



October 2012

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The Cowichan FlyFishers Association is a non-profit society based in Duncan, B.C. The purposes of the Club are:
To promote fly fishing and the use of artificial flies on all waters

To support and encourage the preservation, rehabilitation and development of lakes, rivers, streams, tidal waters and wetlands as fish habitat

To submit views and recommendations to any governmental body or private agencies as the Association deems necessary to safeguard or enhance the interests of fish, parks and/ or outdoor recreational resource values, and

To support governmental bodies wherever possible in projects that are intended to preserve or enhance sport fishing opportunities generally

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Secretary - Laura
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Donovan Lynch

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devina@teddystackle.com



What a beautiful summer!

We hope everyone had fine fishing and great outdoor adventures.

Above Chris and Leanne Irving show off their pink salmon caught on the fly during our club campout at Cluxewe Resort.

Cowichan Fly Fishers 2012 Schedule of Events	
Thursday, Oct. 18	Tying coho flies
Thursday, Nov. 1	Business meeting
Thursday, Nov. 15	Annual Auction
Thursday, Dec. 6	Business meeting
Friday, Dec. 7	Annual Banquet and Awards night

Cluxewe 2012 Report - by Norm McKenzie

For those club members who ventured north to the Clux this August, they were greeted by many sunny days, flat water and a phenomenal run of pink salmon. Although the feisty pinks were a bit smaller than other years, rods were bent up and down the beach. Only a few broken rods and one lost rod tip were reported.

The seal population were eager to test one's patience.

A few early coho were landed in August with the main run still out there, somewhere! Halibut fishing proved interesting with the Brookmans breaking a twenty year hex in a flurry of catches. Crabbing was slow but deliciously appreciated.

A large contingent of Cowichan Flyfishers tested their fly patterns and enjoyed the camping this year.

Great to see everyone!

Cluxewe Add-ons - Ted & Devina

- What a run of salmon! Some of us were "pinked-out" by the end of the season. Both us needed ice for our arms at the end of a long day.
- One club member had fun taking photos of fishers on the beach and especially underwater shots of the fish. This was on a windy evening with big waves. "Look out Kenzie!" Splash!
- Thanks to Norm for his "how to catch halibut" lessons.
- Frank decided to cool off and test the cuffs on his new jacket by taking an unexpected dip. It didn't leak too badly and he didn't lose his fish.
- Terry Bragg stood in one place so long landing pinks that his leg fell asleep and he had to ask for help to get out of the water!
- Bruce Huntley was finally beach fishing again - with Luke harassing him from the shore.
- Brian's birthday was the great social event as well as Shirley's breakfast feast.
- Carol and Terry Combs were looking good fishing in the river in the evening light.
- Jim Block caught an amazing amount of fish on his two day holiday with us.
- Tony was first on the beach in the morning as usual.
- Had a good fly tying session with John Schinbein at the campsite.
- Thanks go to Peter, Judi and Norm for tending the crab traps faithfully.
- As Norm says above, the seals were busy. One day Ted quit fishing when he had hooked 14 fish and the score was seals - 10, Ted - 4.
- Judi and Peter's birds and the assorted club dogs were a major attraction and provided lots of laughs.



photo by Norman McKenzie

Above are Ted & Devina Brookman casting in the surf.

At right Nelson and Trace enjoy the river.

Below Jim Block and Norm McKenzie bringing in a few more pink salmon on beaches north of Port McNeil.



photos by Devina Brookman



Late Summer and early Fall Coho fishing:

Ted caught one small coho on the fly at Cluxewe in mid August. Only a few members of the club stayed on into mid September. John Schinbein reports that coho fishing was quite slow so we didn't really miss anything. He did manage to get a 10 lb hatchery, the rest were all wild.

A few of our members caught some coho at Cherry Point in September. Apparently Bob's "Big Orange Thing" is the newest hot fly!

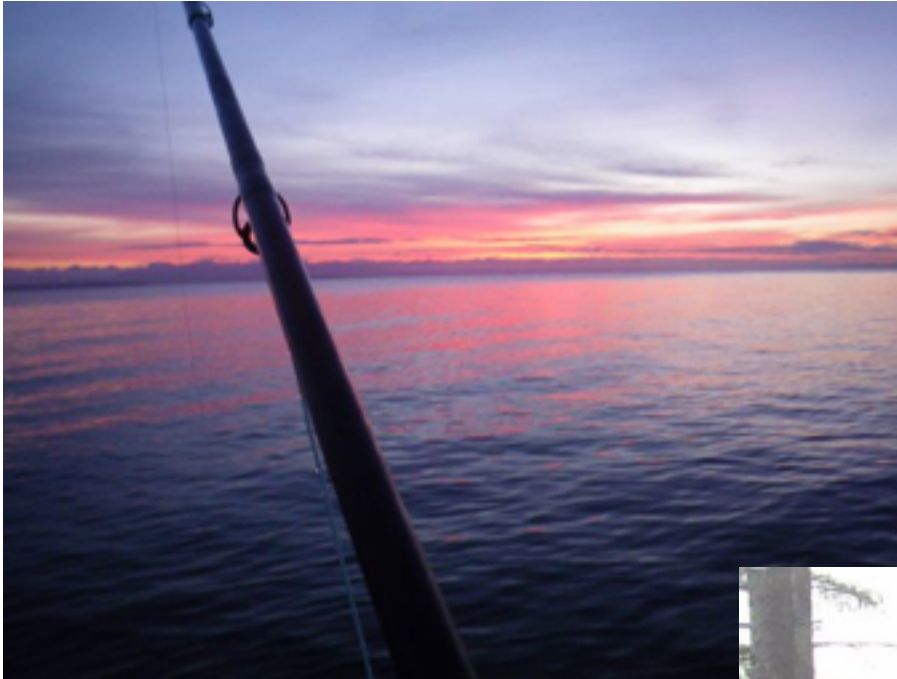


photos by John & Linda Schinbein

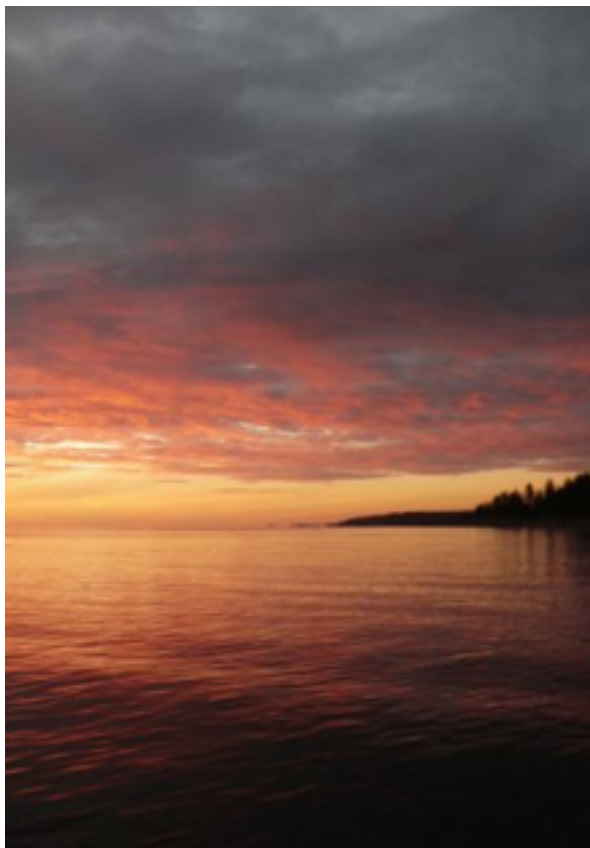


Salmon Point Campout - last weekend in September

We did some fishing but most of the campout was focussed on relaxing, hiking, socializing and eating. A good time was had by all and a few jack salmon were caught. The bigger coho were closed mouthed and often too far out for effective beach casting. The coho were most active and closest to shore at dawn and dusk. We got to see some beautiful sunrises and there were very few people on the beach so early in the morning.



We met one fellow hiking out on the trail carrying a spring salmon about 30 pounds. He caught it on the fly while casting to coho and was a pretty happy guy. I wish one of our group had been as lucky!



photos by Devina Brookman & Shirley McLeod



September 20 - Presentation about Pike Fishing by Andy Sneddon

Andy's enthusiasm was contagious and many of us are eager to head up north and try fly fishing for pike. Andy showed us his excellent photos and many of his flies (including the chewed up ones!) He talked about rod weights and suitable reels as well line and tippet configuration, and most important when fishing for large pike, 40 pound knotable wire tippet. He showed us the need for quality pliers for tying tippets and long forceps for avoiding sharp teeth. We look forward to hearing Andy speak again.

Report from Carol Combs: We had already moved a safer distance away from this buffalo before I took Terry's picture. A lady flyfisher had warned me about the buffalo showing up unannounced....and holy crap this guy came out of thin air. We did not hear him at all!





Cowichan River Report - by Ted Brookman

As most of you have seen in both the local papers and the Times Colonist our home river has received a lot of attention due to the water levels.

As I sit writing this report, the rain I hear is very welcome. The problem is that if we get enough rain people will again forget about the problem of this summer/ early fall.

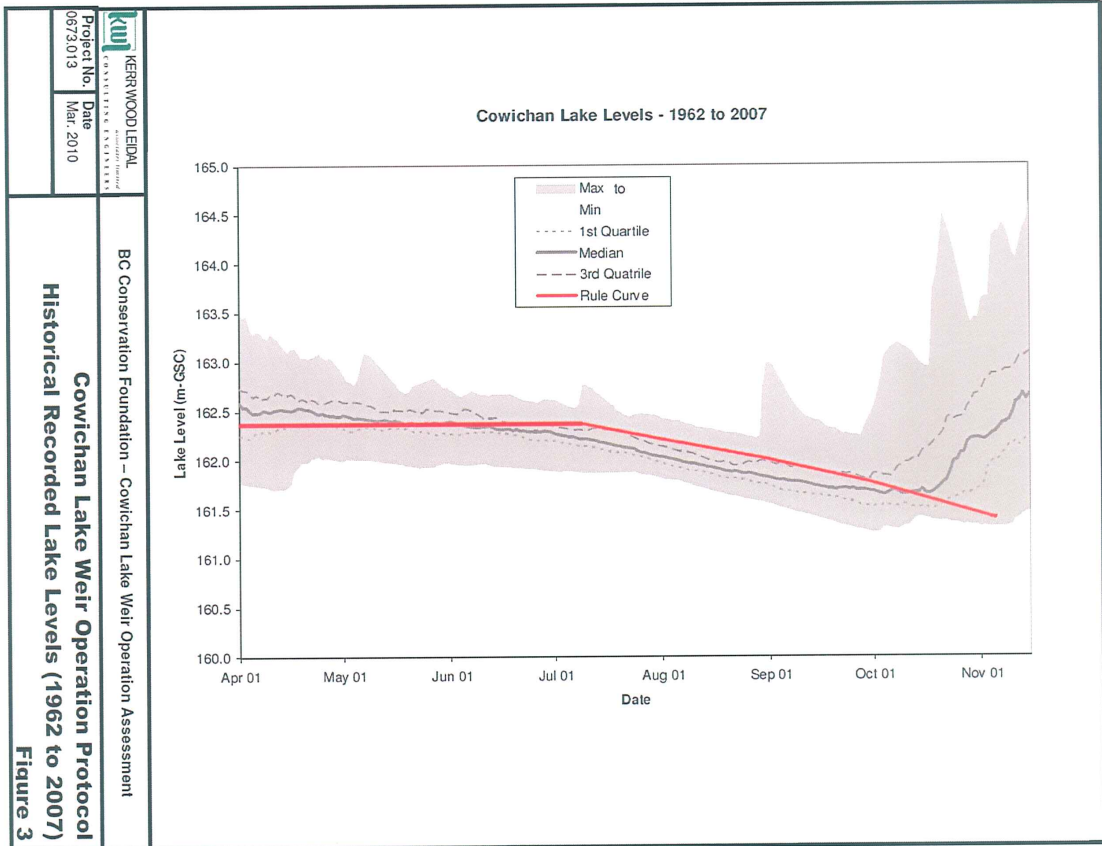
Paul Rickard and I have been working on the Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable since it was formed. Through the efforts of many it has achieved a great deal up and down the river; eel grass planting, kelp planting, natural bush planting on clay slopes, the work at Stoltz clay bank, gravel placement, the five fingers and invasive plant removal.

So now our attention is turned again to water flows that will protect the fish.

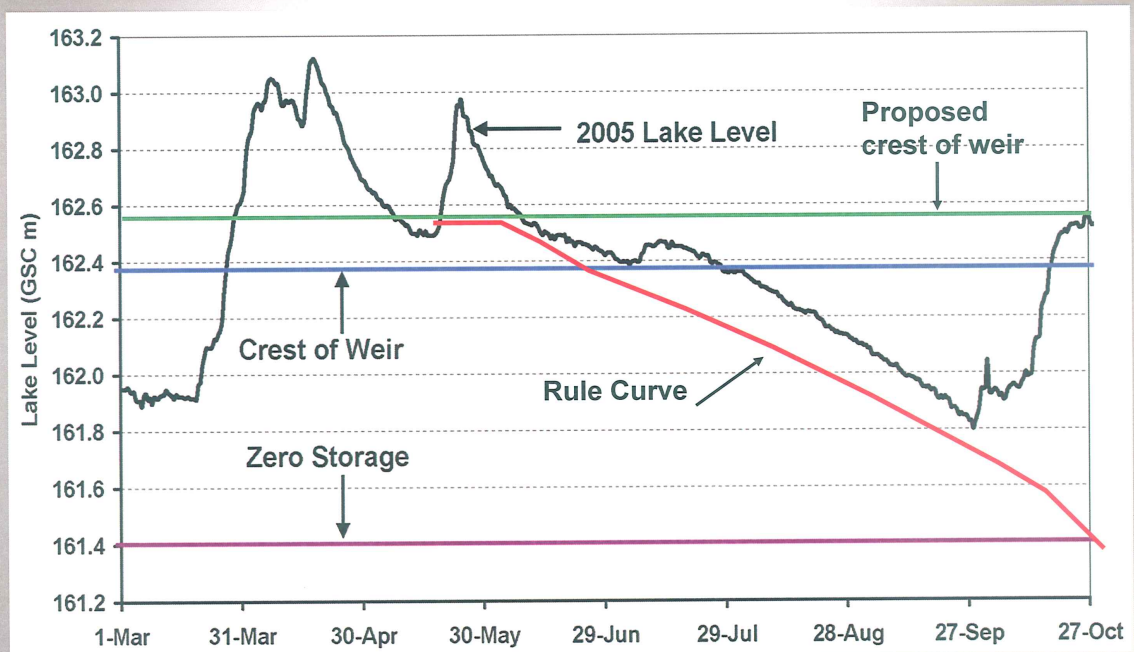
It is a real shame that we find ourselves in the situation of again relying on a possible "Hawaiian Express" rain event to allow Chinook salmon to move upstream and spawn.

On Monday, Paul made a strong case for action with ministry officials so that we can move forward with ensuring water for fish next year. We were not talking about the weir, but rather having the ability to store water that falls during the summer. What the heck is that you ask? I'll try and explain: Let's say that you start in June with 10 feet of water as the level on the weir. Over the next 12 weeks you must bring the water level down to 7 feet according to a rule curve established in 1957. This was to maintain certainty for the river flows as well as certainty of the lake shore. If the lake goes down too fast as it did this summer you have to lower the flow into the river to save water. What about the rain events we had in late June and early July which would have given us the water we needed to have a pulse flow for salmon. No we had to stay right on the curve so that water was released down stream and the lake was not allowed to build back up to a maximum of 10 feet.

Two charts are included:



2005 was “Preferred” year



At right Clayton Smith moves a fish from the rail car to the tank trailer. Below Laura Chilcott and Norm Evans get ready to lift more fish up from the trap.



Shawnigan Creek Project

The work has begun! Dennis Ramshaw, Ken Gray and their cohorts have been monitoring the fish trap and moving fish into the pens down below. 341 coho were moved on Monday, October 15 by volunteers from the Cowichan Fly Fishers and the community. Scott Noble and students from his environmental class at Shawnigan Lake School were there to help. The storm surge brought the fish in and luckily we were able to catch them at the falls and move them safely up stream to the spawning area. Later, a group from Brentwood College came down and expressed an interest in helping. 65 more fish are already in the trap ready for the next move.

Now what we need is another storm event to raise the level of the water in the creek again.

If you want more information about the project or want to help out, call Ted at 250-246-9704 to get on the email list.

Cowichan Fly Fishers

Annual Auction



Thursday, November 15 - 7:00 PM

Air Cadets Hall, 3790 Gibbins Road, Duncan (up past the hospital)



Donations
needed:

flies
fishing equipment
tying materials
books
baking
household items
camping gear
tools
garage sale items

Support
your
club!



Bring your friends, family, neighbours. Lots of good stuff. Lots of fun! Visitors from other clubs welcome.

Items can be dropped off at club meetings or at
Teddy's Tackle. Thanks!

The Cowichan FlyFishers would like to thank our sponsors for their welcome support:

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