



Editor's Eddy

This time, in this year of musical editorial chairs since Terry Donaghue stepped down, the task for this issue has landed in my vest pocket. You will undoubtedly notice a slant towards conservation news. This is mostly because Terry used to insert reports of conservation work into the *Single Haul* as I submitted them. This time, however, nothing has been reported in over a year, and the entire 2001 summary is given in this issue. Although some of the news is fairly old, I have made a point in the last several years of giving credit to all participants on each workday – something which I hope will become a club tradition.

The next issue will be more angling-oriented, no matter who is the editor. And there will once again be a few drawings to liven things up.

As many of you know, I was scheduled to phase out as Conservation Chair over a period of time, while familiarizing a successor with the ongoing projects and politics. Due to an unforeseen change, however, you will have to put up with me for a while longer. Our involvement in rehabilitation efforts is far too important to be left dangling, and I will continue to participate and represent IWFFC as much as possible. As a matter of fact, plans for 2002 project events are already in place (see *below*.)

Nonetheless, IWFFC has been seeking a replacement who, in my opinion, should ideally have an strong interest - perhaps passion - in conservation, as well as the awareness that great fishing in this modern environment is the result of no less than great caretaking and vigilance. Mike Ewaschuk, a biologist and the senior member of the 2001 UCRR1 work crew, has been getting involved lately. He knows the Credit well and certainly has the passion for conservation. We'll see what develops.

Bob Kuehnbaum, April 17, 2002

My Alberta

Jim Stangowitz, Calgary

When someone mentions Alberta fly-fishing, one stream is likely to pop to the forefront of an angler's consciousness; the Bow River. If one was a bit more familiar with Alberta waters, a few other names would crop up: the Crowsnest perhaps, maybe the North Raven (alias Stauffer's Creek), and possibly the Ram River. After all, these

are the waters that have been touted in magazines and videos.

Of course, the Bow deserves its reputation as a great river. It is undoubtedly the best trout river in Canada and one of the best in the world. But, there is much more to Alberta trout fishing than a small handful of so-called "blue ribbon" streams. This curious label tells us more about what sells magazines and video cassettes than it does about Alberta's trout waters. So, let's go on a voyage.

If we pull out a map, we will find a significant drainage that heads east to Hudson's Bay. The South Saskatchewan River starts where the Bow and Oldman join. Not far downstream there is another confluence where the Red Deer River mingles its output with that of its sister rivers from further south. Together, these three drainages represent a huge amount of southern Alberta's trout waters. All we have to do is trace them to their sources. A quick check will show that we are dealing with a good sized chunk of the Rocky Mountains. In fact, if one began at the northernmost extremity and began hiking south, one would cover over 300 km before reaching the Alberta-Montana border. But that wouldn't be the end of the voyage. If one wanted to reach the southernmost headwaters, one would venture into Montana. You see, rivers don't know about mundane human creations like borders.

If we packed our fly rod along on this epic voyage, it would need to be a very good one. We would be unlikely to cover all the thousands of kilometres of fishable water, or visit all of the lakes and ponds where trout reside, even in a lifetime. Luckily for us, there are many places along the way to renew our fly collection and buy another pair of wading boots. Ours will be long worn out before we ever finish the trip.

If we look closely and cast well, we could catch many fine fish on the journey. We will find the natives: cutthroat trout, bull trout, lake trout, mountain whitefish, Athabasca rainbows (the only rainbow species native to the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains), and grayling. To them, we can add those that man has introduced: rainbow, brown, brook and golden trout; splake (a hybrid of brook and lake trout), and; others, including cutthroat/rainbow hybrids. As good or bad as man's initial intent may have been, these fish will all be naturally reproducing - at least the ones in the moving waters (Alberta has not stocked moving

waters with hatchery trout to since 1961). We will also find waters that have recently seen native species reintroduced; places where brook trout have been removed and cutthroats from wild stocks put in their place.

There will be other wildlife too. The majestic bighorn sheep, moose, elk, mountain goats, deer, wolves, cougars, coyotes, black bears and - the most respected of all - the grizzly. Indeed, if we are lucky we will be fortunate enough to spot animals that most people never see in their natural habitat. If that isn't enough, there will be the ubiquitous mountain vistas - enough to fill a thousand photo albums, and each one perfect in its own way.

I don't think you have truly lived until you've heard a mature bull elk bugle his challenge in the crisp autumn air, or glassed a mountain meadow only to spot a mother grizzly and her cubs digging for ground squirrels. Then again, perhaps it is kneeling on a sand bar to examine the tracks from a passing cougar, and then glancing along its trail only to spot a patch of fully blooming Indian paintbrush and buttercups. Along many of our trails we would find Alberta's floral symbol, the wild rose. We'd be awed by meadows in full bloom, and great forests of spruce, pine and aspen. In cirques we'd spot glaciers that feed the rivers; in valley bottoms the beginnings of the great rivers. And then there are the 'fishy' places.

On this voyage we'll find the salmonids, my *raison d'etre*. There will be cutthroat trout, grayling, brook trout and golden trout all taken from gin-clear high mountain lakes. You know the sort of lakes I mean: the ones where the cold water bites deep through your waders, and where you can see trout rise through 10 feet of water to take your tiny blue-winged olive. If we are wary and move carefully, we will spot rainbows holding along the bottoms of streams. They will be moving a few inches right or left to sip in another mayfly nymph. Late in the day, we'll spy some big browns moving into the shallows to chase dace and trout fry. If we fish small streamers and woolly buggers in deeper holes, we might be rewarded by the smashing strike of a voracious bull trout. If we are really lucky, it will be one of the far too rare leviathans that were once so common (an 8 to 10 year old fish that is measured in pounds, not inches). If we arrive early enough, we might find a lake trout cruising the shallows, seeking a last meal before returning to the sanctity of deep cold water. We'll be treated to the aerial acrobatics of a cutthroat/rainbow cross, with its telltale red slashes under the jaw, that has been seduced by our well cast Adams. Then there's always the possibility of 2 lb brook trout that hides in the

stained water of one of the many beaver ponds that dot these mountain streams. There may be the sight of a school of mountain whitefish churning the surface of a pool to a froth as they feast on an evening hatch.

All of these, and so much more, are what really make up Alberta trout fishing. Yes, they are most often smaller fish, but they are just as precious as their larger cousins. Some of them even more so because of the sheer magnificence of the places they live. Once you stand knee deep in one of these streams and cast to rising fish with the Rocky Mountains dusted by snow and the aspens turning color as your backdrop, you are seeing the best nature offers. You will also know what it is about this land that makes me call it home. Trout fishers' heaven!

About the author: Jim is a native Albertan who currently resides in Calgary. He has fished widely in western North America, written web-based articles and occasionally guides. This article was sent to Eli Robillard about a year ago. Some day, we'll figure out how to get in touch with Jim. He's fishing somewhere, I guess. – Ed.

Sewage Spills on the Credit River

On March 22, 2002, *The Toronto Star* reported that major bacterial contamination of the upper Credit River took place through discharges from the Orangeville sewage treatment plant (STP) between April and June last year. They apparently were caused by high waters, warm weather and an excess of sewage sludge in the holding tanks. Before July, the town was having a problem finding a disposal site for the sludge. Orangeville's rapid growth has obviously caught up to its STP capacity.

The Star reported *E. coli* levels 15,000 times normal (although it was actually 150X acceptable levels), and there were other contaminants as well. Rae Horst, General Manager of CVC, told *The Star* that some invertebrate life was killed, but damage to fish was unknown. As far as we are aware, there were no reports of fish kills downstream from Alton, but few anglers fish the headwaters where the spills occurred. (Some inexplicable murkiness was noted by at least one resident angler as far downstream as Sligo, and there was at times a pronounced organic odour around Cataract where people often swim on hot days— *Ed.*)

A strange sidebar of this issue is that neither CVC nor the Cities of Brampton or Mississauga were informed until very recently, almost a year after the fact. Although MOE was told

of the situation, *The Star* stated that “the law doesn’t require municipalities to be notified in such situations.” This is a serious issue, and one would assume that communication links will have to improve.

Many readers may not be aware that Orangeville has been affecting the Credit for quite some time. The town draws its water from cold aquifers that, eventually, would partially discharge into the Credit drainage. However, the water taken goes through domestic use and is mostly returned to the river directly from the STP. This continuous discharge probably helps to provide a good base flow, but the water is appreciably warmed. Because the river drains Island Lake, the STP discharge likely warms the river in winter, but may actually cool it a bit in the height of summer (this has never been determined). A beneficial peculiarity of the main Credit River, as demonstrated by temperature monitoring during the UCRRRI program, is the decrease in summer river temperature down-stream to Charleston Sideroad due to seepages and springs.

Report of 2001 Conservation Activities

Bob Kuehnbaum, Conservation Chair

In 2001, much of IWFFC’s conservation energy – of both the monetary and human kinds - was directed towards the Upper Credit River Rehabilitation Initiative (“UCRRRI”). The field activities were organized by Ontario Streams and the Greg Clark Chapter of Trout Unlimited, while IWFFC assisted the effort through volunteers. IWFFC also supported the work crew through a \$4,000 cash contribution and the purchase of temperature dataloggers by way of an OMNR-CFWIP grant. Our own main effort was a tree planting project at Cataract, which is technically out of the UCRRRI area of interest. Plans for a joint IWFFC-TUC-OMNR rehab project in the headwaters of Silver Creek at Scotsdale Farm in Georgetown were postponed due to a landowner difficulty. Also, a woody structure emplacement project in “the meadow” had to be delayed due to a lack of available trees. Both of these projects are rescheduled for 2002.

Last year, there were 75 person workdays put in on IWFFC projects and by IWFFC members on other projects (mostly UCRRRI). This is down from the 103 in 2000, but still a very healthy number since we had all the people we needed.

Thanks to all those who made the 2001 conservation activities a success. It’s gratifying to see such good support.

Earth Day Activities, April 22 On Sunday, April 22nd, the annual TUC sponsored Sligo clean-up and an Ontario Streams tree planting day on the Grange property near Alton were scheduled to be part of the worldwide “Earth Day” events. The Grange planting is also part of the UCRRRI. For that, Doug Forder of OS did an excellent job of pulling in a mob of volunteers, with a little help from IWFFC and TUC. In all, 39 people - including several energetic high-school students - showed up at the Grange property where 800 more cedar trees now reside along the banks of the Shaw’s Creek upstream from the junction of the Credit River. IWFFC members who attended one or both of the events are: Ted Armstrong, Andrew Bruce, Roy De Guisti, Brian Greck, Mark Mulford, Ken O’Brien, Dick Quince, Bob Thomson and Blair Williams. Appreciation also goes to Mike Murakami and his son Gary who found out about the event through the IWFFC web-site.

IWFFC Sponsored Tree Planting at Cataract, May 5. Our third annual tree planting (a.k.a. gathering of fly fishing fogies) in Forks of the Credit Provincial Park happened on May 5. The locale was the open area of the former mill pond immediately above the Cataract. According to legend, the dam was blown out not long after WWII, but the flats hadn’t naturally re-vegetated with trees, other than a few poplars relished by the local beaver clan. Twenty-six volunteers gave up a total of 82 hrs on a perfect weekend morning to plant 400 very healthy 4-5 ft cedars, mostly along the left bank. IWFFC’s efforts since 1999 have basically filled in all major open areas through the entire reach of river from Forks of the Credit to Charleston Sideroad. The few remaining areas can be easily planted with small scale efforts, and our main focus will now shift upstream of Charleston Sideroad into the area of the UCRRRI.

Sincere appreciation goes to Dave Beaton of Credit Valley Conservation for his help with equipment, and to Sebastian Banas, Andrew Bruce, Eric Carr, Robert Cristant, Kat Cruickshank, Sean & Elliott Deighton, Tony Gardner, Bob Lundy, Mark Mulford, Doug Nicholson, Ken O’Brien, Dave Potosky, Challen Pride-Thorne, Andrew & Sophie Roberts, Mark Skursky, Chris Thorne, Jim & Matthew Wenger, Blair Williams and Len Yust. A special note of thanks goes to Dave Connor and Tim Hartley who came from Windsor for a fly fishing weekend and dedicated one-half of one of their two days of freedom to help out on this project. Recognition is also due to: OMNR for providing a \$1,750 grant for this valuable exercise and for allowing planting on Crown land; Blue Circle

Aggregates for allowing passage through their property off McLaren Road which made possible delivery of the trees directly to the site, and; the Cataract Inn for use of their parking lot. It was a great day, even if the fishing afterward was ho-hum!

TUC-Sponsored Lunker Structure, July

14. As a project of the Upper Credit Rehabilitation Initiative, the Greg Clark Chapter of TUC sponsored the building of a lunker structure into an eroding bank of the Credit River on the Epnerners' property, just downstream from the Melville dam. Work was financed by an OMNR CFWIP grant. The lunker structure - built of wooden skids, backfilled and planted with shrubs and grasses - will provide habitat for aquatic animals and minimize the effects of bank erosion, a concern of the landowners. Twenty-one people showed up. Of these, IWFFC members included Andrew Bruce, Sean and Elliott Deighton, Brian Greck, Kathryn Maroun, Bob Morris, Ken O'Brien and Mike Warrian.

TUC-Sponsored Riffle Enhancement,

August 25. Another TUC workday involved the improvement of riffle structures in the Credit River on the Charles Sauriol Conservation area, within the UCRRI area. Of a dozen volunteers, four were IWFFC members: Andrew Bruce, Kathryn Maroun, Bob Morris and Mike Warrian.

TUC-Sponsored Tree Planting, October

21. More than 250 cedars, hardwoods and shrubs were planted along the Credit River on the "Cinnamon Toast" property located between Beechgrove Sideroad and the Upper Credit Trout Club. This was also an OMNR CFWIP supported project of the UCRRI. More work will be done in 2002 to complete the required planting on this property. Twelve volunteers did the dirty work. Six of these were IWFFC members, including Andrew Bruce, Brian Greck, Bob Morris, Ken O'Brien and Mike Warrian.

Spawning Surveys, November 10.

The annual fall spawning surveys focused on the UCRRI area between Cataract and south of Orangeville. Unfortunately, there were insufficient volunteers to do the entire traditional Inglewood to Cataract reaches in brown trout territory, except for the Sligo and Meadow areas. IWFFC members who came out for a last crack at odorizing their neoprenes before the long winter were: Ted Armstrong, Don Arthurs, Derek Giles, Roy de Guisti, Bob Morris, Ken O'Brien, Dave Potosky, and Ken Simpson.

IWFFC Bronte Creek Workdays,

September 9 & November 11. Bill Christmas organized his annual cleanup day on Bronte Creek,

removing fallen timber to clear channel flow, and providing instream cover. Bill also coerced into helping HAFFT members Greg Birett, John French, Ken Glassbergen and Karen Smith, IWFFC's George Genyk and Val Spring, and local landowners Martin Hochstein and Liz Cox.

Bill also organized a fall spawning survey with Ken Glassbergen and Greg Birett. They recorded the highest number of brown trout redds (57) since 1985; the health of the river is obviously doing reasonably well. Little doubt that Bill's vigilance and efforts have contributed significantly. In all, 80 hours of volunteer work were logged on Bronte Creek this year.

As if that weren't enough, Bill participates in a committee which developed and is now implementing a watershed management plan for Bronte Creek under the management of Conservation Halton. Excellent job, Bill!

The Grand River. IWFFC is well represented on the implementation phase of the Grand River Fisheries Management Plan. Bill Christmas is serving on the Tailwater Committee which is reviewing various aspects of the popular "brown trout waters" below Bellwood dam, including assessment, fish stocking, regulations, and rehab work. Long-time club member Vic Cairns is on the same committee, but representing DFO. Gary Allen, who has been involved continuously with the GRFMP since its inception six or seven years ago, as well as the Exceptional Waters project, is a member of the Migratory Committee which covers the lower Grand River.

Annual Conservation Workday Draw

The draw for the participants in 2001 conservation workdays was belatedly made at the April 16 club meeting. Congratulations to **Andrew Bruce** who won a 4-piece Loomis GL-3 rod donated jointly by G. Loomis Inc. and IWFFC. Andrew is a former UCRRI work crew employee - now with MOE - who comes out on many workdays. Congratulations, Andrew, for a well deserved prize.

Remember, you can be eligible for the 2002 draw each time you, as an IWFFC member, participate in a conservation project anywhere (IWFFC or otherwise). Non-members who help on IWFFC days are also eligible.

2002 Conservation Workdays

Dates for most of the IWFFC and TUC workdays on the Credit River have been set for the upcoming season. They are:

April 21st: TUC-sponsored tree planting on the "Reid property", where Hwy. 10 crosses the Credit R. between Caledon village and Orangeville. 9 am – 12 noon.

April 21st: TUC-sponsored clean-up of the Sligo agreement waters and the Forks area. 9 am – 12 noon.

May 4th: IWFFC-sponsored tree planting on Town of Orangeville property off of Hwy. 10. 9 am – 12 noon.

June 8th: IWFFC-sponsored tree planting at Charleston Sideroad bridge area, east of Caledon village. 9 am – 12 noon.

July 14th: TBA, related to UCRRI.

August 17th: IWFFC-sponsored log-jam building project in the "meadows", Forks of the Credit Provincial Park.

November 10th: Trout & salmon spawning surveys.

Date TBA: IWFFC- & TUC-sponsored tree and vegetation planting at Scotsdale Farm near Georgetown, on a tributary of Silver Creek.

For updated information on any of the above, you can check the IWFFC web-site, or contact Bob Kuehnbaum, IWFFC Conservation Chair, at 905-276-6684.

IWFFC's Bill Christmas will be holding one or two workdays on Bronte Creek again this year. If you're in the western GTA or Hamilton, your help would be appreciated. Please get in touch with Bill at 905-330-7083.

Fame in Our Midst

Although I have been fishing with Ken O'Brien on a number of occasions, I found out only last year that our club Treasurer, a mild-mannered accountant, used to occasionally transform himself in his portable phone booth (borrowed from Dr. Who?) into a world-class angler. Actually, Ken (a C.A. as well as C.E. - for *Champion Esoxian*) is known in monster fish circles as the guy holding the Canadian muskie record - a 65 lb (29.5 Kg) female which he pulled from Georgian Bay in 1988. It is also a world-record fish on 12 lb line. A replica of the fish at last year's Spring Fishing Show made me ponder that the original probably didn't weigh a lot less than Ken. Since he caught it long before his complete conversion to flyfishing, we can forgive

him for hooking it on a 3 inch Rapala while he was trolling for walleye. Incredibly, it was the first muskie he'd ever caught. For a thorough chronicle of the event, see the February 1989 issue of *Ontario Out of Doors* (Ken has a closet full.)

Ken quit muskie hunting and took up flyfishing for much smaller quarry when he began working for a major wireless company which, for the sake of appearances, requested that he dispose of his phone booth. Only Ken can tell you if he kept his cape and outfit with the "S" on the front.

Next Meetings

The following club meetings will wrap up the spring 2002 events:

Tuesday, April 2nd: Fly Tying

- Guest Tyer: Steve May from Grand River Troutfitters. Streamers.
- Intermediate level: Sheldon Seale

Tuesday, April 16th:

- A presentation on flyfishing in Russia, by Kathryn Maroun

Tuesday, May 7th: Fly Tying

Note that this meeting will be held at the Seniors Centre in the same complex as and just to the east of our usual venue.

- Guest Tyer: Jim Wenger – Jim will be demonstrating the "Crease Fly"
- Intermediate Level: Vel Spring

Tuesday, May 21st:

- On-stream gathering. Meet at the Charleston Sideroad (Hwy. 24) crossing on the Credit R., 6:30 p.m. Improve your casting skills with on-site instruction, or go and catch a brook trout or two.

Riverfest 2002

On Saturday, May 25, 2002, the 4th annual Riverfest is taking place in Norval. IWFFC has been invited to participate with fly tying demonstrations and kids' fly tying – possibly helping Don Whiting with fly casting demonstrations. Jack Imhof of TUC will do a kids' bug program. If you'd like to attend, check out www.canoe-country.com for information. If you'd like to help out, call Bob Kuehnbaum at 905-276-6684.

Proposal for Changes to Upper Credit River Angling Regulations

After considerable discussion amongst our membership and executive, IWFFC has submitted a formal proposal to the OMNR to alter fishing

regulations on the upper Credit River. The salient recommendations are:

- To disallow angling at any time other than the trout season;
- To lower the daily keep limit to a total of 2 trout of all kinds from the Escarpment to Inglewood on the main and West branches (except the present catch-and-release areas which would remain unchanged);
- To lower the daily catch limit to 2 brook trout above Charleston Sideroad and to establish temporary or permanent no-kill zones in sensitive areas;
- To change "single barbless hook" in the regulations to "single barbless point;" we recommended the application of this to all catch-and-release waters across the province.

These proposals would bring the regulations of the Credit in line with the Humber River (2 trout limit) and the Grand River (largely no-kill for trout.) With any luck, some or all of these proposals could be in place for the start of the 2003 season. We anticipate much further, perhaps heated discussion.

Conservation Policy Meeting

IWFFC has scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Credit Valley Conservation headquarters in Meadowvale, to begin discussions on creating a formal club conservation policy. Our membership is encouraged to attend, since your input can provide ideas and guidance. There is no set agenda. If you wish to discuss it, or find out how to get to CVC, please call Bob Kuehnbaum at 905-276-6684, or check the IWFFC web-site.

Quotable / Notable Quotes

"Some of the best fishing is done not in water but in print." - Sparse Grey Hackle

"I fish because I love to, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of man are equally unimportant; and not nearly so much fun."

- Robert Traver, *Anatomy of a Fisherman*

Do You Just Belong?

Are you the active member,
The kind that would be missed?

Or are you just contented,
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the crowd,
Or do you stay at home
And crab both long and loud?

Do you ever go to visit,
A river that is sick,
Or leave the work for just a few,
And talk about the clique?

There is quite a program scheduled,
That means success, if done,
And which can only be accomplished
With the help of everyone.

So attend most of the meetings,
And help with hand and heart,
Don't be just a member,
But take an active part.

Think this over, member,
Are we right or are we wrong?
Are you an active member?
Or - Do you just belong?

Modified from FFF wire service

As most of you know, the accomplishments of our club, including regular meetings, publication of the *Single Haul* and *Double Haul*, organization of our Forum, and the success of conservation efforts rely very heavily on the dedication and hard work of a surprisingly small number of individuals. A fact of life for the vast majority of non-profit or charitable organizations is that 10% (or less) of the membership does 90% (or more) of the work. Our time-donors receive no financial reward for their efforts - not even gas mileage!

These individuals believe, as do I, that the results and the success of our organization are worth the effort. Judging by recent attendance at club meetings and the continuing popularity of the Forum, it is evident that others do, too. Although IWFFC may not be perfect - and some things do filter through the seams - we are astonishingly well-oiled. Nevertheless, there are a finite number of hours in a day, and almost all of our organizing volunteers collectively squeeze an enormous amount of club affairs between their work/business, family and social lives.

Another fact of life is that our workaday lives are far more demanding than even a decade or so ago. Keeping our club going has therefore

placed additional load on our core volunteers. We need additional people – once in a while – to put a little bit back. Your offers of assistance are and always will be happily received. There is no amount of time too small to be helpful, whether it's a few hours on a tree-planting or redd count day on the river, an hour or two at the club booth or registration desk at the Forum, demonstrating fly-tying at a meeting, helping kids at the Spring Fishing Show, doing a mailing, fund-raising, or writing an article for the *Single Haul*. It's not necessary to take on a large task – but you can, of course. The fact is that the more people there are to help out, the less will remain unattended, and the smoother the club will run.

At my first IWFFC meeting almost 10 years ago, it was readily evident that I wasn't going to get much benefit from the club unless I got caught up in it. So Sheldon Seale took pity on me (or, more likely, recognized a fish on a line) and put me on Forum walk-in registration; I haven't looked back. I can tell you that, in addition to making a number of new friends, there have been many angling rewards.

So, when people - mostly recent members - ask me where the good fishing spots are, my standard response is: "GET INVOLVED!" This is not meant in any way to offend, but rather to encourage participation. Once in a while, I hear scuttlebutt that IWFFC is cliquish, but let's consider for a moment that the perceived cliquish types who talk amongst themselves at meetings have known each other for years through the club executive or Forum committee, or rolled rocks together on rehabilitation projects. Quite simply, they GOT INVOLVED. New members may be intimidated, but those same people are surprisingly approachable. If YOU get involved, it won't be long before one of them provides you with a tip for a destination, or a deadly fly pattern and – bingo – there you go!

What you will get out of IWFFC is proportionate to what you are willing to put into it. We ask you to GET INVOLVED.

And, of course, sincere thanks to all of you who have done so and plan to do more! - Ed.

Casting for Next Year's Program Topics

Are you taking an interesting (or unique) flyfishing trip this summer? Do you have an unusual experience related to angling in the past? Do you know a fair bit about a certain piece of water or waters that you are willing to share? Do you have lots of slides from a trip? Do you have a new or

unusual fly pattern or tying technique that you'd like to share with others? Do you like to talk?

If you can answer "yes" to one or more of the above, then you probably have or will have material or inclination for a guest presentation (slide show) or guest or intermediate fly tying demonstration at one of our club meetings. If you think you do, why not contact Ted Armstrong, our Program Chair, through the club phone or at his number (905-637-2058.) Ted's already working on the 2002/2003 schedule. Don't be shy; now's your chance!

Alternatively, you can put it in writing and submit it to this magazine.

Incidentally, your club executive has decided to award an as-yet-undetermined prize for the best submission. This is open to any member or non-member. Any risers?

The Usual Letter from the West

Jon Bisset is a fisheries biologist who worked for the OMNR and who was, for a while, IWFFC's and TUC's unofficial "chief custodian" of the Credit River. For his many efforts with the club in the 80's and early 90's (including working on the introduction of Special Regulations on the Credit), Jon was awarded IWFFC's President's and Maurice How Awards. In late 1997, Jon was evicted from the home of the Cutback family of Harris, Ont., and he settled in B.C. While in the east, he became a very proficient angler and, we've heard, he still flyfishes from time to time. Jon tells me that he feels at home in B.C., but he misses the Credit (understandably) and the IWFFC/TUC community. This e-mail correspondence from Jon to Don Moore was in response to one of Don's electronic distributions of fly patterns, this time about peacock herl thorax Usuals. – Ed.

Don: Thanks for the note on the "Usual." It's still the fly I tie and use the most, with the haystack and deer hair caddis as close second and third, at least for dry flies. They were also my favourites, like many people, on Whiteman's Creek, and the Credit and Maitland Rivers, among others. I think that was, at least in part, because I was usually short of flies - being a lazy and lousy tier, and giving away what I had in my box - and I could tie a dozen haystacks or Usuals in an hour or two before going fishing (or while fishing) because they are simple. Somebody (maybe Bill Christmas or Elliott Deighton) once said that it was one of the few flies that looked the same after one fish as it did after a few dozen fish - all chewed up.

I was interested, though, in the comment about the peacock herl body. I tied some #18's and #20's with the herl body last spring, and had some good dry fly fishing on the Crowsnest River in March. About a month later, I was fishing Larchwood Lake (about 20 minutes west of me), and not much was happening. No one was catching anything, and it was fairly windy. I was trying various flies on a sinking line, with no success. Two guys showed up in a row boat and promptly caught two nice fish on chironomid patterns, after which the action went quiet for about an hour. A hundred metres away from them, closer to shore, I saw a few fish starting to rise, so I paddled over in the float tube, and switched to a floating line, with a yellow bodied Usual (#16). On the first cast, I had a splashy rise and landed a nice, fat 17" rainbow. Within about a half an hour, I hooked about a dozen fish, from 15-20", and landed eight. About half of the fish were caught after pulling the fly under and letting it float back to the surface; the rest were caught just on the surface, or in the film (with yellow, herl, and olive bodies). The whitecaps pushed me off the lake (I was the last one off), but the "Usual" saved the day for me again; if all else fails, it usually catches a fish. A friend of mine on the Columbia caught some big Columbia rainbows up to about 6 lbs on it last September - the first time he had ever used it. Cheers, Jon.

Forum News

Winners of the Conservation Raffle:

First Prize: A lovely, framed print entitled "The Bubble" by Charles Betts. Won by Don Archibald.

Second Prize: A fly tying travel bag donated by G. Loomis. Won by a new member - John Greenwood of Dundas, ON.

Third Prize: An Integra pedestal vise. Won by Allen Moffatt of Lindsay, ON.

Winner of the Orvis 9-wt Rod Raffle:

Bob Douglas of Scarborough

Winner of the Ernest Schweibert Fly:

Eli Robillard, our Forum Chair.

Winner of the Landing Net (for completing Forum questionnaire):

Frank Reynolds of Brandon, Manitoba

Annual Awards – 2002

Yearly, IWFFC presents a few awards in recognition of the effort of certain individuals. With

the exception of the President's Award (decided exclusively by the President), the recipients are selected through input from Club members, including your Executive Committee.

For those who missed the Banquet this year, the following is a summary of the presentations on the evening of April 6th. (For more details, keep an eye out for our Summer Editions.)

Morris How Award - Sophie Roberts

To recognize one individual's enthusiasm and individual involvement in supporting the affairs of the Club.

President's Award – Don Moore

To recognize one individual who demonstrates a high commitment to the objectives of the Club

Greg Clark Award – Chris Marshall

To recognize contributions in the arts of flyfishing.

Roderick Haig-Brown Award – Jack Simpson

To recognize one individual's contributions and achievements in the field of conservation.

Jack Sutton Award – Jack Gartside

To recognize creativity and innovation in fly tying.

Special Award of Merit - Elliott Deighton

Elliott received a custom plaque and a display of mounted flies for his many contributions to the Club, including building shadow boxes and other mounts for the Forum silent auction, where they generate excellent funds for conservation.

Lifetime Membership - Bill Christmas

Bill has supported IWFFC in many ways, almost since its inception. He has been President, Forum Chair twice and he continues to run the video taping during our fly tying meetings. His current conservation accomplishments are outlined on page 4 of this issue.

Contacting IWFFC

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