

Panther Lake May 8, 14

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Hooray, Hooray for the 8th of May etc...oh, it was a cold and windy day leaving Parksville heading for Panther Lake. I don't think I would have gone except I got an email from Bob the night before asking if I was going to go....of course I said "Absolutely" so I figured I better go since I didn't want him to think my word was no good....so off I went on such a blustery day..."What am I doing, what am I doing" kept resurfacing in my head.

When I got to the lake it was not so bad, riffley, and only Bob and Gerry were on the lake....A non-member leaving to attend Mother's Day, said Bob was fishing dries and Gerry wet and both doing great, so I rigged the 2/3 wt. with a grizzly dragon on an intermediate sink line...my go to rig when all else fails....while the 3 wt and 4 wt rods had floating lines and two different Emerger patterns as a bit of a chironomid hatch was in progress....

Immediately I started catching 12" to 16" very fit bows that totally smash the fly and aerals abound....It got ridiculous with many doubles that I had to retire the 4 wt and go with only the 3 wt as many swallowed flies on the second (hands off) rod. Never did get the dragonfly nymph wet. For me, Panther Lake is the best lake on the island with the strongest, fighting, entertaining bows lb for lb I have yet to encounter. Guess where I'm going next weekend? Oh ya, Gerry caught the biggest bow of the day at 17 inches.

Well it is now May 14th and back at my favourite lake. Conditions were overcast and dead calm for the most part and catching was slower than last week but the fish were strong, athletic flyers and as entertaining as ever. Perhaps the slower pace was due to nine members fishing instead of three, so catch was rated as good, down from exceptional, meaning one could comfortably eat a sandwich between hits...and enjoy the emergence of blue damsel adults that were landing on everyone, everything floating. Oh ya, Harold caught the biggest fish of the day (18inch) on a size 12 damsel nymph. Another stress free day on the water.