

The Fishing Line



Volume 15 Number 1

June 2008

FISHING REPORT

Spring arrived a bit late in Crowsnest Pass this year, compared to the past few seasons. Additionally, the spring runoff on the rivers and streams in the area was delayed, due to cool temperatures. The mountain snowpack in the Oldman River Basin was average to above average this winter. During the third week of May, southwest Alberta experienced heavy rain, with some regions receiving more than 200mm of precipitation. As a result, water levels on some rivers rose dramatically, and High Streamflow Advisories and Flood Watch Warnings were issued for a short period of time. Fortunately, no major flooding occurred in Crowsnest Pass and surrounding area. Once the rains subsided, stream flows receded to normal runoff levels.

Pre-runoff conditions were excellent on the Crowsnest River and fishing was very good. Ice-out on some of the area's trout lakes did not occur until early May. Salmonflies started to hatch on the Crowsnest during the last week of May, and as often occurs at this time of year, water conditions were less than ideal, as the river was in full runoff mode.

For current fishing conditions, call the shop at (403) 564-4333. You can also receive this information by going to the Fishing Report Page in our web site. When visiting the shop, be sure to check our "Fishing Report Board" for up-to-date fishing conditions of the regions trout waters and recommended fly patterns.

SHOP NEWS



Putting up siding on the new addition

CROWSNEST ANGLER FLY SHOP EXPANSION AND MAKEOVER



View of the addition from inside the fly shop

In early March we started construction of a new addition on our fly shop. After a lot of hard work, we're pleased to say renovations inside the shop are complete. We would like to thank Cliff White and staff (Cliff White Contracting – Hillcrest, AB) for a job well done. We're looking forward to the extra space the addition will provide. There's also more room to browse, something we're sure our customers will appreciate. We'll be expanding our clothing line, as well as the other product lines and inventory we currently carry. The existing store also underwent a complete makeover, including the installation of new flooring. The shop is bigger, brighter and better organized than before, and we invite you to drop by to check it out. Thanks to all those who stopped in to see how the renos were coming along and for all the positive feedback. Over the next few weeks we'll be putting up new siding on the exterior of the existing building, to match that of the new addition. After this, we'll landscape a bit around the shop, and our store makeover will be complete! We had a lot of fun posting photos of the renovation work on our web site and will keep them up for a while, in case you're interested in viewing them. To see the photos, simply go to the bottom of our "Fishing Report" page.

We've changed to our summer hours. The shop is open every day, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm.

The Crowsnest Angler Fly Shop staff members for the 2008 season include: Vic & Carol Bergman, Cathy Thomas, Ben Gopp and Terry Hrudey. We would also

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like to welcome Peter Amundsen to our staff. Peter is a long time resident of Crownsnest Pass and has recently retired from his dentist practice in Blairmore. Along with fly-fishing and fly-tying, Peter is also an avid photographer. Returning guides this year include, Leland Kirk, Gary Enzsol, Kelly Thomas, Tim Lysyk, Kelly Kizan, Jason Groot, Pat Kelly and Vic Bergman.

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

We would like to remind everyone that already has a WIN card to bring it along when you come to purchase your 2008 Alberta fishing license.

SPRING CLEARANCE SALE

(Discontinued Items)

All remaining Springbrook neoprene waders – 40 % off.
*Limited sizes available. Prices in effect while supplies last. All sales final.

FATHER'S DAY FLY-FISHING TRIP

GUIDED FLY-FISHING TRIP

Why not surprise dad this year with a guided fly-fishing trip for Father's Day. We provide 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 Alberta, as well as the Elk River, and numerous smaller streams in British Columbia. In addition, we also 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 and are very familiar with the surrounding waters. They are also extremely 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 happy to assist. For more information on our guided fly-fishing trips, please feel free to contact us.

TEMPLE FORK OUTFITTERS FLY-FISHING PACKAGE

Spring is a perfect time to learn to fly-fish. If you or someone you know is interested in learning, you may want to consider the complete TFO package listed below. This package is completely set up, so you're ready to go fishing right away! Also, be sure to ask about our beginner fly-fishing schools. For more information on these courses, check out the "Special Events" listed in this newsletter.

TFO Lefty Kreh Signature Series I Fly Rod Package \$239.99

This Temple Fork Outfitters package comes with a 9-foot, 6-weight graphite fly rod, TFO Mayfly cassette reel, WF-6-F fly line, and a rod/reel case. Fly rod comes with a lifetime TFO warranty. Backing line & leader included.

Gift Certificates available
CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-267-1778
(Mail Order & Guide Services)

SPECIAL EVENTS

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: Crownsnest Angler Fly Shop & outdoor location TBA

Cost: \$100.00, plus GST

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

We're happy to announce that Jim & Lynda McLennan will be returning once again this 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

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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.

NYPH/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.

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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

IMPROVED SOFA PILLOW



The Improved Sofa Pillow is a great dry fly to try early in the season, particularly when adult salmonflies or other stoneflies are present. This hair-wing pattern floats extremely well and is suited to rough water. It's a good dry fly to use when prospecting for trout in pocket water and other places where the surface of the stream is choppy or broken.

Hook: Tiemco 200R, 2302, Mustad 94831, size 6-10.

Thread: 6/0, orange.

Tail: Elk body hair.

Rib: Fine gold wire.

Body: Orange synthetic dry-fly dubbing.

Body Hackle: Brown.

Wing: Elk body hair.

Hackle: Brown.

Tying Note: The body hackle is tied in by the butt, in front of the dubbed body, and then palmered to the back. The wire rib is then spiralled to the front to secure the hackle in place, and trimmed.

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.

Bye for now and good fishing!

Vic Bergman

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