

R I F F L E S A N D P O O L S

Dedicated to the preservation of Nova Scotia's trout

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There has never before been such a demand on our Province's waters, forests, and natural ecosystems. Province wide, the amount of wood fibre being harvested has reached a point where even large companies are very concerned. The continued dry summers have placed a heavy demand on our water resources too. For example, on the Cornwallis river in the Annapolis Valley, over 100% of the water can now be legally taken for irrigation purposes. Smaller scale processes which collectively are very destructive to natural systems are everywhere: siltation from construction and runoff, the introduction of exotic species, new diseases, lawn pesticides, over fishing and the list goes on. Yes, these are tough times for our trout. This is why it is so important that we speak up and work for the benefit of the trout in Nova Scotia.

Trout Nova Scotia is targeting some of the above problems. Our Directors are making contacts, writing letters, working the back rooms of corporations, business and government offices, while introducing ourselves to like minded groups and talking about the importance of trout to the general public. As members of the Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee we are making recommendations to the Provincial government. We are a unified voice speaking for trout.

One exciting project that we have undertaken, is to work with local groups exploring regulation changes for the upcoming year on a number of water systems in the Province. If these new regulations are successful, we will see an increase in the number, size and age structure of the trout population in these test waters. A positive result would be a strong argument for regulatory changes on other provincial waterways in the near future.

Our membership is growing too, with people who believe there is a future for trout. The greater our numbers, the larger our voice will be. Join us, we need your input to make good decisions for both trout and anglers. Yes, times are tough for trout, but the future doesn't have to be bleak. Together we can make a difference, one success at a time. Please join us and help us, help you and the beautiful trout.

George Taylor, President

TROUT DID YOU KNOW ?



The Brook Trout spawning season is in late Fall with water temperatures ranging from 4.5 to 10 degrees celsius. The female excavates a redd in the stream gravel 3 to 8 cm in size. Spawning can also occur in gravels around springs found in lakes and ponds. As the eggs are deposited in the redd, they are fertilized by the male.

Optimum temperatures for egg incubation range from 4.5 to 11.5 degrees celsius. If stream temperatures remain around 2.8 degrees celsius, incubation takes about 168 days. Warmer water can greatly shorten this period (45 days at 10 degrees C). In a mild winter the eggs may hatch too soon, and if followed by a cold snap with major ice formation, lead to extensive fry mortality.

Other problems for the eggs include sedimentation which can smother eggs and embryos in their redds. Heavy rains late in the fall or early winter can cause siltation particularly if the sediment is of very fine particles. This is why siltation fences around construction and the operation of equipment within watersheds at any time of year is so important. Also, very dry winters can reduce water flows through the redds leading to high egg mortality due to reduced oxygen supply.

We'll talk about the fry in our next newsletter.

INVITATION

Join us for the TNS AGM March 29 19:00 hrs, Bedford Legion door prizes, lots of good fishin stories and more.

We are also doin some tying and lying at the Sports Show, check it out, better still , care tie are on !

Is that Catch and Release or Tongue in Cheek

by Reg Baird

In a recent article from a Halifax paper, the writer was condemning catch and release fishing as an unnecessary harassment of fish. The author had no objection whatsoever to the catching and killing of fish to eat, but was in disagreement with the whole concept of catching a fish and releasing it.

How does one respond to an article of this nature? Actually there is no response that would satisfy those who do not appreciate this aspect of angling. The argument that catch and release allows for a selective harvest is lost on non - believers. In Kejimikujik National Park this past May during an ongoing brook trout study, there was one trout caught and released on a fly rod five times in a period of six days. In fact he spent so much time in the holding tub that he became known as Old Rub a Dub Dub. If he had been eaten on the first day, a lot of valuable data would have been lost.

This reminds me of the tourist who pulled into a farm yard noticing a pig with a wooden leg. In response to the inquiry about the pig's wooden leg, the farmer began to described some of the incredible feats preformed by the pig.... about the time it saved the farmer by digging when he was pinned under his tractor....how it had raced across a field and jumped into a swimming hole to rescue the farmer's daughter... and how it had saved the whole family by charging through a screen door, and up a flight of stairs to alert them of a fire in the kitchen.... "But that doesn't explain the wooden leg" the tourist interjected. "Good lord man!" replied the farmer, "You wouldn't expect us to eat a pig like that all at once!"



THE FLY BOX

Gary Corbett

I thought that I would start off this column with a fly that most anglers know which is also very simple to tie. The MICKEY FINN is bucktail wet fly named after Dr. Drake of New Orleans fame. Drake invented a potent drink combination consisting of liquor and a narcotic to render one unconscious. The fly pattern is said to have been originated by John Alden Knight, a Canadian made famous for inventing the Solunar Tables in the 1930s. Whatever the real story, there is no doubt that the flash of red and yellow bucktail over a silver tinsel body makes this fly one of the most potent fish takers ever invented.

- Hook - Mustad 9575 or TMC 300 in sizes 2 - 12
- Body - Flat silver tinsel
- Ribbing - fine oval silver tinsel
- Wing - bottom layer - yellow bucktail
- middle layer - red bucktail
- top layer - yellow bucktail
- Thread - black-silk, monocord or nylon



Join Us, become a member of Trout NS

Yes, I want to be a member of Trout Nova Scotia and help insure an improved and sustainable trout fishery in the province for future generations. For more information or to send in your membership contact: membership@troutnovascotia.ca www.troutnovascotia.ca

- Associate (under sixteen): \$ 5.75 (HST Incl.)
- Regular Member : \$ 11.50
- Family Membership: \$ 17.25
- Corporate Membership: \$ 57.50
- Donation:



Sometimes, all you need to do is ask.....

Bob Boudreau



Last year, it became apparent to Tom Lee and I that one of the lumber companies was about to harvest a large section of land around a headwater lake that we have fished for many years. A road had been pushed through the woods the previous year and the clear cutting had begun. We were extremely concerned with the possible effect on the headwater lake, the native brook trout that inhabit it, and the waters down stream.

The Department of Natural Resources confirmed for us that Kimberly-Clark Inc. were logging under a Crown Lands lease in the area. Under the lease terms, they were not permitted to clear-cut within 25 meters of the waters edge. Well, 25 meters is not much especially if there is sloping land nearby. Also, many of the remaining trees left in the 25 meter zone could be subject to blowdown especially if the forest is not healthy. We asked if there was anything we could do. Natural Resources suggested that we call Marshall Bateman at Kimberly-Clark directly. Natural Resources also wanted us to keep them apprised of the results of our discussions.

We contacted Marshall, told him our concerns and shared with him the details of the brook trout population that we had come to know over the years as well as the wildlife that lives in the area. He agreed to meet us at the site the following week, early in the morning.

We met at the end of the logging road. Marshall indicated they planned to begin the bulk of the cutting in November and that we should walk the land to assess the required

buffer for the lake and to note any feeder streams that needed protection. The contractor had already started marking the property boundaries and lake buffer with red marking tape. As we went along, it became abundantly clear that 25 meters is much less of a buffer than we felt appropriate.

Sympathetic to our concerns Marshall suggested that 50 to 75 meters would avoid runoff and be better for conservation of the soil and vegetation. He also suggested a 25 meter buffer on both sides of a small feeder stream we found. This area had not been marked off by the contractor, leaving it to chance that it would be completely cut over, and with the possibility that heavy equipment would drive through the small stream during the process.

We spent the entire morning and into the afternoon removing the 25 meter buffer marking tape and walked the lake edge taping off a new 50 to 75 meter buffer. Although we had to leave at that point, Marshall suggested that we return to mark off the feeder brook with a 25 meter zone on each side. On the aerial photo he gave us, he indicated a bog area that may also be feeding the lake. He suggest that if we wanted to tape it and mark it on the map, they would try to preserve a corridor around it.

I personally do not agree with clear cutting as the predominant method of wood harvesting. I also realize that even with proper buffers, the harvested area will present an eyesore for some time. However, Marshall Bateman, of Kimberly-Clark, listened to us, understood our concerns and was sympathetic to the issues. He willingly agreed to concessions.

I know that forestry is one of our main industries. I also know that sport fishing is a very important recreational activity. If we all make an effort, trout habitat can be saved. Sometimes, all you need to do is ask .



Questions & Answers

with Reg Baird

Q: What is the best knot for attaching small flies to a light tippet ?

R: I use the simple clinch Knot with a minimum of six twists. Moisten the knot with saliva before tightening as this will reduce the friction heat and insure maximum knot strength.

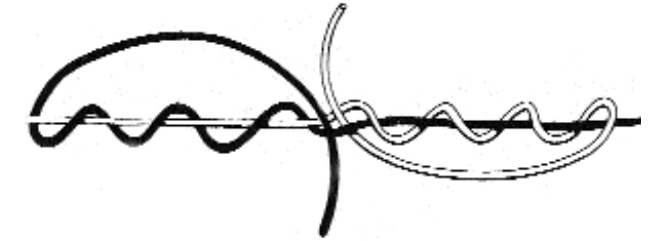
Q: Is it difficult to tie your own flies?

R: Definitely not. In most cases you will tie a very respectable fly on your first night of a fly tying class.

Q: I find it difficult to release fish unharmed from bait hooks. Do you have any advice?

R: As a general rule, fish ingest baited hooks deeper than fly hooks, and the injuries inflicted during the release are usually from the excess handling required to remove the hook and not from the hook wound itself. However, if a fish has swallowed the bait, and the hook is way down the gullet or in the stomach, take it home as part of your daily limit as it will not survive.

By pressing down the barb on your hooks, you can minimize the amount of handling required to remove a hook. And remember, a fish will struggle less if not removed from the water during the release. Well known angler Perry Munro advocates using larger hooks to prevent hook ingestion. That's a real good piece of advice.



Season Closed (letter to a friend, Jamie Steeves)

The best part was today, a day that relates to fishing of course. I took our two youngest girls on another hike, to a part of the dark forest I had never before explored. We followed a foot path leading away from civilization into the heart of trout country. There, we spent a beautiful sunny afternoon scouting new pools along the river. Lovely pristine it was, with the glitter of sun across moving water just dark enough to keep its secrets. Ahhh ... to have had a trout rod in hand !!!

What's new?

by Claude Cochrane

T.N.S. directors are attending the fall 2000 R.F.A.C. meetings being held throughout the province. They are prepared to help groups mediate problems via our I.F.A.C. link to government and various other organizations.

T.N.S. continues its role in dealing with government on issues such as granting of water leases to industry, e.g. irrigation, generation of power, etc. We want to ensure that sufficient water is always kept available to sustain healthy watersheds and thriving trout populations.

TNS has expressed its concerns with the proposed replacement of Conservation officers by the RCMP.

TNS Board is currently looking for additional Directors from N.E. Mainland and Cape Breton.

TNS Annual General Meeting: March 29 , 2001. Bedford Canadian Legion (downstairs) 1900hrs.



TNS MEMBERSHIP GREW TENFOLD IN ONLY EIGHT MONTHS !!!