



Dave's Bead Head Woolly Bugger

Originated and contributed by Dave Connolly to Art Lingren's book. Page 8.



Buck Steelhead

Page 9

**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

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Meetings on 4th Tuesday of the Month at the Ukrainian Hall at 4017 Victoria Ave. off Norwell Dr. Visitors and Guests welcome. Phone 758-2138.

Email us at iwff@shaw.ca Ph 758-2138

Visit at www.members.shaw.ca/iwff



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/>

Turtle Lake, Saskatchewan



Wayne and Judy Legge pulling up after a fine day of fishing Turtle Lake. Thanks for the photo Judy.

President's Message

The next 3 months for the Island Waters Flyfishers is shaping up to be a very busy time for us. The May 1st

BCFFF Annual General Meeting will be here

before we know it. Very shortly we will be need

lots of help to pull everything together and our committee heads will be looking for help. This is an opportunity for us to bring some attention to our club and I know there will be lots of support from our members.

It seems like fly fishing is becoming more and more popular. At our January meeting we had 10 guests and 3 of those guests have taken out membership in our club. I was also pleased to see that we are starting to attract some younger people to our meetings. Hopefully some of these younger people will become interested enough to become IWFF members.

I would like to thank Hale Yardley on a great job in lining up our guest speakers for our general meetings. Our January meeting with Skip Rimmer was excellent on both perspectives. Skip provided some good information on the lakes of Vancouver Island and his PowerPoint presentation on his fly fishing trip to New Zealand was excellent. New Zealand looks like a dream trip.

Hale has lined up Ian Forbes for our February's meeting. If you have never seen one of Ian's presentations you should make every effort to be at the meeting. Ian has travelled all over North America fly fishing. He is very knowledgeable and he does an excellent presentation.

In closing I would like to wish John O'Brien a speedy recovery. He has been having some health problems recently and I am sure we all hope to see John back on the water with a fly rod in his hand very soon.

Keith MacDonald



Keith MacDonald

Dave Degner's Fishing Autobiography

I began fishing when we were living in Medicine Hat, Alberta. I was around 11 years old. I started in a typical Huck. Finn fashion with a spool of linen thread, a few hooks and my trusty pocket knife. I



would play hooky from school, cycle to a small creek which ran into the South Saskatchewan River. There I would cut a branch, tie on my thread and hook, find some small insect or worm and go fishing. I was mainly catching minnows, which I would give or sell (money for more hooks) to the fellows fishing for Goldeye or Pike. However, one day I was in a real dilemma. I caught a large Goldeye which I sure didn't want to throw back and if I took it home I would have to admit that I played hooky. Anyway I took it home and confessed to skipping school. What I didn't know was that it was near supper time and my mother thought I caught it after school.

It wasn't until we moved to Taber, AB a couple of years later that I was seriously into big fish, Pike, with a steel casting rod and level wind reel. This worked okay in the irrigation canals but it was difficult to successfully fish from the weedy shores of the surrounding lakes. To overcome this problem my buddy and I built a 9 foot plywood boat, then had my dad take it to a nearby lake. After that my buddy and I would cycle out to the lake and bring home a couple of pike whenever we wanted.

Later when some of my friends had cars we

started going farther afield to the foothills after trout with our upgraded spinning outfits. Around this time I got my father into fishing. Which meant that there were more trout streams to check out. Moving to Lethbridge put me in touch with more anglers through work and the Fish and Game club. There were lots of trips around Southern AB and BC. Cecilia came into my life there and in order to keep track of me, she started into fishing also.

When we moved to Edmonton, the lakes and streams of the central and northern part the country were tested for fishing. In those days catch and release wasn't prevalent consequently our freezer received a fair number of fish dinners.

Continuing in our family tradition, my son Mark was the one to get me involved with fly fishing. This came about on a two family vacation fishing trip to Jasper. My buddy and I were on Celestine Lake with the canoe, while the wives and boys stayed in camp. Mark (10 years old) went to talk to an angler fly fishing from the dock. When Cecilia went to apologize for the interruption she was told that it was no problem, he figured he had a new fly fisher coming up. Sure enough, as soon as I

hit shore "Dad! Dad! we have to get fly rods". That was the start.

After attending a Fly Fishing Seminar put on by Trout Unlimited there was no looking back. In the Edmonton area most of my fly fishing was lake fishing as good stream fishing was 4 to 5 hours away. There were a number of lakes stocked with trout. A couple favorites were Carson Lake, Star Lake & Hasse Lake. In the fall just before freeze-up and again after ice out I spent time fly fishing Lake Wabamun for Lake Whitefish and Northern Pike. Walleye took a fly readily in Smoke Lake. The Golden Trout is the only western Canada sport fish that I haven't caught on a fly. Most of my fly fishing had been on lakes though I did enjoy fishing streams. Since moving to Nanaimo I have fished mainly the local lakes and the saltwater both from the beach and from a boat up and down the coast.

There are so many good flies that it is hard to pick a favorite. My first choice for a lake fly is the TU Special '84, a wet fly developed by Reg Denny of Edmonton. A very productive Searun Cutthroat trout pattern is Tom Murray's Rolled Muddler. Prior to my early retirement I was employed by Alberta Government Telephones (now Telus) for 27 years.

I think I.W.F.F. has come a long way. Especially now that there is a good environmental project being supported. But I would still like to see more younger anglers get involved with the club.

Dave Degner

Fly Tying Sessions



Jack Toomer, left, Doug Peterson, Matt Haapala, Steve Wawrykow pay close attention to Gerry Stevens as he demonstrates the "Golden Ribbed, Beaded Hare's Ear" fly. Fly tying is every 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons at Gerry's and every 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings at Wayne Legge's. Call Gerry at 754-4124. He desperately needs fly tyer demonstrators. Call him with a list of materials needed and he will get them for the session you will be demonstrating. He would also like some requests for fly patterns that you would like to have demonstrated. Thank you Gerry for your hospitality and for organizing these sessions.

List of Videos

See Jim McEwan to Check These Out

- 12 FLY FISHING MAGAZINE – OLYMPIC TROUT & STEELHEAD
- 13 THE ESSENCE OF FLY CASTING – MEL KRIEGER
- 14 FLY FISHING STILL WATERS – ALF DAVIES
- 16 SURVIVING THE HOOK – D.F.O.
- 17 RELEASE 'EM RIGHT – D.F.O.
- 21 TROUT FISHING – STEVE WAWRYKOW – IWFF
- 23 STEELHEAD FISHING – IWFF
- 27 MAGIC OF FLY FISHING – STORIES OF MANY TRIPS
- 34 DUBBING THE LOOP WITH ROOTS
- 35 TYING BASS FLIES – IWFF
- 37 BASS – THE 99% SOLUTION – FISH'N CANADA
- 40 THE RIVER OF NO RETURN – IWFF REPORT
- 42 25 FISHING LAKES – MERRITT TO KAMLOOPS
- 43 - 1 NORTHERN LAKE TROUT – FISH'N CANADA
- 43 - 2 FLOATING FOR GATORS – FISH'N CANADA
- 43 - 3 LARGE MOUTH BASS – FISH'N CANADA



Golden Ribbed Hare's Ear

Bernie's Banterings

"You look like you have been in a bar fight!" my wife exclaimed in aghast as I entered the kitchen.

"Nope, just fishin" was my reply.

"So how can you get a fat lip fishing?" she queried.

"It was the revenge of a killer chum" I began.

"OK, so let's hear the rest of it"

"We were out at the Nanaimo River Estuary searching for fresh chum when I hooked a real fighter. He (assumed) pulled hard for about 15 minutes and I had him within 10 feet. The rod was bent at a 145 degree angle - it was lined up right in front of me just like a loaded slingshot. That was when that nasty chum let it fly. There was no time for evasive action. I felt around for missing teeth. Luckily, it was only a bloody mess of my lip."

Some lessons are taught. Some lessons are learned. Now when my rod is doubled over, I take a stance like an experienced fly fisherman. The other lesson learned is that if you ever need a reason to explain a fat lip this one worked quite well.



January Meeting Guest Speaker Skip Rimmer

Skip is a Fisheries Biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Section, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection in Nanaimo. He is responsible for managing the lakes on Vancouver Island, including the stocking



program. He lead off his presentation by fielding questions about fishing on Vancouver Island. Bob Crampton asked about the worms in the trout in First Nanaimo Lake. Although he was not aware of the problem at that lake, Skip said fish parasites are fairly common and usually harmless. The only problem parasite was a tapeworm that could infect people if the fish was eaten raw. He did admit that they are not a pleasant addition to your catch. In response to a question about changes to the department, Skip said that the stocking program is run the same as before, but is now funded directly from angling license fees. The "Habitat Conservation Trust Fund" also receives a portion of the license fees and money is apportioned annually to various organizations for fish and wildlife habitat projects. The handout listing the stocked lakes on the Island was a popular feature which quickly disappeared. Information about fish stocking, lakes, depth maps etc. can be found at: <http://www.bcfisheries.gov.bc.ca/fishinfobc.html> The main presentation was Skip's slide essay "Fly Fishing New Zealand's South Island" which was his best of many fishing trips over the years. It was taken in February a few years ago with his son, three friends and a local guide. They fished different lakes or rivers each day, mainly for browns and rainbows. The occasional chinook was also hooked. Since the country historically had no native salmon or trout, those fish have all been introduced. With few exceptions, there were hardly any other anglers to be seen.

January 27, 2004 Meeting



Bob Leverman giving his contribution to the Gilly to a nearly record setting group at the January meeting. There were 10 signed guests - the most for at least the last two years. Although there were only a few recitals of fish caught since the last meeting, the "Gilly" grew by over \$30.00.



Brian Mowatt, the tenth guest to sign in, was the winner of the Gilly Draw - a gift certificate from "The Fly Fishing School".



Ed Tremblay, right, was the winner of the Fly Draw and collected his prize from Harold Tinling.

Tall Tales Book

A collection of tall tales and humorous incidents are being assembled into a booklet and hopefully a book. The stories from the last two years are documented but more are needed. If you have any old or new ones, please call Bernie at 390-3266, email: bheinrichs@shaw.ca. Do not worry about grammar or spelling. Even an outline of a story or photos would be greatly appreciated.

More January Meeting



Jim Whitling shares his fishing experiences on the Stamp River during the “Gilly” portion of January’s meeting.

Teom Lin’s Wood Carving



Lady Amherst

Displayed at the January 27th meeting. A 3D carving of the famous Lady Amherst fly which is very popular for Atlantic Salmon on the East Coast and can be purchased for \$600.00. Check out Teom’s web site at: www.fishartgallery.com to view his other award winning works.

2004 BCFFF Annual General Meeting

Island Waters Fly Fishers has been chosen to host the 2004 BCFFF Annual General Meeting. The AGM will be held at the Coast Bastion Hotel on May 1, 2004.

The weekend will actually begin on Friday night when our club will be hosting a “Meet and Greet” at the Coast Bastion. It is hoped that some of our guest speakers will be able to attend and we will all have an opportunity talk fishing with some of the provinces best known fly fishers.

The actual general meeting will be held on Saturday morning from 09:00 to 12:00. The trade show will also be open at 09:00 and is open to all who would like to attend. Our guest speakers will start at 1300 hrs and will run until 1600 hrs. The trade show will also be closing around the same time. It is also hoped that we will be able to attract some top fly tiers to demonstrate their talents during the trade show. The AGM Banquet and Auction will start at 1800 hrs for viewing the goods for auction and cocktails; dinner will be at 1930 hrs. The auction will include a live and a silent auction that will run throughout the evening.

There is also a good possibility that the F.F.F. will be offering certification for fly casting instructors. We are currently exploring options for locations and feasibility for offering the program. If anyone is interested in becoming certified keep an eye on the website for details. The AGM, Banquet and Auction are open to all members to attend and we are looking forward to a good representation from IWFF.

Wanted

Ten flies from each member to help fill up the fly box (built by Harold Tinling) to be donated at the BCFFF AGM May 1, 2004. If each member chose their two favourite patterns and tied five of each, we would have enough to fill the box. This has been a very popular item in previous auctions and is a good money maker.

Editor's Note: This fly pattern and write up was submitted to Art Lingren for his soon- to- be- published book "Contemporary Fly Patterns of British Columbia". Art has given permission to publish these in the IFFF Newsletter.

Dave's Bead Head Woolly Bugger

Originated and contributed by Dave Connolly



Hook: Size 6 to 12 Mustad 9671 and size 4 Mustad 3906

Thread: Olive or Clear Mono 6/0

Tail: Olive Marabou with 2 or 3 strands of body material added

Body: Arizona Diamond Braid #4 Peacock or #17 Olive Peacock

Hackle: Olive green saddle, palmered

Head: 3/16 brass bead for larger hooks and 5/32 brass bead for small hooks

Intended Use: Wet fly for lakes and rivers

Comments: I started tying this variation of the Woolly Bugger in 1996. In my opinion, it is much more versatile than the standard version. It is easy to use in shallow water with a dry line as it sinks well with the bead head. As well, it works well fished deep on a sinking line. Its materials, especially the Arizona Diamond Braid body, are very "buggy" and attractive. If I were to choose one wet fly to cover most situations, this would be it. I have tied several variations, the most effective using black marabou and black hackle with either #5 Black Peacock or #7 Ruby Black Arizona Diamond Braid. The fly can also

be tied with barbell eyes so it lies upside down and fishes weedless. These black variations work well, but the long term, steady producer is the olive.

I have been using this fly extensively for seven plus years and have found it to be a consistently excellent producer for cutthroat, rainbow, brook and brown trout as well as grayling. More often than not it equals or out produces other patterns that are used at the same time.

This fly has caught fish in virtually every lake I have used it in. On Vancouver Island it has worked well in Fuller, Chemainus, First and Second Nanaimo, Quennel, and Horne lakes. In the Interior of the province, I have used it in the Merritt, West and East Kootenays, Kamloops, Chilcotin, Cariboo and Peace River areas with great success. On one trip with this fly I had a great evening of fishing on Atlin Lake at the mouth of the Atlin River, catching 14" to 18" grayling.

In addition to the lakes I have used this fly with good success on the Cowichan and Big Qualicum rivers on Vancouver Island, the St. Marys and Elk rivers in the East Kootenays and the Thompson River near Kamloops.



The Buck Steelhead

by Peter Huyghebaert

This story won the "Best Tall Tale" at our Tall Tales Contest last October.



Our annual late October hunting & fishing trip to the Chilcotins was turning out to be a bust. Not a grouse! And the fishing at our secret little lake - pitiful!

As luck would have it we ran into a couple of natives who suggested that we try the outlet of Talayoko Lake for Steelhead. We checked our Rec Atlas and it not only mentioned Steelhead but also showed us the way there, about three miles further than the old bush road..

The next morning we put my 13 ft aluminium canoe on top of the truck and headed for the lake, arriving at a washed out creek short of the outlet. Unfazed, we launched and started paddling with great expectations. It was a beautiful sight. The slick current broken by numerous boulders spelled Steelhead!. My buddy Harold held the canoe in place as I shot out 80 to 100 feet of line with my favourite fly. Three casts and bang, a solid take from a huge fish! He burned line off the reel. Thank god I had a 20 lb leader on my 9 weight. Hard to believe, but he started towing us back up the lake. I pumped and reeled like mad, trying to bring him in closer. I gained some line but then realized that I was just pulling the canoe closer to him. He finally turned and came straight towards us.. Something hit the side of the canoe, hard!. I looked down and saw water on the bottom, thinking a rivet had been popped as the fish

took off.. He slowed down as I started pumping again. Once more he turned on us and this time I knew it was him when the canoe was hit with a long glancing blow. The water started pouring in. We swamped. The fish broke off. We were in the water. I frantically pulled the rip-cord on my vest and bobbed to the surface. We made it to shore in spite of the freezing cold water, but he had pulled us nearly back to the outlet and the wind had come up. We faced a cold three mile walk along a rough wilderness beach.

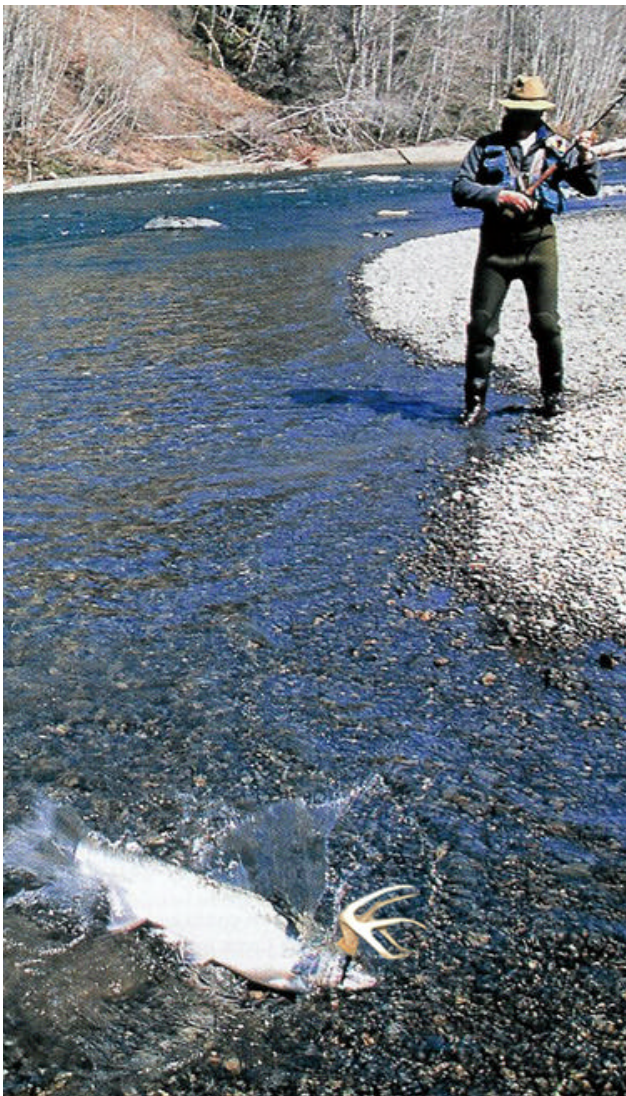
Harold suddenly pointed to the lake, "look", he cried "a boat". We yelled and waved and were shortly picked up by a group of native fisherman who took us back to our truck. We spent no time in getting back to camp, stripping off, warming up and having more than a few shots of liquid heat. Then off to bed still a bit shaken by our experience.

The next morning we had early visitors. It was the same group of natives who had helped us out. They had picked up my canoe and brought it back for us. As I began to thank them, one pointed out the long, clean cut on the bottom left side. As Harold and I looked, he smiled and said "looks like work of big Buck Steelhead". We laughed and then he said "this stuck in canoe", holding up what looked like half a pair of deer antlers. He handed it to me as they jumped back into their truck and left.



Buck Steelhead

We looked closely at the antler. Harold shook his head and said “Good God is that velvet at the base”? and, unbelievably, we realized that the velvet was covered with distinct rings of scales.



This angler heeded Peter’s advice to only stalk the Buck Steelhead on foot. Leave your canoe for tamer fish.

Editor’s note: Normally it is the editor’s policy to require a signature on letters but the author of the following was concerned about threats and repercussions from this scathing attack so he requested anonymity.

Chairman,
Island Waters Fly Fishers.

Dear Sir,

Recently I was a guest at one of your meetings and I listened with enjoyment as members related their experiences on the streams and lakes of our beautiful province.

I was deeply impressed by the collective knowledge and wisdom displayed regarding matters piscatorial and the grasp of the principles of the esoteric science of taxonomy. I refer, of course, to the description of the “Furry Trout”. I do recall, however, that many years ago (in Ontario) a reference was made suggesting the existence of this wondrous creature. I was, however, appalled – nay, dumbfounded by the reaction of many members. I refer to the incredulity, the raucous laughter, the hoots and howls of derision, the cynical hand-clapping and the ribald comments which those informative stories and their unfortunate authors received. Indeed it appeared to me that not even the required modicum of verisimilitude was accorded to those tales or the tellers. Further, I suggest that those unbelieving listeners might well be reminded that the narrators, as paid up members, deserve to be respected as honorable men and be accepted (at the very least) as persons of probity, distinction and veracity.

If, indeed, there existed in the minds of those listeners the slightest doubt as to the authenticity of the stories they were privileged to hear, surely a glance at the wall above the executive table where hang the portraits of some of the most distinguished leaders of Christendom lending such a spiritual atmosphere to the proceedings evolving beneath them. Surely. I say, such an ambience should preclude, nay, banish any soupcon of disbelief that might exist in the mind of any gentleman listening and convince all that the wondrous tales we were vouchsafed to hear were completely innocent of any fabrication, verbal invention or terminological inexactitudes.

I remain,
A Well-wisher.

Vancouver Fly Fishing Exposition



They arrived in style! Chris Depka, left, Ed Tremblay, Bill McColl, Doug Peterson, Bernie Heinrichs, Jack Toomer, Ray Evans and Larry Bishop. Bob Leverman, Peter Huyghebaert, Wayne Legge, Harold Tinling, Ron Busche and Larry Miller took conventional transportation and shunned the publicity. A big “thank you” to John O’Brien and Harvey Stern for organizing the trip and to Chris for his initiative to carry it to completion. John and Harvey were unable to go. All agreed that this is a “must do” trip next year - either Vancouver or Washington.

Calendar of Events

February 24, 2004

Regular meeting at 7:30 pm in the Ukrainian Hall, 4017 Victoria Ave. Guest speaker: Ian Forbes.

March 23, 2004

Regular meeting at 7:30 pm in the Ukrainian Hall, 4017 Victoria Ave. Guest Speaker to be announced.

April 17, 2004

Spring Banquet at the ABC Restaurant (North of Woodgrove Centre).

May 1, 2004

BCFFF Annual General Meeting, Bastion Hotel

Noon Socials and Luncheons

At 11:30 am every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at the Muddy Waters Pub (half price specials).

Fly Tying

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 1:30 pm at Gerry Stevens, 620 Hawkins St. 754-4124

2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7:30 pm at Wayne Legge, 5701 Malibu Terrace 756-3114

Demonstrators: Please call Gerry Stevens at 754-4124 with a list of materials that will be required to tie your fly. He needs a few days notice.

For Sale

12 ft. Seanymph Sport Flat Bottom Aluminum Boat. Fore and aft anchor systems. Factory wheels. No dents just paint scratches from regular use. \$850. Bob Crampton 753-7879.

Membership Renewal

Membership renewal is due February 24, 2004 (the date of the general meeting).