries professionals from over 25 countries around the world next summer. Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions about the conference.

This is being sponsored by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC in partnership with the Sport Fishing Institute of BC.



## MEET AND GREET

This is a new column to introduce members. First up is Rich Ronyecz, our President.



### Rich Ronyecz fishing resume

- \* Born and raised on Vancouver Island, circa 1967- present.
- \* First steelhead near Port McNeill fishing with dad, using bait: 1973 (6 yrs old).
- \* Graduated to a flyrod after a trip in 1995 to Chile Patagonia. After running out of sinkers and worms got his first taste of dry fly action using a sacrificed irritating horsefly. That was it, he bought his first fly rod upon returning to BC.
- \* The first fly he tied was the next day, a wooly bugger under direction from a buddy in Victoria.
- \* Rich joined the Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association in Victoria 1996.
- \* Rich was HBFFA Vice President for a couple of years, and President for a couple of years circa 1998-2002.
- \* First trip to the Dean was a drift from Colone Creek (Km 35 )down to the fisheries cabin circa 2005.

\*Involved with the BCFFF for a decade. Currently president , pushing for Conservation, and to protect and develop Quality Angling Experiences.

\*Lucky enough to be on 5 wonderful Totem Fly Fishing club trips to the Dean River (2012-2016 ).

\* Member of the Watershed Watch Salmon Society Board of Directors , 2008-present

\*First steelhead on a dry fly – Priceless \*

Rich presently lives at Qualicum Beach, and works as a Pharmacist. He also owns a boat.

Rich would like to visit each of the BCFFF clubs in the coming year and work to improve communications.

## CONSERVATION CORNER



**From:** Doug Porter <[patanddoug@shaw.ca](mailto:patanddoug@shaw.ca)>

**Date:** November 25, 2016 at 8:28:40 PM PST

**Subject:** Dragon Lake video

I thought I would forward this video taken at Dragon Lake, emphasizing how an exotic species can put pressure on the food source supposedly reserved for the trout. I think the formula I am familiar with describes how it takes 10 lbs of food to grow 1 lb of fish.

Doug

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=MovYRSPQhyM&sns=em>



## **Your Fishing Licence Dollars are at Risk in Summerland!**

After nearly 100 years, B.C.'s oldest fish hatchery is now at risk.

The hatchery relies on its pristine water source for hatchery operations which stock approximately 300 lakes in the province.

Shaughnessy Springs, the hatchery's groundwater source originates in Bristow valley. The city of Summerland is contemplating rezoning the valley from agriculture to high density housing for a 376 unit seniors' village.

The move to high density zoning has the potential to negatively affect Shaughnessy Springs due to groundwater contamination from run-off and water withdrawal for operations.

Without clean water the hatchery simply won't survive.

Your fishing licence dollars are what keeps this hatchery running.

Shaughnessy Springs water must be maintained in an unimpaired state.

Please attend the following sessions to get a better understanding of the issues and make your voice heard. If you are unable to attend please contact Summerland City Council to voice your concerns.

For a link to email addresses, follow the link [Here](#)

### ***Future generations of anglers depend on you!***

#### Public Open House - Meet Staff and Review Application Documents

##### **Monday, January 16, 2017**

Time: 3:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Arena Banquet Room, 8820 Jubilee Road, Summerland BC

#### Public Information Presentation, Question and Answer Session

##### **Thursday, January 19, 2017:**

Time: 7:00 PM

Centre Stage Theater, 9518 Main St, Summerland, BC

## Photos of replanting at Salmon River

In 2014 BCFFF contributed \$1000 to the Nature Trust to help acquire some land in the lower area of Salmon River, on Vancouver Island. Here is a nice update.

To: President of BCFFF.

Just thought I would give you an update on the property you and BCFFF helped The Nature Trust of British Columbia acquire last year. We have been doing a lot of habitat restoration work in 2016. We first removed a lot of Scotch broom (many acres) and treated some other invasive plants.

Then last week we had a big replanting project. Our team planted 700 native trees and shrubs in the fields cleared of broom, plus 28 wetland plants in the ponds. See attached photos.

Thanks again for your support.

Best Regards,

Jasper Lament, Ph.D

Chief Executive Officer | The Nature Trust of British Columbia

260 - 1000 Roosevelt Crescent | North Vancouver, BC V7P 3R4

Tel: 604-924-9771, ext 230 | Toll Free: 1-866-288-7878 | Direct: 604-969-3248 | Fax: 604-924-9772

[www.naturetrust.bc.ca](http://www.naturetrust.bc.ca) | [jlament@naturetrust.bc.ca](mailto:jlament@naturetrust.bc.ca)



## Help Save the ...THOMPSON STEELHEAD

...was the title of an article written by Craig Orr written for the Summer **1992** (#52) issue of *Flylines*. Here's more:

"Fewer than 900 Thompson River steelhead swam through the Ministry of Environment's counting fences this spring. (1992) Yet in the next two months, more than 100 Thompson River steelhead will likely die in gillnets set for chum salmon in the Fraser River.

Not to worry, says the federal Department of Fisheries. We've shortened openings and asked gillnetters to release steelhead. Besides, compared to salmon, few steelhead are killed." (!).

Very little has changed. It is no wonder that the BCFFF executive find themselves spending a lot of time dealing with the Thompson River issue. The BCFFF has developed a policy document that addresses our concerns and stance of what action should be taken. A little of that policy document is included here. The whole document is quite long and will be downloaded to our website in the near future. Go to [www.bcfff.bc.ca](http://www.bcfff.bc.ca).

### **Risks Associated with Fish Culture Intervention as a Management Option for Interior Fraser River fall-run Steelhead Populations**

#### **Background and Introduction**

The BC Federation of Fly Fishers (BCFFF) emphasizes our opposition to conservation fish culture (hatcheries) as being a potential management option to increase the abundance of interior Fraser River fall-run steelhead populations, which includes Thompson River steelhead. The management option was included in a draft "Steelhead Action Plan", which surfaced after the December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016 meeting of the Thompson Steelhead Assembly hosted by the Fraser Basin Council in Kamloops. It is our understanding that while the draft action plan was associated with the meeting, it did not necessarily represent the opinions or thoughts of all the meeting participants. Rather, we understand that the draft action plan was completed in the days that followed the meeting by a few of the meeting participants.

*We note that conservation fish culture is listed as the first of six action plan recommendations, which suggests that this option is the priority. The recommendation ignores BC's past experience with conservation fish culture and the emerging science from the US Pacific Northwest, which urges extreme caution with "culture rescues" of wild steelhead. To date, there has been no evidence to suggest that conservation fish culture provides any benefits. In contrast, there is scientific evidence that it can decrease the ability of a steelhead population to remain viable. In our opinion, therefore, attempting conservation fish culture would represent a wasteful use of resources, and may actually jeopardize the overriding goal of preserving the viability of interior Fraser River fall-run steelhead.*

*We are in agreement that management intervention is required to address the general declining trend of returning interior Fraser River steelhead, but initiatives must be based on the best available science and must be based on the precautionary principle.*

*Management options that address and consider key concerns, including (but not limited to) ocean survival rates, the quality of freshwater rearing habitat and interception of returning adults must be given priority. In the following paragraphs, we hope to provide clarification about the risks involved with fish culture intervention and also suggest management options that should be included in a workable steelhead action plan.”*

Keep an eye on our website for the full document.

**The BCFFF...on FISHERY ISSUES** was discussed in the Winter 1993 Issue of *Flylines*. The BCFFF attempted to construct a *Fishery Issues Action Plan*. BCFFF members were polled to identify Fishery issues on a local, regional and provincial level, and to ascribe a level of importance. 126 issues were identified and are summarized by level of importance in the following list:

1. **Angling Regulations:** conservation and gear type.
2. **Overharvest:** steelhead interception and angling
3. **Habitat Loss:** for fishery and anglers
4. **Inadequate Provincial Budget**
5. **Recreational User Conflict**
6. **Hatchery Program:** pros and cons
7. **Native Fishing Rights**
8. **Enforcement**
9. **Education:** of anglers, public and government
10. **Land Access** to angling waters.

SO WHAT HAS CHANGED IN 24 YEARS? By and large we are the same people talking about it!

## IN MEMORY OF:

### **Celebration of Life for Rob Way**

There will be a gathering of friends and family in memory of Rob Way who passed away on September 11/16. It will be held at Meadow Gardens Golf Club in Pitt Meadows on Wednesday, March 8th at 1:00pm. All are welcome – please bring stories and memories to share.

Hope to see you there,  
Any questions please call:

Sheila Way 604-479-4079  
s.way@shaw.ca

Kerris Ellis 604-466-2707  
jkj@shaw.ca

## SAD NEWS

Eric Carlisle passed away September 25, 2016. Most of us know Eric as an author of many articles printed in BC fishing magazines and of a book titled "*West Coast River Angling*".

However, Eric was one of BC's most long serving and concerned individuals about the state of salmon, steelhead and trout (particularly in the Lower Mainland of BC). His life was devoted to working for groups with these concerns. He was a founding member of the Seymour River Salmonid Society, he was the amazingly long serving Secretary of the Steelhead Society of BC and of the BC Federation of Drift Fishers. If there was a meeting involving Lower Mainland fisheries issues, Eric would almost certainly be there.

Eric was always a quiet participant on the conservation scene. In discussion with him he was always solid, insistent, and well prepared. I knew Eric over many decades from my time with provincial fisheries and now through many years of my retirement.

He was a very dedicated person, likely the longest standing member of the Steelhead Society before his passing. He joined the organization during the early 1970's and was a key member the second time around. He was fixture and a well known, respected part of that organization and he will be missed.

Eric had a great passion for fishing for steelhead and for fishing in rivers.

Submitted by Peter Caverhill.



## FLY TYING CORNER

### The Ubiquitous Flying Black Ant

“Matching the hatch” is one of the corollaries of fly fishing. The epitome is matching the hatch of mayflies. More recently also the hatch of caddis flies. But, generally the concept applies to hatches of aquatic insects. However, at least one terrestrial insect displays a hatch phenomenon that so overwhelms fish behaviour that fish will eat nothing else. It behooves the angler to carry several copies of the fly on both streams and lakes in late spring. I am talking about hatches of the ubiquitous flying black carpenter ant!

I was a victim of the black ant hatch many decades ago. I was fishing the Cowichan River late in the spring. It was a beautiful warm day, with bright sun highlighting the wild flowers. Winter flows had subsided, replaced by clear, almost green waters. And fish could be seen rising in every run. In short, it was the perfect fly fishing conditions....except we couldn't get a bite. It didn't take long to discover why; the black ants were so numerous they were landing on us.

Ironically, during a time when almost no other pattern works, almost any good black ant pattern will catch fish like magic!

The black ant is fairly large, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long. It has 3 segments, a large rear abdomen about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long, a middle thorax, and a head. The segments are joined by a very thin “waist” making the segments very obvious. A wide variety of materials can be used to make the body of the fly because the naturals are “low floaters”. I used to tie these on a 3x long #6 hook, often using black deer hair for the segments. More recently I have been using a regular shank #8 hook, and tying the abdomen like a tail, using a twist of black wool, or a manicured piece of black foam. This latter design floats very well.

