

The Fishing Line



Volume 14 Number 2

November 2007

Welcome to the premier issue of *The Fishing Line*, The Crowsnest Angler's online newsletter! Over the past several years we have received numerous requests by readers asking us to publish the newsletter on our web site. We considered it for quite some time and finally decided to go ahead with the idea. These days, it seems more and more fly shops are publishing their newsletters online. It really makes a lot of sense, when you think about it. Printed newsletters are labor intensive and take a considerable amount of time and effort to produce. In addition, mailing costs always seem to be increasing each year. Perhaps the most time-consuming part of producing a newsletter is the amount of work involved in folding, sorting, attaching postage stamps and address labels, ...etc., prior to dropping them off at the post office for delivery. Special thanks are in order to everyone who helped with this task over the past fourteen years. We're going to continue to publish *The Fishing Line* twice a year – May and November. For those without Internet access, we'll have a limited supply of hard copies available for pick-up at our shop.

Initially, we planned to have guests register on our site, prior to viewing the newsletter, but have since decided against this. It's less complicated this way, and now everyone will be able to access it at any time. Unfortunately, we won't be sending out notification whenever there's a new issue of the newsletter available, so be sure to check our web site from time to time. Feel free to print a copy, or email the web page link to a friend(s). As always, please contact us with comments or suggestions. Enjoy!

fact, the closure may have helped some anglers discover waters they may not have otherwise visited. Let's hope we receive plenty of snow this winter and normal precipitation next spring and summer.

For current fishing conditions, call the shop at (403) 564-4333. You can also receive this information by visiting the Fishing Report Page in our web site.



Ben Gopp (R) of the The Crowsnest Angler, and his father, Lorne, with a beautiful Elk River cutthroat trout!

FISHING REPORT

Fishing conditions in southwest Alberta were quite good during spring and early summer. The Crowsnest River, in particular, fished as well as it has in recent years. Prolific insect hatches, including caddis and golden stoneflies occurred in June and July, and provided excellent dry-fly fishing. However, the region received little precipitation after mid-June, and water levels dropped quickly. The lack of rain in southern Alberta resulted in tinder-dry conditions, and in an unprecedented move the provincial government closed portions of the Forest Reserve in this area for part of the summer. Due to the high forest fire danger, all access and activities, including camping and fishing, were prohibited in the forestry during the closure. The Forest Reserve between Hwy. 532 (Indian Graves Road), south to the Waterton Lakes National Park boundary, was closed on August 1st. The portion of the Forest Reserve between Hwy. 532 and Hwy. 3 in Crowsnest Pass reopened on August 28th. The forestry south of Hwy. 3 remained closed until September 12th. Access to the Crowsnest River and other trout streams outside the Forest Reserve boundaries remained open during the closure. The forestry closure made it more difficult to access rivers and streams, but most anglers coped as best they could with the inconvenience. In

SHOP NEWS

STORE HOURS

We've changed to our winter hours. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. We'll resume summer hours in mid-May.

The Crowsnest Angler Fly Shop is an Alberta fishing and hunting license vendor. WIN cards and fishing licenses are available at the shop. British Columbia angling licenses may also be purchased at our store.

NEW WEB SITE

We're extremely pleased with our new web site and would like to thank Stuart Geers for putting it all together for us. Whether you're planning your first (or next) fishing trip to southwest Alberta, looking for current Crowsnest River fishing conditions, or are interested in a guided fly-fishing trip, there's plenty of information available in our site to help you. When you have a moment, take a peek at our site and let us know what you think. Any feedback would be appreciated!

The Crowsnest Angler Inc.

Phone/Fax: (403) 564-4333

E-mail: info@crowsnestangler.com

Box 400, 22614 - 27 Avenue
BELLEVUE, Alberta T0K 0C0
Web site: www.crowsnestangler.com

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

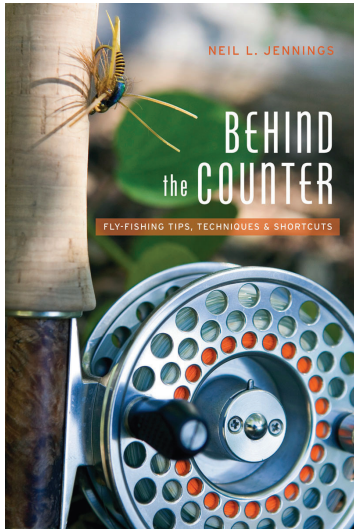
Christmas will be here before you know it. Here are a few gift ideas!

NEW FLY-FISHING BOOK

BEHIND the COUNTER

Fly-Fishing Tips, Techniques & Shortcuts

By Neil L. Jennings



In *Behind the Counter*, Neil Jennings offers tips, tricks, shortcuts and techniques. Whatever one's experience level, there are things in this book that readers will find useful or thought provoking. Jennings started getting serious about fly-fishing in 1973 and has fished that way exclusively ever since. From 1982 through 2003 he was a partner/owner in a retail fly-fishing shop in Calgary, Alberta. During that time Neil was behind the counter, answering questions and giving

advice to thousands of fly-fishers, from "wannabes" to seriously talented anglers. Over the years, Neil learned a lot about fly-fishing, some of it by good example and some of it by bad. This book is a distillation of the best of that experience. 6" X 9"; 192 pages. Softcover: \$24.95 CDN.

GUIDED FLY-FISHING TRIPS

A guided fly-fishing trip makes a perfect Christmas gift for the angler on your list. The Crownsnest Angler Fly Shop provides guided walk & wade and float trips in southwest Alberta and southeast British Columbia. Some of the rivers and streams we provide guide services on include the Crownsnest, Oldman and Castle rivers in SW Alberta, as well as the Elk and numerous smaller streams in SE British Columbia. In addition, we offer guided fly-fishing trips on a number of southern Alberta's trout and northern pike lakes. Our guides are among the most experienced and knowledgeable in the province. They're also very friendly and courteous and will do their utmost to ensure you have an enjoyable and memorable fishing trip. If casting instruction is required, our guides will be more than happy to assist. For more information regarding our trips, please feel free to contact us. Gift certificates are available for all our guided fly-fishing trips.

FLY-FISHING SCHOOLS

If you would like to register someone in one of our schools, we would be pleased to send you a certificate to present to this person.

FLY-FISHING PACKAGES

If you or someone you know is interested in learning to fly-fish, you may want to consider one of the complete packages listed below.

Scientific Anglers Graphite Package \$184.95

Includes Scientific Anglers 9-foot, 6-weight graphite fly rod (2-piece), SA Concept fly reel, WF-6 Ultra 4 floating line, 100 yards backing, System X waterproof fly box, instructional DVD, and a one-year limited warranty.

Temple Fork Outfitters Lefty Kreh Signature Series I Fly Rod Package \$325.95

This package comes with a 9-foot, 6-weight Series I graphite fly rod (2-piece), TFO Mayfly Cassette Reel, TFO WF-6 floating fly line, backing line, leader, and Springbrook standard cordura rod/reel case. The fly rod comes with a TFO lifetime warranty.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

David Lambroughton's 2008 Fly Fishing Dreams Calendar \$16.99

This calendar is always a popular gift at Christmas. It features outstanding photography, covering some of the best fishing destinations in the world.

Columbia Lufkin Flats Vest \$65.00

This vest has twelve pockets, including two large zip-closed pockets and ten Velcro-closed pockets. Also included are a rod holder, landing net, D-ring and removable fleece patch. Excellent value. Color: British Tan. Sizes available: Small/Med, Large/Extra-Large, 2X-Large/3X-Large.

FLY-TYING MATERIALS & KITS

Winter is the perfect time to tie the flies you will need for next season. We carry an excellent selection of fly-tying tools, materials and books, and invite you to stop by, or simply call us if we can be of help with your tying needs. We also assemble our own introductory fly-tying kit. This kit contains everything you need to get started, including all of the necessary tools, materials, and a book containing numerous fly patterns and tying instructions. We also offer beginner fly-tying courses (see Special Events).

Introductory Fly-Tying Kit "Trout Kit" \$94.95

Gift certificates available for any amount

CALL TOLL FREE

1-800-267-1778

(Mail Order & Guide Services)

SPECIAL EVENTS

For more information or to register for any of the schools and courses listed below, please call the shop. Gift certificates are available for all Crownsnest Angler fly-fishing and fly-tying schools.

The Crownsnest Angler Inc.

Phone/Fax: (403) 564-4333

E-mail: info@crownsnestangler.com

Box 400, 22614 - 27 Avenue
BELLEVUE, Alberta T0K 0C0
Web site: www.crownsnestangler.com

INTRODUCTORY FLY-TYING COURSE

In this six-week course students will learn to tie various fly patterns, including nymphs, wet flies, streamers and dry flies. Topics include: tool and material selection, proper fly proportions, knots and fishing techniques. Materials and instruction manual provided. Students are required to supply tools.

Instructor: Vic Bergman

Date: January 22 – February 26, 2007 (Tuesdays)

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

Location: The Crowsnest Angler Fly Shop

Cost: \$75.00, plus GST

2008 BEGINNER FLY-FISHING SCHOOLS

Three beginner fly-fishing schools will be offered in 2008. If you have been thinking of taking up the sport, consider registering in one of these schools. Topics and discussion will include: equipment selection, knots, leaders, casting instruction, entomology and fly selection. The day will be divided between classroom, dry-land casting and on-stream instruction. Students are required to bring equipment, lunch, rain jacket, waders or rubber boots. Equipment can be supplied, if required. Class size is limited to 5 students.

Dates: May 24, June 21 & July 5

Instructor: Vic Bergman

Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location: Crowsnest Angler Fly Shop & outdoor location TBA

Cost: \$100.00, plus GST

2008 CROWSNEST ANGLER FLY-FISHING SCHOOLS WITH JIM & LYNDA MCLENNAN

We're happy to announce that Jim & Lynda McLennan will be returning once again next season to conduct a number of fly-fishing schools for the shop. Several new schools have been added to the schedule. Details are listed below. This is a great opportunity to learn some great fly-fishing skills from two of the sport's most knowledgeable anglers. The McLennan Fly-Fishing Schools are always a lot of fun for everyone involved, and you're sure to learn a great deal. Register early, as these schools fill quickly.

**Upon registration in any of the McLennan schools, we will be able to provide a detailed list of equipment that participants will need to bring.*

LISTENING TO THE RIVER (Intermediate level school)

Spend a day with Jim, listening to the river and learning to understand what its saying. The focus of this school is observing the river and its surroundings in order to develop a fishing plan. The school will cover basic casting, and fundamental dry, nymph, and streamer techniques, as well as basic streamside entomology. The details of the curriculum, though, will be determined by the students' preferences, and by the river, the bugs, the weather, and the trout. This school is held on a river in or near the Crowsnest Pass, but the lessons learned here would have application wherever there are trout. This school is suited to anglers with some previous fly-fishing experience. Maximum of

six students. This was one of our most popular schools in 2007, so be sure to register early!

Instructor: Jim McLennan

Dates: Saturday July 12, 2008 & Saturday August 23, 2008

Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location: Crowsnest River or stream TBA near Crowsnest Pass

Cost: \$150.00, plus GST.

WOMEN'S INTRODUCTION TO FLY-FISHING (Introductory level school)

Spend a day learning the fundamentals of fly-fishing from a women's perspective. An introduction to a great sport. This school will consist of classroom and outdoor sessions. No previous fly-fishing experience required. Tackle can be provided.

Maximum of 10 students. Topics include:

- How do I get started and what equipment do I need?
- How does all this equipment work together?
- Connecting: lines, leaders, tippet material, knots, flies
- Learning to cast: Basic stroke, line control, single haul, accuracy, shooting line, retrieving line. The fly-fishing "Sequence"
- Basic fly-fishing terminology
- What flies do I use and how? Dry, nymph, streamer
- Where are the fish? Reading water.

Instructor: Lynda McLennan

Dates: Saturday July 12, 2008

Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Cost: \$150.00, plus GST.

WOMEN'S NOVICE/INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (Intermediate level school)

This is a Walk and Wade School on a stream in the Crowsnest Pass. It is intended for women who have had an introductory course or have fished for a short time and would like to learn or review fly-fishing techniques on the river. Content is adapted to each student's experience. Maximum of 6 students. Topics include:

Casting Review & Improvement

- Roll cast and roll cast pick up
- The fly-fishing "Sequence"
- Shooting and working the line, Accuracy

On The Water Dry-Fly Techniques

- Dry-fly delivery
- Getting a drag-free float
- Roll cast, roll cast pickup, mending, reach cast
- Shooting line, double haul
- Casting and line management

Reading the Water

- Where are the fish?

Demonstrations

- Nymph and streamer fishing

Instructor: Lynda McLennan

Dates: Sunday July 13, 2008 & Sunday August 24, 2008

Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location: Crowsnest River or stream TBA near Crowsnest Pass

Cost: \$150.00, plus GST.

The Crowsnest Angler Inc.

Phone/Fax: (403) 564-4333

E-mail: info@crownsnestangler.com

Box 400, 22614 - 27 Avenue
BELLEVUE, Alberta T0K 0C0
Web site: www.crownsnestangler.com

NYMPH/STREAMER FLY-FISHING SCHOOL (Intermediate level school)

This is an on-the-water school that focuses on the most productive subsurface fly fishing methods. This school is suited to anglers with some previous fly-fishing experience. Maximum of six students. Topics include:

- Reading water
- Fly and method selection
- Short and long-line nymph methods
- multi-fly rigs
- Shallow water nymphing
- Casting and line management
- Floating and sinking line streamer techniques

Instructor: Jim McLennan

Date: Sunday July 13, 2008

Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location: Crowsnest River or stream TBA near Crowsnest Pass

Cost: \$150.00, plus GST.

NEW MCLENNAN SCHOOLS FOR 2008

CASTING CLINIC — NEW, REVIEW, IMPROVE

A dry-land clinic designed for beginners and experienced casters. Each clinic is adapted to the experience and needs of the students. Alternative casting techniques for those who experience shoulder or elbow discomfort. Maximum of 6 students. Topics include:

- Basic stroke, false casting, casting accuracy, shooting line
- Reach cast, double haul, casting the clock

Instructor: Lynda McLennan

Date: Saturday August 23, 2008

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. Three-hour session.

Cost: \$80.00, plus GST.

AFTER THE CAST - FLY LINE MANAGEMENT

You can make a great cast, but what happens after the cast is just as important. This is an on-the-water class that will help you become a more effective and efficient fly fisher. Maximum of 6 students. Topics include:

- Delivery, mending, retrieving, shooting line
- Controlling slack line, pick-ups, reading water to get a better float

Instructor: Lynda McLennan

Date: Saturday August 23, 2008

Time: 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm. Three-hour session.

Location: Crowsnest River or stream TBA near Crowsnest Pass

Cost: \$80.00, plus GST.

*Students who enrol in this school and the Saturday morning casting clinic receive both for \$150.00, plus GST.

FLY-FISHING INTENSIVE (Intermediate level school)

A new, unique school for a maximum of four students. Takes place on a stream in the Crowsnest Pass. Students help design the curriculum through pre-school email correspondence with Jim McLennan. The small number of students and the chance to request specific topics make this a unique opportunity to improve

your fly-fishing skill and enjoyment. The class can address, but is not limited to:

- Casting improvement
- Reading water
- Dry, nymph, streamer technique
- Streamside entomology

Instructor: Jim McLennan

Date: Sunday August 24, 2008

Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location: Crowsnest River or stream TBA near Crowsnest Pass

Cost: \$200.00, plus GST.

THE FLY BOX

GLENN'S LEECH



This pattern was developed by Glenn Gerbrandt of British Columbia, Canada. It's an awesome leech pattern to use on lakes, and can be fished using a variety of retrieves. It's particularly effective when fished dead-drift using a strike indicator. This fly also works well on rivers.

Hook: Tiemco 2457, 2487, 2487BL, size 8-12, weighted.

Thread: Red, 6/0.

Tail: Black or dark brown rabbit-fur strip.

Rib: Fine gold wire, reverse-wrapped.

Body: Black or dark brown marabou, attached by tips and wrapped.

Tying Note: Attach the rabbit-fur tail to the hook shank, so that a small piece of the hide protrudes past the bend. This will prevent the tail from fouling around the hook. This pattern can be tied in other colors, including olive and maroon. You can also tie it using a bead-head.

MESSAGE

We welcome short stories, poems or angling anecdotes (500 words or less) for possible use in our e-newsletter. If you have something you feel our readers might enjoy, please send an email or mail it to our address.

Feel free to print a copy of this newsletter, or email the web page link to a friend(s). Also, please contact us with comments or suggestions.

In closing, The Crowsnest Angler would like to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2008!

Bye for now and good fishing!

Vic Bergman

The Crowsnest Angler Inc.

Phone/Fax: (403) 564-4333

E-mail: info@crowstnangler.com

Box 400, 22614 - 27 Avenue
BELLEVUE, Alberta T0K 0C0
Web site: www.crowstnangler.com