
October 2003
Issue XVIII

Fish Tales...

Fish Tales Fly Shop
A place to share fish tales;
A place to make friends.

Fish Tales Winter Hours (effective October 13, 2003):

Sunday & Holidays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed:

Christmas Day, December 25

Boxing Day, December 26

New Year's Day, January 1

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Visit our website @ www.fishtales.ca • Email us at sales@fishtales.ca

Adventures of Team Fish Tales

2003 has been a year of BIG BROWNS!

On July 4, American clients celebrated their country's Independence Day by catching and releasing a 26" brown. Three days later on July 7, a local client landed a 27" brown.

Many of you have probably seen the photos from a middle-of-the-night excursion to the Bow. Two young anglers landed large browns on stimulators between about 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. in late July. The largest measured 28" and was landed at about 3 a.m. Oh to be young again!

And on September 4, Terry helped local clients land the largest brown trout he's seen come out of the Bow. It measured 29 1/4" and weighed an estimated 10 lbs.

That said, it's now brown trout spawning time so watch where you're walking or better yet stay away from spawning areas altogether. Generally, the browns move toward the city to spawn although recent reports had aggressive browns near the 22x bridge.

Now is an excellent opportunity to take a walk along the Elbow. You're almost sure to see redds (spawning areas) and spawning brown trout. (Remember this area is now closed to angling.)

We're happy to welcome Ron Ambrose to the team. Ron's done his share of fill-in work for us in the past, but this September he joined us in an ongoing part-time capacity. Ron's fly fished for nearly 20 years and fished a large variety of species. Ron's a wealth of knowledge whether you're interested in fishing local waters or

want to learn about New Zealand trout waters or Florida flats.

With prime fishing season quickly coming to a close, we're refocusing our efforts on the fly tying walls. We've scheduled our fall and winter tying courses (see information later in this newsletter) and we've scheduled our Sunday afternoon seminars for November through January. Additional seminars will be posted on-line and a revised schedule will be available early in the New Year. Remember: whenever you attend one of our seminars your name is entered into a draw for a **GUIDED BOW RIVER FLOAT TRIP** during the 2004 season. The more seminars you attend the greater your chances to win.

Bob and Judy, the winners of last year's float trip enjoyed a day on the Bow River in mid-July.

The changing season also gives Fish Tales staffers a chance to explore other waters.... Some of us are headed west for our annual salmon trek. This year's pink and coho runs are reported to be some of the largest in recent history. Preparations for our westcoast adventures are in full swing. (Dave's currently sitting at his vise expanding our fly arsenal.) Dave and I are exploring new waters on Vancouver Island. Ron's taking another trip to the lower mainland's Vedder River. We look forward to sharing some new fish tales upon returning.

TUC Bow River & High River Chapter Events

The High River Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada is having another dinner and auction. This year's event is on Saturday, October 25. Tickets are available at the shop. The cost is \$35.00 per person.

The 12th annual Bow River Chapter Fall Splash dinner and auction is on Thursday, November 20 at the Coast Plaza Hotel. Tickets are available at the shop for \$60.00 each.

In addition, both chapters are conducting rod raffles. Tickets for both raffles are available at the shop. Cost \$10.00/ticket. Chance to win an Orvis rod/reel package (High River chapter) or Sage rod/reel package (Bow River Chapter.) Limited tickets available.

Electronic distribution of this publication....

We want to save postage and printing costs by continuing to move toward electronic distribution of this publication. Customers who receive this publication electronically usually see it five to seven days sooner, which gives them a jump start on any sales. If you'd like to receive this semi-annual publication electronically please send your email address to: daveb@fishtales.ca

Fly Tying Courses – Fall 2003/Winter 2004 Schedule

Introduction to Fly Tying – This five-week course starts with the basics of fly tying – tying the thread on the hook – and goes on to teach techniques for tying nymphs, streamers, and dries. Students learn techniques for dubbing, ribbing, hackling dry flies, etc. Introductory courses are limited to **six** students.

Course cost is **\$155.00**. Fees include an unbeatable fly tying kit containing all the tying materials students need to complete the course flies plus plenty of extra to continue tying. **Students must have their own tying tools and vise.**

Session I – Monday, November 3, 10, 17, 24, and December 1

Session II – Thursday, January 22, 29, February 5, 12, and 19.

Session III – Wednesday, February 25, March 3, 10, 17, and 24

Session IV – Monday, March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5.

Intermediate Fly Tying Course – This course will introduce students to techniques not covered in our

introductory course. Students will learn the skills necessary for parachute posts, spinning deer hair, hair wings, dubbing ropes, dealing with peacock, and using CDC. Students are responsible for supplying all their own materials and equipment. Course cost is **\$100.00**. This 10-hour course is limited to **four** students.

Prerequisite: completion of an introductory course or proven ability to dub and hackle, plus an understanding of the importance of proportion.

Session I – Tuesday, November 18, and Wednesdays, November 19, 26 and December 3. **FULL**

Session II – Monday, January 19, and Wednesday, January 21, 28 and February 4

Session III – Monday, March 1, and Thursdays March 4, 11, and 18.

Rod Building Course – Build your own fly rod during this course taught by Brad Berdusco. Fish Tales provides all the tools. Students need to purchase rod blanks and components from the shop. Course cost is \$50.00 plus the cost of the rod-building materials.

This course will be held on Tuesdays, February 10, 17, and 24 and Wednesday, February 11. This course is limited to six (6) students.

NOTES: Courses start at 7:00 and run until 9:30 or 10:00.

Groups of four are welcome to set up “private” intermediate courses any time. Call the store for additional information. Anyone who can’t make the scheduled classes can arrange individual private tying lessons with Jeremy Davies (creator of the Evil Weevil.)

- **All** classes are subject to cancellation and/or rescheduling due to insufficient registration.
- A deposit is required at time of booking.

Fall Sales/Clearouts... Visit www.fishtales.ca for a complete list of sale items.

Waders/Boots - Redington Barrierflex chest waders **\$170.00**. Barrierflex waist high waders **\$150.00**.

Kevlar High Boot – Our best selling boot in 2003. Discontinued by manufacturer. **\$90.00** blowout price.

Sure Shoe – Another popular wading boot. Discontinued by manufacturer. Only **\$70.00**

Dave Scadden Boot – A great alternative for anyone with a narrow foot. **\$90.00**

Clothing - It’s time to start layering up for the cooler days of fall....

Redington Technical Tee – Great shirt. Worn by Fish Tales staffers on cooler days. Sale price: **\$20.00**

Fleece Overall – One piece underwader garment will keep you warm during the cooler fishing days ahead. **\$70.00**

Poly diamond underwear - **\$30.00** top or bottom. Another great option for under your waders.

Sage Mock Turtleneck. **\$35.00** each.

Redington fleece cardigan – Excellent value at **\$45.00** each.

Top Water Shirt – An affordable fishing shirt. Limited sizes available. **\$30.00**

G-Loomis Skeleton T-shirt – **\$20.00** each.

Tarponwear – Tarponwear has gone out of business. If you like this product as much as we do **STOCK UP NOW**. Limited sizes. Excellent value for technical fishing apparel.

Rods/Reels – All in-stock **SAGE RPLXi** rods and blanks are on sale. RPLXi’s are a terrific option for the saltwater angler. Remaining inventory of **Scott Alpha** rods are on sale now. Alphas are great “workhorse” rods. Moderate to fast action rod with a lot of back bone. **Redington GD Reels** – All sizes **\$125.00** each.

FISH TALES Sunday Seminars 1 – 3 p.m. November 2003 – January 2004 schedule

These two-hour sessions are a great way to brush up on the latest tying materials and techniques, learn improved knot tying techniques, etc. Seminars are **free and open** to anyone who wants to attend. If you're stopping by to shop don't be deterred by attendees – we're still open for business. **DON'T Forget** - Whenever you attend a Sunday seminar, your name is entered into a draw for a **GUIDED BOW RIVER FLOAT TRIP** during the 2004 season.

Winter Fly Fishing – Sunday, November 2. This seminar is always a fall favorite.... Learn techniques to help you successfully fish the Bow River all season long. You'll learn some essential information on fishing two-fly rigs, nymphs, and streamers, as well as tips on avoiding ice ups and when it's best to stay behind the vise.

Sunday, November 9 – No seminar scheduled because of the Fly Tying Symposium.

Sunday, November 16 – Grey Cup. No scheduled seminar.

Planning a saltwater trip – Sunday, November 23. Whether you're venturing to warm saltwater for your first time or returning for more action, David will walk you through the basics of selecting the right gear, preparing your boxes, and rigging up once there.

Fish Photography – Sunday, November 30. Professional photographer and avid fly angler, Mike Sturk, will share tips and techniques for taking great fish pictures. Mike will provide an overview of film vs. digital, lens selection, etc.

Winter Steelhead Patterns – Sunday, December 7. Join Seamus for a seminar focused on Steelhead patterns and tying techniques. Whether you're interested in learning more about hook selection or want to learn about traditional patterns vs. innovative new designs this seminar will captivate you.

Bow River Best – Sunday, January 11. Join Seamus for a discussion on the six most consistent Bow River Patterns. Discussion will include how to tie and fish these patterns.

Driftboat construction – Sunday, January 18. Ever wonder what it would take to build your very own driftboat? At this seminar Tim Andries will show you what he and a couple others went through two years ago when they built their boat, "The Rookie".

Sunday, January 25 – No seminar scheduled. Superbowl.

Other seminar topics may include:

- Jeremy Davies on Creating Effective Stonefly Nymphs
- Saltwater patterns.
- Tying and fishing foam flies.
- Norvise tying demonstration.
- Knots – Which to use when...

One of our steadfast Sunday seminar supporters and good friends, Dennis Nelson, passed away earlier this fall after battling cancer. We'll miss his presence front and center at this year's seminars.

Hot New Products (already in stock or coming soon....)

RODS: Scott A2 series rods – this is a second generation of the ever-popular and powerful Scott Alpha rods. The A2 series offers lightweight, crisp actions for high line speed and loop control.

G-Loomis – Watch for a new line up of G-Loomis fly rods designed specifically for the trout angler. The new "Stream Dance" series are beautiful to look at and wonderful to cast.

Save RPLXI2 – Touted as "the mother of saltwater fly rods," this series replaces the original RPLXi's. The XI2's use the next generation of graphite.

Temple Fork Outfitters – TFO has a new Lefty Kreh rod series. These rods are available at a terrific price point!

LINES/LEADERS: PLine

CLOTHING: Bite wading boots.

Ex Officio clothing

FLY TYING: Large selection of quality dry fly hackle.

Lady Amherst center tail feathers in assorted colors.

MISCELLANEOUS: Good selection of **2004 calendars** including: Anglers, Saltwater Flats Fishing, and Women in Waders.

William Joseph Packs & Bags.