

The Nova Scotia Classic – A Nova Scotia Atlantic Salmon Wet Fly

This wet fly can at times be irresistible to Nova Scotia Atlantic salmon. A bright day, with the sun in the angler's face, is best. Curious, playful salmon see a bright, sparkling fly swimming over them, certain to draw their attention.

Sporting the colours of our Nova Scotia's Flag, the fly is designed for our bright, clear, pristine streams.

Nova Scotia attracts anglers from all over the globe who wish to try their skill on our treasure, the bright, fresh-run, healthy Atlantic salmon, king of all sport fish.

Bill Carpan, of Stillwater Nova Scotia tied this, the winning fly, in a 2006 competition to create Nova Scotia's official fishing fly, as recognized by the Nova Scotia government.



Nova Scotia Classic

Thread: White 8/0 UniThread
Hook: Partridge Bartleet Supreme salmon hook sizes 2, 4, 6
Tag: Extra fine oval silver Lagartun varnished French tinsel
with golden yellow silk or rayon floss
Tail: Two golden pheasant crests
Butt: Fluorescent red wool dubbing
Body: Silver Diamond Braid
Underwing: 4 strands forest green Krystal Flash
Wing: White calf tail
Hackle: Silver Doctor Blue hen hackle folded backward and tied collar style
Head: Fluorescent red 8/0 UniThread finished with 2 applications
of Angler's Corner Glossy Wet Head Cement

Stillwater man creates NS fishing fly

By Helen Murphy

STILLWATER – Bill Carpan of Stillwater has created what may become the official fishing fly of Nova Scotia. His winning entry in a contest by the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters was announced Saturday at the Atlantic Outdoor Sport and RV Show in Halifax.

"I certainly was surprised," Carpan said Tuesday. "A lot of people got excited about it (the contest) and participated in it. The reason I thought the contest was a great idea is that I think it will bring attention to sport fishing in Nova Scotia and especially the Atlantic salmon. We need all the help we can get right now. That kind of attention will help the St. Mary's River Association and the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters to get support for doing conservation work."

A fly tier for close to 40 years, Carpan says he learned the art originally from a book by Helen Shaw, which is still available. "But between then and now I have attended seminars and had lessons from Warren Duncan of New Brunswick and Jim McCoul of Brookfield – Jim is at least a two-time world champion fly-tyer."

Carpan has also taught fly-tying, and encourages young people and those with disabilities to give it a try. "There's also the possibility for some people to make money doing it," he says.

"There are a lot of aspects to it, so it lends itself to people with different likes and dislikes," he explains. "One of the things that I like best about it is that it involves doing

something with your hands which a lot of people find relaxing, like knitting. Plus you're producing something, and that's rewarding."

Carpan is past president of the St. Mary's River Association and has been a board member since 1984.

The executive director of the federation, Tony Rodgers, presented Carpan's winning entry to Murray Hill, director of Inland Fisheries for the province of Nova Scotia. The government will be asked to have the fly recognized as the official fishing fly of Nova Scotia.

The fly is called the "Nova Scotia Classic" – Carpan will receive a \$1,000 prize. The fly is now the property of the federation.

The organization received 76 entries from the United States, Ontario, Quebec, and all of the Atlantic provinces with the bulk of the entries from Nova Scotia. This demonstrated that fly tyers from the province wanted to have a say in who may win, said Rodgers.

The three judges are all well known fly tiers in their own right and between them have written numerous books on the subject and articles for magazines on fly tying and fly fishing. They were Don MacLean, Paul Mariner and Brian Sweeney.

The judging was done on a blind basis. All of the flies were identified by a number and the identity of the tyer was kept secret until they made their final decision. It took two hours to come to a decision with some debate over the final five flies.

The Nova Scotia Classic

The black hook that this fly is tied on symbolizes the coal seam that runs through Nova Scotia. Coal has fueled our industries for decades. The hook, the strongest part of the fly, speaks to the memory of the men who have died collecting this natural bounty and the point is as sharp as the pickaxes that first removed coal from the ground.

The red nose on this fly represents the ocher used in ceremonies by the first people of Nova Scotia the Mi'kmaq and embodies their contribution to the province and also reminds us of the beauty of our sunsets in this, "Canada's Ocean Playground"

The white wing of our fly highlights the background of our provincial flag. It also reminds us of the foam created when waves from the bountiful Atlantic Ocean, that has sustained our fishing industry, crash heavily on our rocky shores.

The green under wing speaks of our diversified forests and the work and recreation it generates. It's the land that keeps calling us back no matter how far we roam from our shores. The sparkle of the flash reflects our rivers and inland waters that beacon all anglers.

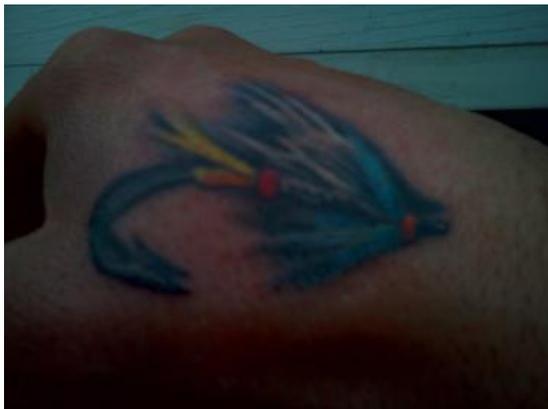
The blue hackle is a reversal of the colours found on the cross of Saint Andrew symbolizing Nova Scotia's link to Scotland and blue skies that crown our province.

The red butt in the middle of our fly stands for the Royal Lion set in the center of our flag and Shield of Arms. It also signifies our attachment to Canada and its red Maple Leaf and to the Nova Scotia service men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom in all wars and United Nations actions.

The gold and silver tag of the fly represents the prosperity of Nova Scotia and the golden tail pointed up in the direction we want it to grow.

The silver body of the fly represents the strength of the province its people a melting pot of the world looking forward to a shiny future together.

Tony Rodgers
Executive Director, Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters



The photo at left shows our NS Classic Fly tattoo on a man's hand, a fisherman and a Nova Scotian, no doubt.