



THE FLY BOX

with Tom Lee

I think its a given that if you were permitted only one fly in your box it would probably be the versatile and effective *Muddler Minnow*, but what comes in second?

I have given it a lot of thought, and for me its the *Edson Dark Tiger Bucktail*. This streamer pattern is especially effective in the spring for brook trout and in the autumn for trout and salmon. It was originated by Mr. William R. Edson of Portland, Maine, in 1929. It is one of the most famous of all bucktails for trout and salmon (Atlantic and Land Locked).

What I like most about the *Edson Dark Tiger Bucktail* is its ease and simplicity in tying. I've found this fly very effective in Nova Scotia's trout waters and you should too.

Edson Dark Tiger Bucktail

Hook: Extra Long Streamer Hook (5X - 6X)

Head: Yellow

Tag: 3 or 4 turns of narrow flat gold tinsel

Tail: The tips of two extremely small yellow neck hackles, back to back

Body: Wound with fine yellow chenille

Throat: The tips of two extremely small red neck hackles (to simulate gills)

Wing: A small bunch of the brown hair from a bucktail dyed yellow, extending just beyond the end of the hook.

Cheeks: Jungle Cock, extremely short, use only the eye.

Trout Nova Scotia Hosts Sport Fishing Weekend, June 2 and 3, 2001

There will be lots of events but its also a great opportunity to **WIN** a complete fishing outfit!

All Nova Scotians may go fishing during these two days without a general license. Fishing for Atlantic salmon requires a salmon license. All bag limits and other sport fishing regulations still apply.

The event is hosted by Trout Nova Scotia and the N.S. Dept. of Agriculture & Fisheries. Everyone who registers with Trout Nova Scotia will receive a Sport Fishing certificate and a chance to win one of ten trout fishing outfits.

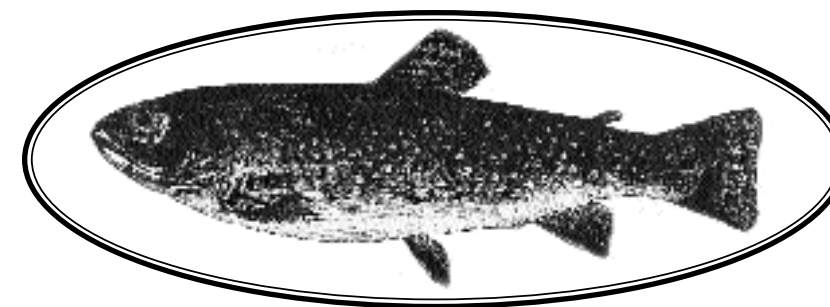
To enter the draw, find a person that has yet to experience the joys of fishing, go fishing together on the Sport Fishing Weekend, then send us the details. All participants names will be entered in the draw, only one entry per person please.

Provide the following information to enter the draw:

1. Trip Leader and New Fisher's Names, mailing addresses, phones, and signatures.
2. Tell us about your fishing trip.
3. Send your information attn. George Taylor, Trout Nova Scotia c/o The Outdoor Center, 68 Parkhill Road, Halifax, N.S. B3P 1R6.

Entries must be received by June 22, 2001.

The draw will be held June 23, 2001.



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

George Taylor

The Native Speckled Brook Trout in Nova Scotia is faced with increased fishing pressure and environmental stresses. While many independent groups work on habitat restoration of specific watersheds, an effort which TNS fully supports, the TNS Directors have decided that one of the most effective ways that we can influence the future of trout is by working on resource management province wide. We are pushing for regulations that will control the catch and reduce the harvest. Habitat restoration coupled with a reduction in fishing pressure will bring us closer to having a quality brook trout fishery more typical of the "good old days".

We are working closely with Inland fisheries to identify areas within the province that will have special regulation changes for this coming season. In some lakes "slot limits" may be used to protect a certain size of fish. This will allow the angler to keep small fish and one large fish while protecting faster growing intermediate sizes. A few lakes will be designated catch and release and some rivers may also have no kill areas. On a few rivers the opening dates will be pushed back to protect spring trout returning to the sea. On a couple of lakes where the population of trout is high but the size of fish is small, we will see an increased bag limit. These changes will only be on a few river systems and selected lakes, but it's a start.

These long overdue changes in the trout fishery are a great start to a good future for trout. The success of this program began with clear and realistic objectives followed by careful tailoring of possible regulation changes to the water systems involved. Success also depends on anglers doing their part.

We need the support of trout anglers to rate the success. When asked to gather information on habitat and keep details of fish catches, I hope we can count on your support. If management programs are successful, we will all benefit from an improved natural return of fish stocks and better fishing.



Meet & Greet

March 29 19:00 hrs, Bedford Legion.
Join us, for a full evening with door prizes, lots of good fishin' stories, displays, special guest speakers, fly tying and more. Whether you fish for browns, brookies or rainbows, this one's all about trout fishing so shake the winter out , join us and bring a friend.



SPORTS SHOW

We are itying and lying at the Sports Show, March 15 to 18. There will be real trout to see and a selection of stream side food . See if you can match the hatch! come see us, better still , come tie one on !

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
Regular Member :	\$ 11.50
Family Membership:	\$ 17.25
Corporate Membership:	\$ 57.50
Donation:	\$ _____



Trout Nova Scotia
 CONSERVING NOVA SCOTIA'S TROUT

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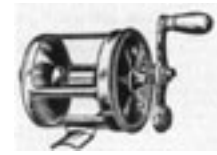
The Executive meets Wednesdays
 of the first full week each month.

Riffles & Pools is published four times per year.

Deadlines for 2001 submissions are:
 February 2, April 6, June 1, September 28.
 The Editor reserves the right to edit
 for length and clarity.

Trout Nova Scotia
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www.troutnovascotia.ca

What's going on?



by Claude Cochrane

Trout Nova Scotia Directors spread out across the province in November / December to attend four Regional Fisheries Advisory Council (RFAC) meetings and speak on matters pertaining to trout. We hope there will be some positive results from our input on the 2001 regulations.

The NS Dept. of Environment has responded to TNS's request for information regards lease expiry dates and water allocations granted to Nova Scotia Power Inc. for the purpose of generating hydro-electric power. TNS wants to study each agreement prior to the granting of new leases.

TNS also asked for the total amount of water that could be removed from the Cornwallis River in Kings County resulting from leasing arrangements in the year 2000. This information was not available from the existing monitoring devices. Database information did reveal six water licenses for agricultural purposes along the main stream of the Cornwallis River. The quantity of water allocated ranged between 100 and 1000, US gpm. A new gauging station was put into service in October at Cambridge Station. As yet there are no estimates of how the water allocations will effect stream flow. TNS is concerned that there will be insufficient good quality water remaining to support the existing trout population.

Hats off to Honorable Ministers John Chataway, and Angus MacIssac, the Department of Environment and professional engineer John A.Theakston for their immediate response to our requests for information. Thank-you Gentlemen.

T.N.S. was one of many special interest groups attending a meeting in Waterville, Kings Co., called by the Dept. of Environment to assess the interest in forming a Community Based Watershed Organization. The group's main purpose is to fairly allocate the waters provided by the Cornwallis River. Scott Cook will represent us in this matter.

T.N.S. will attend the spring R.F.A.C. Zone meetings. As always our main concern is for the trout of our province.

Questions & Answers

with Reg Baird

Q. What is a Hellgrammite?

A. This interesting insect is the nymphal form of the dobson fly. In some Nova Scotian river systems it is a very significant early season trout food.

Q. What is a spinner?

A. The word spinner has two entirely different meanings in fishing jargon. To a "spin fisherman" it means an attracting device having a silver or gold blade rotating on a wire shank. In flyfishing terms, it refers to a dying insect that has completed its life cycle and is floating with its wings spread open in the water's surface film.



Q. What's best to buy for my first trout flyfishing outfit?

A. Generally you should think about a two piece rod made of a graphite compound. The best all round size would be an 8 1/2 ft. rod balanced for a #6 weight fly line and reel. This basic set up will handle a variety of wind, water and fish sizes. At a later time you might consider a second "back up" rod that is either heavier or lighter in line weight. The heavier rod works well in difficult windy conditions and as well you might be interested in larger fish species. For the small waterways in our province many avid trout fishermen like a small rod such as a 6ft. or 7ft. #3/4 weight outfit. These small outfits are lightweight and great for delicate presentations with lots of action when there's a fish on.



TROUT DID YOU KNOW ?

with Gary Corbett

In our last newsletter we talked about trout spawning and egg incubation (brook or brown trout spawn in the fall while rainbow trout spawn in the spring). We mentioned that water temperature has a major influence on the initiation of spawning which usually occurs once the temperature drops below 10 degrees celsius and ends before 4.5 degrees celsius.

The fall of 2000 in Nova Scotia was quite mild until late November. We don't think the peak of trout spawning was before late October. December and January have been very cold this winter so we believe that egg incubation times will be at the low end of the scale. It should take from 5 to 5 1/2 months for egg incubation this winter. That would put hatching into mid March.

Rains also swelled the lakes last fall and so far the winter has not been dry. As a result, egg mortality due to lack of water flowing through the redds may not be a problem. If March is mild and snow melt swells the streams and if we do not get any cold snaps with major ice formation; fry survival could be quite good.

When the fry emerge from the eggs they have a large yolk-sac and are called alevins. They are not very mobile at this stage and remain in the gravel for a couple of weeks until the egg sac has been absorbed. By the time they can swim up from the gravel they are about an inch long (2.5 cm) and large enough to begin feeding on their own. Trout alevins are very vulnerable to the destructiveness of silt and ice in the redds; the fry are very vulnerable to low pH (acid rain).

When you are out angling this spring look down into a quiet shallow area and you may see some among the rocks. Next issue we will tell you more about young trout.

CKD DUST....whassaaa?

The Concrete Solution

by George Taylor

There may finally be a long term solution to the dreaded problem of acidification of our waterways in Nova Scotia. This "diamond in the rough" is known as Cement Kiln Dust or CKD. It is a waste product that develops during the manufacture of cement. Tests on CKD at the environment toxicology laboratory have revealed that it is a fairly pure form of calcium carbonate, or lime.

What's exciting about this gem is the fact that the manufacturing company, LaFarge Canada located near Brookfield NS produces about 350 tons of CKD every year and we understand that they pay trucking and tipping fees to have this sweet dust dumped into the landfill.

A number of meetings have been held and a partnership that includes DFO, Trout NS, the Salmon River Assoc., ASF, NS Fisheries and others has been structured. Toxicity testing of CKD on brook trout is taking place at the aquarium facility located at L'Ecole Secondaire de Clare. So far, they have had nothing but positive results. The Salmon River Association of Digby County has submitted a permit application to use CKD in a liming project on the Salmon River this spring.

A reliable CKD hopper / delivery system needs development to ensure a continuous year round supply of CKD in optimum measured amounts. If good science can be successfully coupled with a financially acceptable bottom line, then this could be the gem so many have been looking for. There are still lots of questions to be asked and answers to be found to insure that over time the result from using CKD will be a positive one for our water systems.

All that glitters is not gold or diamonds for that matter, so we are expecting some hurdles and challenges to overcome. However, the results with CKD have been very positive so far.

TNS will stay involved and we'll keep you informed on the progress. Inquiries can be directed to George Taylor by phone, mail or email.

Check us out:
www.troutnovascotia.ca
or send us an email:
troutns@hotmail.com

TAiLS from the waters



"Rising to the Raisin" by Claude Cochrane

Sometimes those closely guarded fishing secrets passed down over time need to be shared. I am reluctant to give this one away as it has the potential to decimate an already fragile trout fishery. I trust that if you use this method you will practice good conservation.


This is a winter fishery method so different regulations may apply. Be sure that your body of water has been approved for "under ice" fishing. Check on the class of license required, as well as your daily limit. This will vary. Your personal safety must be your number one concern.

The ultimate ice for this method should be almost invisible. The kind that forms after a few calm, below freezing nights. The fish must be able to see through the ice. Your equipment should consist of an axe, dipnet, rubber gloves (preferably shoulder length), and of course the bait. Ah! "the bait". A handful of dried raisins, not the sticky kind.

Approach the target area with caution so as not to spook the fish. Throw a handful of raisins on the ice, approx. 150 should be enough to create an artificial hatch. The fish seeing this activity quickly rise toward the surface, striking the bottom of the ice. They are slightly stunned. While lying on the water's surface it is then a simple matter to cut a small hole, reach in and select the number and size of your catch. Work quickly as the fish are soon drifting back to their winter lie.

Naturally some readers may be a bit skeptical of this method. This is to be expected, but ask yourself, could one of your Fishing Fraternity conjure up such a tale?

Send in your Tall Tales, Claude promises a prize for the best one.

 Membership **groWS** in interesting places !
"A Chapter of Trout Nova Scotia has established itself in wild rose, Alberta", says new member Peter Hill. Peter's wife's family is from Cape Breton which puts their heart's and Peter's favorite fishing in the Highlands... now that's great trout country! Another far flung new member who comes to Nova Scotia for the trout is Mike Murphy of North Fork Nebraska.

WE COME BY IT NATURALLY

a tribute by John Primrose Parker

"Every one is more or less mad on one point"... Virgil

The madness started for me around 3 a.m. in early May, 1944, in Sydney, Nova Scotia. My father was trying to spirit out of the matrimonial bedroom to head for Middle River Victoria Co. where he understood that an early run of sea trout had entered the river. " Ted Parker you are not going fishing today as I have started my labor and you have to get me to the hospital". Thus the life long turmoil of the mundane demands of everyday life imposing on one's fishing time started for me.

Dad's favorite river was Middle River. Yes, time was spent on the Margaree, Baddeck and North rivers, but Middle River was unique. The combination of clear water, classic gravel bottom, and an acquired knowledge of the large sea trout runs led him to never have another piece of water approach the love he had for this stream.

As a young boy I can remember Dad returning, sometimes with his brothers, carrying a cardboard box full of large sea trout and sometimes salmon too. Years later I asked him about the huge kills and he explained that in those years there was not the pressure on various natural resources that there is today, both in fishing and hunting. Large takes were quite common and acceptable. The lack of transportation played a big part in these times. He told me some people even used to take a ferry to Baddeck to fish Middle River.

The subsequent depletion of the various resources led to mandatory and volunteer conservation measures. In the past 20 years, Dad never kept a fish, releasing them all with wetted hands, unless the fish was damaged and would not survive release. In later years, he was very pleased with the introduction of September catch and release provisions, saying these spawners were critical to proper fry levels in the spring.



In the early 50's our family moved to Halifax. A first priority was finding new fishing areas. Dad spent several years exploring Mainland waters finally deciding on the Musquodoboit River system. This system was one of the few to have a natural source of buffering (chalk/gypsum) in it's head waters which helped to protect it from the ravages of acid rain.



I expect there were hundreds of fishing trips, mostly to the middle and upper Musquodoboit. Often my mother and sisters Mary and Elizabeth would accompany my brother Hugh and Dad. I don't know how many hard boiled egg, sardines, cheese and mugs of hot tea were consumed over the years but I do remember that Dad taught Hugh and I highway driving on these trips.

I also remember towards the end when he was in his eighties, we took Dad to just one pool in a feeder stream on the Musquodoboit....his favorite! He wore a life preserver and had difficulty getting up and down the stream banks. Recently, on one of his last trips, he was pleased to accompany his grandsons Curtis and Trevor to "his pool".



Ted Parker was a long time supporter of the Halifax Wildlife Association, Nova Scotia Wildlife Federation and the Nova Scotia Salmon Association; his family along with others miss him. Ted Parker's first book, a work of passion: *Nova Scotia's Speckled Trout verses The Novice Angler* is available from J. Parker, 6 Oakridge, Hubley, N.S. B3Z 1A3 price, \$20.00 postage included.

John Primrose Parker is a former director, coordinator and vice president of the Nova Scotia Salmon Association.

He assures us, that the madness continues !

"The combination of clear water, classic gravel bottom, and an acquired knowledge of the large sea trout runs led him to never have another piece of water approach the love he had for this stream".