



January 2013

Volume 13, Issue 1



Here are the Cowichan Fly Fishers award winners for 2012. From left, Ted Brookman - Environmental Award, Dennis Popplestone - Club president, Dennis Ramshaw - Member of the Year, and Norm Evans - Unsung Hero. Congratulations to these three and to all club members who worked hard on our projects and supported the club in so many ways over the past year.

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

Executive for 2011

President - Dennis Popplestone

Treasurer - Maggie Davenport

Secretary - Laura Chilcott

Past President - Donovan Lynch

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If you wish to receive the newsletter by email in PDF format, or wish to be removed from the mailing list, please contact: [devina@teddystackle.com](mailto:devina@teddystackle.com)

## Cowichan Fly Fishers 2013 Schedule of Events

This is a tentative calendar only, and events will be added as they develop.

Thursday, January 3	Annual General Meeting
Thursday, January 17	Fly Tying Demo
Thursday, February 7	Business meeting
Thursday, February 21	Draw for Alphabet Flies
Saturday, February 23	Club Tyathon - 9:00 - 2:00
Thursday, March 7	Business meeting
Thursday, March 21	Alphabet Flies
March 29 to April 1	Westwood Lake Campout / Fishout
Thursday, April 4	Business meeting
Thursday, April 18	Fly Tying Contest & Casting Competition
Thursday, May 2	Business meeting
Saturday, May 4	Kids Learn to Fish Day - Weddles (Chemainus) Lake
Saturday, May 11	Tom McConnell Derby - Fuller Lake - tentative
Thursday, May 16	Baggie Contest
Friday, May 31 to June 2	Campout at Kyt & Kenzie's / Bear Lake Fishout
Thursday, June 6	Billy's Fun Night
June 9 to 23	Interior Fishout
2013-06-16	Charlie Stroulger Bass Tournament at Shawnigan Lake
Thursday, July 4	Business meeting - tying pink flies
August	Cluxewe - fishing for pinks
Thursday, Sept. 5	Business meeting
Thursday, Sept. 19	Tying Coho flies
Friday, Sept 27-30	Salmon Point fishout
Thursday, Oct. 3	Business meeting & vote for Awards
Thursday, Oct. 17	Guest Speaker - to be announced
Thursday, Nov. 7	Business meeting
Thursday, Nov. 21	Annual Auction
Thursday, Dec. 5	Last Business meeting of the year
Friday, Dec. 13	Annual Banquet and Awards night

## Shawnigan Creek 2012 - A Review - by Ted Brookman

Our work started early in the year with applications to Pacific Salmon Foundation, Provincial Gaming Branch and to Erica our Community Advisor for a small amount. We received funds from PSF and Erica's but even though we got it the Provincial Gaming money has not come through as yet. We have had a tremendous year!

The maintenance of the stairs down and replacement of damaged rails to ensure the safety of all was tackled first. Dull stuff like putting duroid shingles down on the treads to prevent slipping. Repairing our cages, with the idea of protecting waders from tears (this can be quite shocking to the system when you are suddenly at water temperature in the fall!), making the sides of the trap building a little more difficult for the otters to get in and finally replacing the diffusion nozzle felt wrap so as to keep Coho from wedging into the space.

We start all the work with the removal of as much of the sand and rock from the trap as we can. Thanks to Scott Noble and the kids from Shawnigan School!

Once the trap was cleaned out we then started on the cage repairs. Ok all done. Now we wait for fish.

Combination of a small pulse flow and a rain event ----- Here they come!

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Here we have Trevor's last email to us of the year. It sums up very well the work that has been done this year. Our trucks taking our fish to their final home put on close to 1000 kilometers each during our season! Some time soon we will be getting our promised smolts from Goldstream. Rebuilding our poor year is going to take time and good ocean conditions.

Hi folks,

The following is a brief update, to 17 November, 2012, of Coho transportation to the upper reaches of the Shawnigan Creek watershed. A more detailed spreadsheet is available if required.

### Shawnigan Creek Coho Returns, 2012 Summary.

15/10/2012 Heavy rain after two months drought.

Coho moved into trapping facility Sunday Evening.

Estimated 250 + Coho to move.

29/10/12 Estimated 500 Coho to be moved Wed. & Thur.

31/10/2012 Estimated 2,500 to 3,000 in the estuary at Shawnigan Creek.

13/11/2012 Sixteen Jack Coho were taken and frozen whole for classroom dissection later.

15/11/2012 An equipment malfunction caused an early halt to today's operation.

Repairs will be made and about 400 Coho will be moved on Saturday.

17/11/2012 Tow rope had worn part way through railway cross braces. Protective sleeves installed over braces and replacement tow rope borrowed. All Coho transported.

Trapping facility closed down after an abundant return and very successful volunteer effort.

## Statistics from Trevor

### Number of Coho moved to the upper reaches of Shawnigan Creek

Date	# Of Trips	Male	Female	Jacks	Total	Total to date
15/10/2012	10	140	166	35	341	341
18/10/2012	2	21	19	26	66	407
21/10/2012	3	38	36	22	96	503
31/10/2012	18	282	323	67	672	1175
02/11/2012	17	245	304	39	588	1763
04/11/2012	20	272	401	54	727	2490
06/11/2012	18	275	300	44	619	3109
08/11/2012	12	167	246	17	430	3539
13/11/2012	16	199	315	(16)	530	4069
15/11/2012	8?	118	120	2	240	4309
17/11/2012	13	193	227	7	427	<u>4736</u>
Species Totals		1950	2457	329		

After checking the numbers some of the previous totals have changed slightly. Considering each Coho is handled about five times at, lets say 12 pounds each, that's about 23,700 fish at 12 pounds or about 284,000 pounds of Coho. No wonder you all feel so tired!

Many exciting things happened along the way this year apart from record Coho numbers. We had an amazing number of folks come down to the trap and see what was going on. This was due to our two trailers having signage stating live fish and the fact that we seem to be always in the community --- moving fish. I usually work at the trap passing fish up to the deck to go into the troughs for sorting. On one occasion I went up the stairs to see how things were going at the top and did not recognize any of the folks working! Trevor was the only one I knew, the rest were all new volunteers and they were excitedly asking me "how many more fish did we have to move today." This is indeed what we want, community engagement at the base level. We had Scott Noble have two hatchery Coho delivered to his school by our drivers they were missed by the sorting folks of the day. This was a good moment for Scott because the only marked fish in this brood year are Scott's Shawnigan school project fish. He was thrilled to have the students see the two fish. The heads were turned in so we will maybe find out where they come from if not Shawnigan creek. We have begun talks with three other local schools about ways students can get involved, the teachers are very interested. A property owner has given permission for us to set up a smolt fence. Staffing the fence may be difficult but we will find a way. Counting in and out we hope will add knowledge of these fish and further expand the community that cares for them.



*From left, Norm Evans, Guy Colbourne and Bob Vessey put in another wet day at the fish trap at Shawnigan Creek. They are waiting to load the trolley for another trip to the top.*



*Doug Milne at left found that you can also get a little wet at the other end of the track loading the fish tank trailer.*



*Dennis Ramshaw, above helps Doug unload the trailer and release the coho into the creek above the falls. At least 17 different Club members showed up to help at one time or another along with many other community members. Several stalwarts were there almost daily.*



*Jim Block presented this set of educational posters to the Club at our banquet in December. Jim developed these with Maggie's help. They have already been used with school groups and to provide information when soliciting*



*The posters were made at a very favourable cost by Creative Sign Design in Victoria. They also made the new decals for the tank trailers free of charge.*

*This is what it's all about! Another beautiful coho is lifted in to the tank for a ride to the spawning grounds.*

## Blasts From the Past Fly Patterns

We have an archive of fly patterns and fly samples from the early years of the Cowichan Fly Fishers. Some patterns are from club members who are not longer with us for various reasons and others are from long-time members like Ken Thorne, Ted Brookman and Norm McKenzie. These were compiled in the olden days so the originals are often hand written and a little hard to read and there are no photographs. I would like to start publishing a few of these patterns in each newsletter. I will ask some of you to help me out by tying up some flies to check that the written patterns are easy to understand and so we can get some pictures. Let me know if you are interested.

- Devina

Let's start with:

**The Guinea Combo** - by Paul Mahoney from 1995

I found this easy to tie and it looks like a good fishing fly. Paul developed it and found it very successful in many lakes.

Hook - Mustad R73-9671 sizes 8-12  
Thread - Black 6/0  
Tail - Pheasant body feather  
Body - Peacock Herl  
Wing - Guinea Fowl hackle  
Head - Peacock Herl



1. Tie in thread at rear of hook and tie in pheasant body tail approximately 2/3 the length of the shank.
2. Tie on 5 strands of Peacock Herl and wrap to 2/3 of the way up the shank of the hook and tie in guinea hackle.
3. Wrap the hackle 2 or 3 turns. Tie them to lie back and then tie in peacock herl again.
4. Wrap the peacock to form the head. Tie off and whipfinish.

Note - You can see in the picture that Paul has a small line of red at the butt and at the head. Try using red thread or tying in a strand of red floss in these spots.

The Cowichan Fly Fishers now has an online presence. Have a look at our new Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/CowichanFlyFishersAssociation>

Thanks to Kathy Chilcott for her ingenuity and expertise in setting this up.

We have quite a few photos on the site already and will be adding fly patterns and reminders regarding club events.

## Summer Trips - by Mike Nadeau

I had a chance to go on a couple of fishing trips this last summer on Island lakes that seldom get fished. I did not realize how many beautiful places were here to experience that seldom get to see a fly rod.



### Megin Lake

The first place was Megin Lake outside of Tofino. Half an hour ride by plane into a lake with an old cabin that has withstood time and is surrounded by old growth cedars that seem to reach endlessly toward the sky and beyond. We were rained out but I will return next year. Fishing was slow due to the rising level of the water on the lake but from what I saw there are some very large fish here. This place is very secluded so if someone needs to forget about the rest of the world and its stress, this is the place to be.

### Donnar Lake

The second trip took me into Donnar Lake which is just outside of Gold River. This road is only accessible by quad but we used a small Suzuki to get in. It was 15 kilometres by rough road which to me is not for the faint of heart. Almost 3 hours to get to the lake and much more grey hair added to my head! Then 4 miles by canoe to the other end of the lake to our camping destination where we slept in small tents.

I could not believe that such a place still existed on this planet!

We camped by the water and I had some of the best fishing in my life. I'm sure most of these cutthroat had never seen a fly before, by the way they were feeding. Every bite was an explosion on the water. You could see at least 20 feet deep into this emerald coloured glacier water which made for phenomenal sight fishing. I spent 4 days looking at some of the most breathtaking scenery I've ever seen.



I believe I left a piece of myself at both of these lakes. I know access is limited into these places but the trips and hardships are soon forgotten when you spend time there.



## **Fly Pattern - Tape Wing Caddis**

Our friend Sue Schneidmiller showed us this pattern. She found the idea at [ospreyflyfishers.com](http://ospreyflyfishers.com) from Peter Caverhill.

**Prepare the taped feathers** Get some clear hockey tape (the PVC type not your normal scotch tape which isn't water proof).

Lay out a strip of tape sticky side up (secure each end with small pieces of tape so the strip won't roll up.)

Select feathers. These can be from grouse, partridge, pheasant, hen neck or whatever coloring and speckling you feel you need for your caddis pattern.

Prepare the feathers by stripping off the fuzzy part. Lay each feather, shiny side up, along the tape strip. I find it helpful to start with the feather tip, then pull gently back on the feather and lay the remainder of the feather down. This tends to pull the feather fibers into a more compact package.

Cut each feather away from the strip and cut around the feather (longer bladed scissors help here).



### **Size and cut the wing**

Fold feather in half along feather stem with shiny side up. Make first cut from bottom of feather stem to top forming a triangle. Second cut is across from outer edge to stem. The third cut removes the corner at the top producing a sort of heart shape. Remove the point at the bottom of the feather so when you tie it on it will wrap around the hook creating a tent effect. Trim to fit the size of hook as necessary.

### **Completing the Fly**

Hook can be Tiemco 2457, 2302, Mustad R50 or C49S. Tie a layer of thread from eye to hook barb. Dub on a body of your choice forward. ( I used muskrat.) Leave about 1/4 inch of space behind the eye. Tie on under wing of either a CDC feather, or a small strip of white packing foam coloured with permanent marking pen. A bright colour makes under wing stand out.

Under wing should reach the back of hook. Next tie on the prepared tape wing extending a little past the underwing. Remember to let it curve round both sides of hook. This will give the wing a tent effect. Next tie on a dry fly hackle to match hook size and wrap forward to hook eye. Tie off and whip finish.

A little floatant will keep it floating like a cork.

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

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