

"Big" Canadian Trout by Kevin Cohenour

On August 3rd I flew to Calgary for my first ever visit to Canada, and what proved to be an interesting trip full of memories. I landed at the Calgary international airport and caught a cab to meet my fellow FFNWF member, Art DeTonnancourt, at the Best Western motel (not the "normal" Best western, this was a huge, five story facility). The next morning was to be our first of the four days we would spend fishing.

We arose and enjoyed a sumptuous breakfast in the motel dining room. They had a very good buffet that came to about \$6 U.S., and featured fresh fruits, pancakes and eggs made to order, and some tasty pastries (I had to try them all to be courteous). We departed and headed to the "Bow River Troutfitters" fly shop, a short 3-minute walk away. Our guide, Carl, met us outside; we loaded up, then headed off on the 30-minute drive to our put in for the day. After rigging up and loading the gear into the drift boat, we set off in search of a hungry trout.

The weather was rainy and cold. A cold front came through the province two days prior, and there were even some snow flurries the previous day! We settled in for some chilly, wet fishing, using the "hopper and a dropper" (a foam hopper pattern with a nymph tied on as a dropper at the bend). The fishing this day proved to be quite slow. After about one hour of fishing I had my first strike. I saw a large head break the surface and inhale my foam "Club Sandwich" hopper pattern. The fish felt the hook and took off. I could tell this was a decent fish by the strength of his pull. After an exciting fight, Carl netted the fish, a brown trout slightly over 26" in length. We were hopeful this was the start of a fantastic day of fishing, but the remainder of the day proved to be pretty slow. Art and I both caught a few fish, missed a few fish, and broke off a couple. By about 8 P.M. we decided that we had enough of the cold, and our guide rowed us downstream the last few miles to the ramp. As we neared the ramp Carl said that there were usually a few fish holding there, and sure enough, Art caught another. He proved to be true to his name as "nymph-maniac".

Day two was a beautiful sunny day, and we anticipated that a day of good fishing awaited. Our guide, George (a North Georgia resident who guides on the Bow in the summer) decided to give us a long float...little did we know we would get our money's worth this day. Most days the floats were 14 miles; this day George took us on a 22-mile drift.

The fishing was slow again, although we did catch a few now and then. The most exciting fishing was just before the sun dipped toward the horizon. Art was fishing with the nymph rig our



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Flies & Lies

SEPTEMBER 2002

guide had tied on, but decided to try a "Gray Hackle Yellow" wet fly (this was featured a couple of months back in our newsletter) instead of a nymph as the dropper. He tied on a size 12 and cast. Almost immediately he had a nice rainbow. After an exciting fight filled with acrobatic leaps, Carl netted and released the fish. Art cast again and hooked another (perhaps a steelhead as the Bow has rainbows, a strain of steelhead and browns). This fish broke him off. A quick re-rig, and Art cast and caught a third fish. Being a quick learner (???) I tied on a gray hackle yellow and tried my luck, which proved not too good. Art on the other hand, the exceptional nymph fisher that he is, caught a few more nice rainbows on the gray hackle yellow.

We again drifted downstream, and happened upon some feeding fish. Being a generous sportsman (or perhaps he was tired from landing so many nice fish???) Art let me fish to them first. I made several casts to these fish, but they were not interested in my caddis emerger pattern. By the time I re-tied in the dwindling light, the short-lived hatch and feeding was over.

We floated a little further down and stopped along a bank our guide knew held fish. He got out to look for signs of feeding. In the limited light, I saw a trout nose break the surface and sip a fly from the twilight-darkened surface of the river. I cast a size 16 Black Caddis above the ring, and to my surprise found myself tight to a nice rainbow. As full darkness ensued, we ended the days fishing, arriving back at our hotel about midnight.

Our third day found us again fishing with Carl. The fishing was a little better than the two previous days, and we each picked up a few fish throughout the day. The real excitement was right before dusk. We saw a pod of feeding fish and beached the boat. They appeared to be eating caddis. I made a few casts, missing a couple strikes (actually, being a true sportsman I was pulling the fly from their mouths before they could get hooked to make it more of a challenge...really!). I suggested Art come give it a try since I



President's Report

The meandering anglers, Jerry Aldridge, John and Karen Brand and Tom Finkle have returned from their angling trek to the left side of the country. Jerry, Karen and John will tell us all about their latest

western trip at our September 3 meeting. We will also hear from Kevin Cohenour and Art de Tonnancourt about their skitter to the Bow River, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Art may also tell us about his fishing adventure in the Shenandoah National Park, VA. In mid September, Art de Tonnancourt and Tom Regina will journey westward to throw some flies at the trout hiding out in the San Juan, the Colorado at Lees Ferry and the Green River and several waters in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. (Does anyone work anymore? Who is paying for my Social Security?)

Its time to plan for our annual fall family picnic. Once more Harry Bruno has made arrangements for us to use the pavilion at Shoreline Park. Our annual fall family picnic is scheduled for 5 October, 2002 from 11:00AM till at Shoreline Park, Gulf Breeze. John Brand and Bill Locher will prepare the fresh fried fish and boiled shrimp. Members are asked to bring a covered dish. VP Kevin Cohenour will provide liquid refreshments. In order to help determine how much fish, shrimp, and drinks we will need, please indicate on the Picnic Sign Up Sheet if you will attend and how many guests you will bring. The sign up sheet will be available at the meetings in September. If you cant get to the sign up sheet please call 626-0642 or email kbrand@santarosamri.com John and Karen Brand with your intentions. The cost per person - 16 and older will be \$5.00. Attendees 15 and younger - Free. This year your \$5.00 fee will not only get you eats and drinks, but also a chance to win a new 7 wt., 4 piece Temple Fork Outfitters fly rod with matching reel. The \$5.00 fee will be collected at the picnic and your ticket will be placed into the drawing for the rod and reel. Again, please do let John or Karen know how many will attend.

At our September 3 meeting Brent Goodman and David Bernard will give a short briefing on our web site which should be up and running in October.

VP Kevin Cohenour is in the process of making arrangements for casting instructor, David Lambert to return to our club for another casting instruction session. Those of us who attended last years class were well pleased with all David had to teach us. Your club is paying for the instruction. So watch for an announcement as to when David will be at our club - Dont miss this opportunity to get some mighty fine fly casting instruction.

REDUCE YOUR IMPACT ON FISHING ENVIRONMENT - Don't litter. Most anglers have their day enhanced by the beauty of their surroundings. Litter, including tackle packages, beverage cans, cigarette butts, fishing lines, leaders, and tippet material can spoil the day. Fish and other wildlife, such as birds, can get tangled in discarded line and die. Deposit your trash in designated containers or carry it out....Tom

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FFF REPRESENTATIVE - Larry Goodman

FISHING TRIPS - David Bernard
Travis Akins

LIBRARY - Kevin Cohenour

MEMBERSHIP - Karen Brand

DIRECTORS AT LARGE - John Brand
Bill Locher

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

BUSINESS MEETING - 1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM
BULL SESSION - 2ND THURSDAY, 6:30 PM
CLINIC - 3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM
BOARD MEETING-4TH THURSDAY, 6:30PM
FISHING TRIPS - AS SCHEDULED

Meetings at Miraflores Park, 17th Avenue between Belmont and LaRua St

Hook	4 XL streamer hook, sizes 6 to 10
Thread	3/0 or size "G" yellow, tan or gray
Body	Tan, gray, and yellow/orange/peach craft foam
Legs	Brown, yellow or orange round rubber legs
Indicator	Bright yarn



1. Laminate three squares of foam together (gray on top, peach or yellow or orange in center, tan on bottom) with rubber cement. Elmer's Craft Bond rubber cement dries clear. Secure hook in vise. Coat hook shank with super glue. Attach thread behind eye and wind to bend. Return to midshank. Cut a width of laminated foam equal to hook gape and two shanks long. Cut a shallow slit in middle of bottom layer of foam (tan).

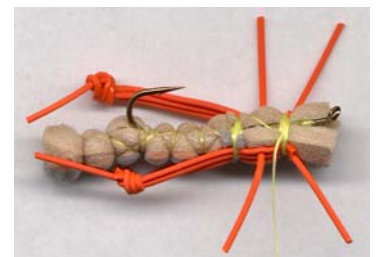
Stop cut about 1/8" short of both ends of foam.

2. Add a drop of super glue to the back 2/3 of shank. Press foam onto shank with front edge even with back of hook eye. Make three or four wraps at midshank. Spiral the thread back and make segments (about three to the bend). Continue behind the bend and make a couple more spiral wraps and segments. Spiral wrap thread back forward to midshank tie in.



3. Use three strands of rubber hackle for larger sized flies, two strands for smaller; do not separate into individual strands...leave "connected". Knot hopper legs. Tie rubber legs on each side of hook. The leg joint (knot) should be near the rear of the fly. Pull up on foam and front of legs. Wind thread to slightly behind hook eye. Pull foam back down. Secure foam at this point, then secure front of legs. Separate the strands of rubber on the rear leg (below the knot) and front leg, and cut off all but one strand on each leg.

4. Push bodkin needle through center of foam between front and rear leg tie in wraps. Push bobbin threader wire through this hole and "thread" a piece of leg material through the hole. If you add a drop of super glue as you pull it through it will make it permanent.



5. Tie in some bright yarn on top the back for a strike indicator. Whip finish, cut thread and cement. Gather up yarn and cut it short. Round front and back corners. Color in eyes with a permanent marker and add striping to the legs if desired. Even length on all four front legs to 3/4" to 1".

*Pensacola Chapter of the Coastal
Conservation Association
Proposal for change in Shrimping
Regulations
Contact Sheet Loves for more info*

The Pensacola Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) is dedicated to protection of coastal fishing resources and protection of recreational fishing interest. We believe that current shrimping regulations are allowing a significant adverse impact on finfish populations and recreational fishing interest in our local waters. Our primary interest in changing the existing regulations is to reduce the excessive impact of shrimping on juvenile finfish in our estuary (Pensacola-Escambia Bay System). What is considered "bycatch" to the shrimpers, is mostly juvenile fish, many of which are juvenile sport fish. We know that sport fish are not among the "top ten" species, however many of the "top ten" are bait fish needed to attract and support larger fish and maintain the health of the estuary. In addition, two of the "top ten" (spot and croaker) are considered food fish to some and catching them is often a source of great enjoyment to young kids learning to fish. To reduce the impact of shrimping on juvenile finfish we propose three rule changes; 1) A two month closure for the entire system, 2) Closure of Escambia and East Bay from January 16 through September 15, and 3) permanent closure of seagrass areas (lower Pensacola Bay and Big Lagoon). We have included a map identifying these areas.

1). Part of the excess shrimping in the Pensacola Bay system is brought about by the fact that we are so close to Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana: all of which have closed shrimping seasons in the spring of the year. As a result while those states are letting their shrimp and fish grow to larger size (bigger shrimp are more valuable and bigger fish to have a better chance to escape the nets), our waters are being shrimped at maximum rate. We have counted more that 35 boats per day during the month of May, many of these from out of state. Millions of juvenile fish are just getting big enough to get caught in the shrimp nets during the month of May and therefore, May is the month of maximum fish bycatch ratios due to the fact that juvenile fish are just big enough to get caught in the nets but too small to escape. This is backed up by scientific publications. To reduce this impact, our proposal is to close the entire Pensacola-Escambia Bay System from April 15 to June 15. This would still allow local shrimpers to harvest essentially all of the brown shrimp that come into the bay to grow each year since brown shrimp come into the bay in the spring and don't start leaving until late summer and fall. In addition, they would get larger more valuable shrimp and would not have to share them with out of state shrimpers during closed season in AL and MS. The benefit to the estuary would be increased juvenile fish production leading to a much better food chain and overall

fisheries production.

2). The second part of our proposal is to close the areas currently open to shrimping in Escambia Bay (north of a line from Emmanuel Point to Garcon Point) and East Bay (East of the Garcon Point Bridge). While we would prefer that this area be closed to shrimping all year, we will accept that opening these areas during the fall from September 16 to Jan 15 for daylight shrimping only would allow continued harvest of white shrimp with minimal impact on juvenile fish. However, redfish are spawning during this period and we would like to protect these important recreational fish, so we do not support opening currently closed areas during this period (Escambia Bay north of I-10 and East Bay east of the power lines).

3). The third part of our proposal is to protect existing seagrass beds and important recreational fish associated with these habitats such as juvenile Gag Grouper. Even the shrimpers at the July workshop in Pensacola said they do not want to drag over seagrass beds. The areas we are seeking to close for protection of seagrasses are areas where seagrasses have been identified in recent scientific publications (Lores et al 2000). To address this we propose closure of all of Big Lagoon and the area east of a line from the Fairpoint marker to the Deerpoint marker, and south of a line from the Deerpoint marker to Fort Pickens Ranger Station. (A map was included with this proposal but is not included in the newsletter)

Everyone who has an interest in fishing in the Pensacola Bay area should support this-- We have a chance to really make a difference!

And here is the latest information on the Florida Fish and WildLife Commission meeting. The final agenda is out and the marine issues will be on Thursday, Sept. 5th. The meeting will be at the Clarion Suites Resort on Pensacola Beach. They do not give a specific time for each of the issues on Thursday, but shrimping regulations are Item 4. They will take a break at 11 to 1:30 for a groundbreaking, but will resume at 1:30.

The complete agenda can be found on the FWC website: <http://floridaconservation.org/commission/2002/sept/index.htm>

The Crackleback

Original Recipe by Ed Story

HOOK	Dry fly size 12, Mustad 94840 or equivalent
THREAD	Black 6/0 or 8/0
BODY	Pale morning dun turkey biot
SHELLBACK	3 strands of peacock herl
HACKLE	Dark furnace



1. Place hook in vise and lay thread base from eye to bend. Select a size 12 hackle and tie in at the bend with the hackle's dark side facing toward you. Measure the hackle with a gauge or gape of the hook (barb length 1 1/2 times gape width).

2. Place 3 strands of peacock herl on top hook shank with at least an inch extending rearward from the hook. Tie in the herl along the full length of the shank leaving a little room for the head of the fly. Return tying thread to bend. Cut 5 or so biots from the quill and tie in by the points along the full length of the shank starting at the bend. Bring tying thread forward to just behind hook eye.



3. Wrap the biots forward in firm, slightly overlapping turns to form the body of the fly. Tie the biots in just behind the eye and trim the excess. Some tyers like to use hackle pliers to wrap the biots; others prefer to wrap with one hand and use the other to keep the biots from unraveling. Apply a light coat of head cement to the biot body. Cracklebacks so treated have been known to last through more than two dozen fish.

4. Bring the peacock herl forward along the top of shank and tie in just behind the eye. Palmer the hackle forward with 5 or 6 turns and tie in behind the eye. Trim the excess, cover neatly with thread, whip finish the head and coat lightly with head cement.



Half N Half

Original recipe by Bob Clouser

HOOK	Mustad 34007, size as desired
THREAD	Strong 3/0 or size "G", color as desired (Bob uses Uni-thread 6/0, Lt Cahill color)
WEIGHT	Dumbbell eyes of desired size
TAIL	Four saddle hackles, bucktail
FLASH	Flashabou
WING	Bucktail of desired color(s)
OPTIONAL	Epoxy



1. Secure hook in vise. Using 10 diagonal wraps each direction, secure dumbbell eyes at the 1/3 back from the eye position. Make 5-6 horizontal wraps below the eyes, but above the shank, to pull diagonal wraps tight. Wind thread to bend and back forward to above hook point.

2. Select four saddle hackle feathers of desired tail color. Tail length should be two to three hook shanks past bend. Marry feathers up, two per side, curving inwards. Match tips together. Secure above hook point and wrap over butts to about mid-shank. Cut excess butts and cover with thread. Attach flashabou running down both sides of tail.



3. Cut a fat matchstick diameter of bucktail (same color as tail). Clean out under fur and attach at about mid-shank with a couple wraps of thread, tips to the rear, extending to middle of tail. With fingers, work the bucktail so it rotates around, encircling hook shank, flashabou and tail.

4. Cut a fat matchstick diameter of bucktail (if using two colors of bucktail this should be the lighter color), clean and stack. Secure in front of the dumbbell eyes with tips to the rear. The butt ends should be just behind the hook eye. Length should extend about a hook shank's distance past the bend. Wrap over the ends toward the hook eye covering the ends fully. Pull the bucktail back between the eyes and secure.



5. Cut, clean and stack another bunch of bucktail. Wrap over the butt ends and cover fully. Build a tapered head, whip and cement. If desired, coat head and eyes with epoxy, and rotate until cured.

Tyer's Corner with Jerry Aldridge

The flies for September are the Half-n-half and the crackleback. Bob Clouser combined some of the best features of his signature fly, the Clouser Minnow and Lefty Kreh's Deceiver, to create a hybrid of the two, hence the name. The HH is tied with the lead eyes of the clouser minnow and keeps the semi-weedless hook-point-up profile and the enticing jiggling action. The hackle tail provides that great bait-fish profile and appearance of bulk. For all its appearance as a large fly, it still casts quite easily. I like to use the HH as a near-shore fly, particularly in bright colors for schooling red fish. Kevin Cohenour adapted the recipe from Bob Clouser's tape in our library. I will teach it at the September clinic - Kevin offered some lame excuse about "fishing out west".

Ed Story from Feathercraft created the crackleback to entice Ozark trout although its appeal has proven to be wide-spread. Simple to tie and very durable, it can be deadly under the right conditions. Ed has always said to fish the crackleback as a dry fly until it sinks and then to retrieve as a streamer. Up until this summer, I had only followed half Ed's advice using the crackleback as a sometimes effective dry fly.

That all changed this summer when Karen and John Brand, Tom Finkle and I were fishing Clear Lake from our float tubes near my boyhood home in southern Idaho. Clear Lake is really a giant, slow-moving spring creek created by cold water springing from the wall of the Snake River Canyon. Clear Springs Trout Company, the largest producer of trout for the market in the world, discharges the cleaned up outflow from its hatchery into the lake. The result of all that is an incredibly fertile cold lake with lots of planted rainbows who have no clue they are not wild. In past years we had caught rainbows from 12-24", fat and strong enough to get to your backing.

But back to the crackleback. John was fishing it as a dry with his trusty Sage 0 weight and catching a fish now and then when something caused his fly to sink and, remembering what Ed had advised, started retrieving the crackleback under the surface. Wham! A nice fish. Cast and start retrieving. Wham! another nice fish. You get the picture and so did Karen, Tom and I. Every day we fished Clear Lake the crackleback worked its magic. More than once, all four of us had fish on! Among the four of us, we caught and released well over a hundred nice-sized rainbows every day.

Ed ties size 12 cracklebacks with a pale

yellow body and furnace hackle saying there is no need for any other size or color. I tie them in smaller sizes too, and in other body and hackle colors just for a little variety. Looking for all the world like a giant Griffith's Gnat or a small wooly worm, fish love them. Karen will lead us in tying the crackleback at the

"Big Canadian Trout" continued

was flubbing it up, jokingly telling him to show me how it was done. One cast later he was tight to a very nice rainbow. We were fishing the tail of the pod, so he let the fish work him downstream, and I slipped in and cast to the next fish above. I found myself tight to a very feisty rainbow that gave several acrobatic leaps, and led him downstream. This pattern continued for several fish. I tied on a feather wing caddis pattern and cast to a nice sized feeding ring. A very fast fish (perhaps a steelhead) took off upstream with my fly in his mouth and quickly broke my 5x tippet. We both caught several fish that evening and returned to our hotel about midnight happy anglers.

Day four found us in a boat with our guide for the day, Brent. We caught a few fish throughout the day, but the magic of the day previous and the evening caddis hatch did not repeat. We ended the day about 9 P.M. and headed back to the hotel two very tired anglers. After re-capping the four days of fishing we came to the conclusion we had fished about 40 to 45 hours!

All the guides indicated the fishing was off from normal during our visit. We caught about 30 to 40 fish apiece, of which most were quality fish over 20" and very strong. All the rainbows gave several acrobatic leaps when hooked, and the steelhead took off at a screaming fast pace. In fact, all the fish in the Bow are "wild", the river not having been stocked for decades. There are additional rivers an hour or two away that hold cutthroat trout, but we didn't take the time to try them out. Maybe another time.....





**PO BOX 1041
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September



2002

<i>S</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>S</i>
1	2	3 Business Meeting 7 PM	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Bull Session Fly tying and fish stories 6:30 PM	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Clinic-Casting, tying,tall tales, gourmet lunch 9AM
22	23	24 Board Meeting 6:30 PM	25	26	27	28
29	30					